



PO Box 5125 ♦ ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205 ♦ 518.459.2914 ♦ WWW.DANGWA.ORG

March 23, 2009

Dear Colleague:

**Call to Capital District Elementary, Middle, High Schools, After School Programs Artist, Poets and Writers**

We are writing to invite you and your students to participate in an Art Contest to Commemorate World AIDS Orphans Day on **Thursday, May 7th, 2009**. We are hosting this Contest to raise awareness of over **15 million AIDS orphans worldwide** and the devastation HIV has caused on children. One winner will be selected from each school/after-school program/youth group and their artwork displayed prominently at The Linda WAMC Performing Arts Studio in Albany for our official event the evening of Thursday, May 7th at 5-8 PM.

All winners and other entries will be showcased at Key Bank Empire State Plaza as well as on the south corridor of the Concourse at the Empire State Plaza starting April 20th through May 8th. We invite you, your students, family and friends to visit the display. Winners will be marked with a red ribbon. Please see the enclosed contest guidelines and registration information.

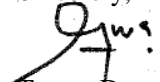
World AIDS Orphans Day provides opportunities for you to encourage our children to be involved in global issues at a local level. We are now in the third decade of this epidemic and both UNICEF and UNAIDS project the number of AIDS orphans to increase to over 20 million by 2010. The number of young people being diagnosed with AIDS is growing. This calls for our persistent attention and intervention. Prevention of infection with HIV is still our **only cure** for AIDS.

I encourage you to share this information with your principal, teachers, students and parents. I hope you will encourage them to participate in both the Art Contest as well as the *Stand in the Gap Praise and Worship Concert* in Albany. The Concert will feature youth choirs, dancers, individual singers and bands from all faiths and all languages. Please visit our website, [www.dangwa.org](http://www.dangwa.org) for more information and other resources on the day's events.

The faith-based mission of the Dangwa Initiative is to empower and restore dignity to AIDS orphan girls and women in resource-limited settings who have been made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS thru provision of tangible and culturally sensitive resources. Through education and awareness, we seek to debunk the myth: sex with a virgin cures AIDS. The belief in this myth has caused an increase in the raping of girls - new born to teenagers. It is a risk factor particularly for children who have been orphaned.

To register your students or obtain more information, please call 518-221-9423 or email [events@dangwa.org](mailto:events@dangwa.org) by **Friday, April 17, 2009**. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely,

  
Teresa Dangwa  
Founder/CEO

***Enclosures:***

Contest Guidelines  
Contest Submission Sheet



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## World AIDS Orphans Day 2009 Essay, Poem or Poster Design CONTEST GUIDELINES

### What you can do

Choose one of the items below for your essay, poem or poster:

- Design a World AIDS Orphans Day campaign poster
- Design an HIV and AIDS prevention message for youth
- Write an essay about your understanding of AIDS orphans and how they can be helped
- Write a poem or song lyric to encourage AIDS orphans in the world
- Create your own AIDS Orphans theme and develop an essay, poem or poster

### How you should do it (Guidelines)

1. Essays and poems should be no more than 150 words and can be submitted individually or as a group.
2. Posters can be submitted individually or as a group.
3. Poster should include a message about AIDS orphans, the red AIDS ribbon and a design, symbol or picture.
4. Use 8 ½ x 11 or larger paper for posters.
5. Please print your name on your essay, poem or poster\*. If this is a group effort, please print all names clearly on a separate piece of paper or on the back of your entries if you do not want your name to appear in the display at Key Bank Empire Plaza and on the Concourse. Teachers should review contents of all entries, fill out the attached information sheet and submit it along with the entries no later than

**Friday, April 17, 2009 to:**

**Dangwa Initiative**

**ATTN:WAOD Arts Contest**

**PO Box 5125**

**Albany, New York 12205**

6. One winner from each school will be identified with a red first place ribbon. All winners and other entries will be showcased at the Key Bank Empire Plaza and on the south corridor of the Concourse at the Empire State Plaza starting April 20<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**\*If you do not want your name to appear on the front of your entry for display at the Empire Plaza or The Linda, please write your name on the back of your entry and indicate that you do not want your name to appear in the display.**

**NOTE:** All entries will become the property of the Dangwa Initiative therefore entries will not be returned.

