

Performing for the Future



C.I.E.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Month Day, Year

Media Contact:

Name

Phone

Email

Mariam Breant has always felt lucky to live in America instead of the Ivory Coast, where she was born. But after a recent trip to Seguela, her home city, she realized how lucky she was.

If she still lived in the city, she would have given birth to her three children at Seguela Hospital. Even though it is known as one of the best hospitals in the Ivory Coast, Breant was shocked by the hospital's conditions.

While visiting, Breant was barely able to hold back tears. The doctors did not have proper medical supplies and conditions were far from sanitary. Nurses had to clean tools and equipment with Clorox, which is insufficient for sanitation. Patient rooms were dilapidated. Beds were broken and sagging, some with stuffing pouring out. Even IV needles were rusted or unclean. Doctors and nurses were clearly disheartened and desperate.

Possibly due to like conditions, the Ivory Coast has the highest HIV prevalence in West Africa, and rates of tuberculosis and malaria are very high. Recently, cholera, meningitis, and yellow fever have returned as well.

If Breant had never left her home in the Ivory Coast, her life expectancy would be nearly half of what it is now, and her children would have been eighteen times more likely to die in their first year of life.

Breant was so moved by her visit that she started her own charity organization, *Centre International pour L'enfant et La Mere* (C.I.E.M.). Translated, the name means "The International Center for Children and Mothers," because she wanted to help families like her own who were not lucky enough to move to America.

Recently, she was thrilled by a generous donation of medical supplies from the American Medical Association. In order to raise money to ship the supplies to the Ivory Coast, she is hosting a public fundraiser at the *VENUE* at _____[TIME] on _____[DAY OF EVENT]. Because of her love of children and goal of helping families, the event is called "Performing for Our Future," and features musical performances by local children's groups and young singers. Breant, a singer herself, will also perform, and hopes to raise enough money to send all of the supplies.

Besides working to help the Ivory Coast, the event will also raise money to help D.C. families. Proceeds of the event will also benefit the Capital Area Food Bank, which feeds thousands of hungry children in the D.C. metro area.

###

CIEM is a nonprofit organization striving to improve the lives of both women and children in the Ivory Coast. It seeks to address their physical, emotional, and education needs. This project aims to bring comprehensive, high quality health care to the CHR hospital of Seguela. Through this project, and with the assistance of the American Medical Foundation, the hospital will obtain much needed medical supplies, be taught how to use them, and undergo repairs.

The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest, public nonprofit hunger and nutrition education resource in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Each year the CAFB distributes 20 million pounds of food, including 6 million pounds of fresh produce, to over 700 partner agencies.