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Focusing on the Kids AIDS Left Behind

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On May 7, Mothering Across Continents is bringing journalist and author Cokie Roberts to Charlotte to help raise awareness and money for AIDS orphans in [South Africa](#). The group was founded last year by five Charlotte women with connections to South Africa.

After a 2005 trip to [Uganda](#), where she encountered hundreds of AIDS orphans, co-founder Patricia Shafer worked with native South African Lyndall Hare to build a platform to raise awareness of children orphaned by AIDS. They focused on South Africa because of personal connections, recruiting Catherine Anderson and Dianne Stewart, also from South Africa, and Cindy Quinlan.

"It's heart-wrenching to see these children," Stewart said. "They beg and sleep in the streets." "With Mothering Across Continents," she added, "we see ourselves mothering these children from afar."

The UN estimates 5 million children worldwide have HIV; most receive inadequate medical care. More than 15 million children, including 12 million in sub-Saharan Africa, have lost one or both parents to AIDS. That number is expected to rise to 18 million in three years.

The money raised will be earmarked for three specific projects; it will be distributed by Save the Children and the South Africa Development Fund. For information about Roberts' program on May 7, telephone 704-973-2828 704-973-2828 .