

April 10 2008

“MOTHERING ACROSS CONTINENTSSM,”

Brings “*Angels in the Dust*” to Charlotte

2nd Annual Mother’s Day Initiative Raises Awareness, Funds for African Orphans

CHARLOTTE – Calling on Charlotte to make a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, organizers of Charlotte-based Mothering Across Continents will host international award-winning filmmaker Louise Hogarth at several Charlotte events, beginning May 8. Proceeds from all events are being directed to specially-designated non-profit projects serving orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Gatherings over several days will feature either excerpts from or a full screening of the Charlotte premiere of Hogarth’s latest documentary, *Angels in the Dust*. The film profiles Marion Cloete, who – joined by her husband and two daughters – left privileged suburban life to establish an orphanage supporting more than 500 South African children. The storyline weaves the children’s stories with a parallel saga of orphaned elephants. The longtime practice of culling – selective killing to control the adult elephant population – has torn apart the social fabric of some herds and led to uncontrolled behavior among young elephants. The documentary illuminates the calming and socializing effects of re-introducing adult elephants -- a metaphor for efforts to support and guide youth in need.

Angels in the Dust has been screened at select international film festivals in the U.S., Germany and the Netherlands, winning numerous audience, special jury and “best in fest” awards. Most recently, the film won the coveted VARA Audience Award in Amsterdam.

“Motherhood knows no borders,” says co-founder Patricia Shafer, who also is president of Charlotte consulting and research firm Compel Ltd, “so we launched Mothering Across Continents during Mother’s Day week in 2007 as a catalyst for women who want to make a difference in the lives of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. Interest has grown so much, that this year we’re hosting several public and private events to further inspire and empower the women *and* men of Charlotte.”

Adds co-founder Dr. Lyndall Hare, of Lyndall Hare Consulting, “People often tell us they want to ‘do something’ but don’t know where to begin. Our goal is to show how global changes emerge from concern at the grassroots level, including right here in our own backyard.”

This year’s Mothering Across Continents’ anchor event, “Sharing Stories of Care and Compassion,” will be Thursday, May 8, 6-8 p.m., 40th floor Executive Suite of the Wachovia Center. Hogarth will be keynote speaker, joined by Julia Zingu, South Africa country director for Save the Children, who will talk about the unique support of Mothering Across Continents contributors to *Caring Schools*, a program in South Africa originally commissioned through

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Save the Children by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The evening also will feature images from Charlotte-based photographer Catherine Anderson's March trip to South Africa.

Friday, May 9, Hogarth will introduce a full 90-minute showing of *Angels in the Dust* and be available for conversation and Q&A at a reception in Jubilee Hall at Myers Park United Methodist Church. A 90-minute showing of *Angels in the Dust* also will be held at Unity Fellowship Church on May 10. Both showings are ticketed events and open to the public.

May 8 Details:

"Sharing Stories of Care and Compassion"

Private reception, presentation and keynote from Director Louise Hogarth

6-8 p.m.

40th Floor Executive Suite, Wachovia Center, 301 S. College St., Charlotte

Proceeds will be directed to projects in South Africa identified by Mothering Across Continents

For information: 704.607.0098 or email Lynn Henderson, lhpromo@infionline.com

May 9 Details:

Angels in the Dust Showing; Q&A with Director Louise Hogarth

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Jubilee Hall - Myers Park United Methodist Church, 1501 Queens Rd., Charlotte

Cost: \$25; Tickets on sale at the Myers Park United Methodist Church Gift Shop, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., beginning Tuesday, April 15.

All proceeds will be shared between non-profit projects in South Africa identified by Mothering Across Continents and Myers Park United Methodist Church's Kenya Orphanage Project.

For information: 704.607.0098

<http://mpumc.org/mpumc/home>

May 10 Details:

Angels in the Dust Showing; Q&A with Director Louise Hogarth

5-7 p.m.

Unity Fellowship Church, 2127 Eastway Dr., Charlotte

Cost: \$15; Tickets on sale through the church office, 704.567.5007, beginning Tuesday, April 15; or through their website, www.UFCCharlotteNC.org, click on the Donate link.

All proceeds will be shared between non-profit projects in South Africa identified by Mothering Across Continents and Unity Fellowship Church.

www.UFCCharlotteNC.org

About MOTHERING ACROSS CONTINENTSSM:

www.motheringacrosscontinents.org

Mothering Across Continents is an initiative launched from Charlotte, NC. Contributions made to Mothering Across Continents in 2008 are directed to three specially-designated projects in South Africa supported by 501c3 organizations South Africa Development Fund (SADF) and Save the Children.

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About Dream Out Loud Films and Louise Hogarth:

www.dolfilms.org

Dream Out Loud Films is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit independent television and film production company specializing in stories about social and human rights issues. Founder and president Louise Hogarth also leads the DO Ubuntu Bracelet Campaign to help fund orphanages and cooperatives in countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS. <http://orphanbracelet.com>

About WACHOVIA Corp.

www.wachovia.com

Wachovia Corporation (NYSE:WB) is one of the nation's largest diversified financial services companies, with assets of \$782.9 billion and market capitalization of \$75.3 billion at December 31, 2007. The company is Founding Sponsor of Mothering Across Continents.

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