

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JAH KENTE INTERNATIONAL, INC. MAKES STRIDES TO HELP THOSE IN MALI IN THE NEW YEAR**

*Member of Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Raises Funds for The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center in Mali and Hosts Annual Summer Tour to Ghana*

WASHINGTON, DC-- Jah Kente International, Inc. (JKI), a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization, is raising funds for the The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center located in the village of Koungodjan, Mali in West Africa.

In 2004, Lassine Doumbia, Jr. opened The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center. The health center was named after Lassine's father, Doumbia Senior, who died of preventable complications when timely medical services were inaccessible to the village of Koungodjan. This dire need for medical care sparked Lassine's interest in building the facility shortly after his fathers' death.

As a member of the CFC, JKI's mission is to nurture and promote the cultural spirit of Africa in the Diaspora and to support health and humanitarian programs in Africa. JKI was founded in 1997 by Genealogist and President, Roland C. Barksdale-Hall and Africanist and Curator, Rufus Tiefing Stevenson. Together they have embarked on a journey to educate their community.

Executive Vice President/Treasurer of JKI, Rufus Tiefing Stevenson said, " It is important to support the medical centers in our African Villages in order for the facilities to provide sufficient resources to their community. Here at Jah Kente, we are making it our mission to raise funds to help ensure that The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center gives the best possible service."

The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center is part of JKI's African Health Project, which is 1 out of 5 service objectives for the organization. Other service objectives include a cultural programming--A theatrical presentation *Redemption Ritual: Inviting The Ancestors To Be Present* conceived by Douglas McArthur Johnson\*. JKI also has an anthology of eleven classic poems written by seven African American poets from the Harlem Renaissance and exhibits an African art collection, which includes hand woven African crafts throughout the D.C. metropolitan area. JKI also features Slave Genealogy lecture series at the Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and local community sites. The Slave Genealogy lecture series demonstrate how you can research your family's history, and gain insight, health and strength remembering SANKOFA. JKI educational offerings include the publications of children books and the Annual Tour to Ghana.

The 2012 tour to Ghana will take place June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 13<sup>th</sup>. Guests will have a chance to take a tour of the capital city of Accra and the city of Cape Coast (site of historic slave castles and dungeons), Kakum Reserve's and many more. *2012 Tour to Ghana Flyer attached.*

For more information on the tour to Ghana or to make a donation to The Sibiry Doumbia Community Memorial Health Center, please visit <http://www.jahkente.org/>.

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