

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER DISCUSSES THE WELFARE OF AFRICA IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2007 LIBERTY MEDAL

Philadelphia, PA (August 16, 2007) – In a special companion program to the awarding of the 2007 Liberty Medal to Bono, U2 lead singer and activist, and DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), four distinguished guests will join the National Constitution Center for a discussion about fighting disease and poverty on the African continent. The program, titled *Voices for Liberty*, will take place on Monday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. This event is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

With a focus on the welfare of Africans suffering from various health and security problems, **John Bridgeland**, President & CEO of Civic Enterprises and Vice Chairman of the non-profit Malaria No More; **Helen Epstein**, author of *The Invisible Cure: Africa, the West, and the Fight Against AIDS*; **Nancy Murphy**, Senior Vice President for PlayPumps International; and **Modesta Nyirenda-Zabula**, project manager at Godisa Technologies Trust and designer of low-cost hearing aids, will share the importance of intellectual as well as physical contributions to those in need and how these issues can be addressed through the arts, sciences, industry, and government.

John Bridgeland, President & CEO of Civic Enterprises, helped build Malaria No More into a global, grassroots movement in the U.S. and other countries to support the comprehensive approach to control malaria, which kills more than one million people every year, the majority of whom are African children. Previously, Bridgeland served as Assistant to the President of the United States and the first Director of the USA Freedom

-MORE-

ADD ONE/VOICES FOR LIBERTY

Corps, where he coordinated more than \$1 billion in domestic and international service initiatives and worked with non-profits, corporations, and schools to foster a culture of service in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

Helen Epstein's book, *The Invisible Cure: Africa, the West and the Fight against AIDS*, was published in May by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Epstein writes regularly about public health for *The New York Review of Books* and has worked as a consultant for various organizations, including the Open Society Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Human Rights Watch. She obtained a Ph.D. in molecular biology from Cambridge University and an MSc in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Nancy Murphy is Senior Vice President for PlayPumps International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing clean drinking water to 10 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2010. Previously, Murphy led the corporate responsibility practice for APCO Worldwide's Washington, DC office, working with corporate clients in strategy development, management, and communication of corporate responsibility policies and practices. Murphy's experience also includes serving as a program officer with the federal agency Corporation for National Service; as director of policy for the Minnesota-based National Youth Leadership Council; and manager of Youth Volunteerism Development for a local volunteer center in Columbus, Ohio.

Modesta Nyirenda-Zabula serves as project manager at Godisa Technologies Trust and is a designer of low-cost hearing aids. In 1992, the Solar Aid Workshop was started in collaboration with the Botswana Technology Centre to manufacture solar rechargeable hearing aids specifically tailored for the needs of Africans and other people in the developing world. Its objective is to develop practical, low-cost technologies and to provide employment and training opportunities for hearing disabled people. Godisa makes three low-cost hearing aids, including one that is solar powered and uses a rechargeable battery.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/VOICES FOR LIBERTY

Moderating this important conversation will be **Jane Eisner**, Vice President for National Programs and Initiatives at the National Constitution Center.

The National Constitution Center's 2007 Liberty Medal will be awarded jointly to Bono, U2 lead singer and activist, and DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), the advocacy organization he co-founded to combat poverty and disease in Africa. The prestigious Medal, and its accompanying \$100,000 prize, will recognize Bono and DATA's groundbreaking work in raising awareness about and spurring a global response to the crisis of AIDS and extreme poverty in Africa. The public ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at the National Constitution Center on Philadelphia's Independence Mall.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###