



## Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010

### CCAI'S 20/20 VISION PROGRAM

The CCAI 20/20 Vision Program is a public-private partnership which exists to increase positive dialogue and the exchange of information among private sector individuals, foreign and domestic government officials, and Members of Congress.

Over the last ten years, CCAI has organized fact-finding trips to California, Florida, China, Romania, Russia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Uganda, India, and most recently the United Kingdom and Ethiopia. In addition, CCAI hosts leaders from around the globe in our nation's Capitol. Relationships made and lessons learned through these hands-on interactions continue to inspire the work of CCAI and its Members.

### *Seeing Is Believing...*

CCAI is confident in the fact that seeing is believing, and through these efforts, we will reach CCAI's goal of reducing the world's orphans by 20% in the year 2020.



The CCAI 20/20 Vision Program has not only been responsible for laying strong foundations for relations between U.S. and foreign policy makers, but has also provided continued opportunities for the world community to share its knowledge and experience in providing safe and loving homes for children in need.

Over its ten year history, CCAI has been instrumental in bringing together Members of Congress, foreign officials, and corporate leaders on behalf of the world's orphans. Strengthening domestic and intercountry relationships has proven successful in promoting positive adoption and orphan policy.



*I believe in the philosophy that you cannot effectively assist, protect and minister to the orphaned or vulnerable child without resourcing and ministering to the family around that child. Accomplishing this task is similar to embellishing the Chinese Proverb "giving a man a fish versus teaching him to fish". Instead, "teach local leaders to build fishing poles, creating an economy so that fishermen may feed themselves."*

*I have observed well intentioned governmental and aid organizations handing out fish. On this delegation, however, I had the opportunity to observe organizations like CCAI that work to connect governments and private organizations through their 20/20 Vision Program and help them to develop fishing poles for the care of orphans and vulnerable children and for the strengthening and resourcing of families.*

Raymond H. Harris  
Chairman, Founder  
Raymond Harris & Associates Architect  
Participant, Delegation to  
the United Kingdom and Ethiopia



# 20/20 Vision Program

## Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010

### 2010 DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ETHIOPIA

On August 31 – September 4, 2010 a delegation of U.S. government officials and private business leaders participated in a fact-finding trip to London, United Kingdom and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As with all 20/20 vision efforts, this trip was the direct result of partnership between CCAI and public and private organizations who share our mission.



***The delegation with Embassy staff outside the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

The delegation, led by U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), included recently appointed Special Advisor on Children's Issues, Ambassador Susan Jacobs and Gary Newton, U.S. Government Special Advisor for Orphans and Children (U.S. Agency for International Development).

Other delegation members included Jack Gerard (Chair, CCAI Executive Board) and his wife Claudette; Sarah Gesiriech (Vice Chair, CCAI Advisory Board); Kathleen Strottman (Executive Director, CCAI); Becky Weichhand (Director of Policy, CCAI); Dr. Jean Geran (Senior Fellow, Legatum Institute) and Natalie Gonnella (Research Assistant, Legatum Institute); Dr. Ken Hall (Chief Executive Officer, Buckner); Margaret Elizabeth Perry (Vice Counsel of Government Relations, Buckner); Abigail Powell (Director of Government Relations, Buckner); J. Forbes Anderson (President of CiCi's Holdings, Inc.); Dr. Jay Chastain (Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon, Longview, TX); Keith Courts (President, KC Pipe, Inc.); Raymond Harris (Chairman, Founder of Raymond Harris & Associates

Architect); and Mike Williams (President and CEO of Community Hospitals Corporation).

### THE UNITED KINGDOM

The delegation spent its first day in the United Kingdom discussing global orphan issues and the desire to encourage transatlantic collaboration among partners in the United States and the United Kingdom.

#### UK Itinerary

In Mayfair, London, Senator Landrieu met with Members of Parliament, Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick and Mr. Nick Smith, about the work of the nearly 200 Members of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, where she serves as Senate Co-Chair, as well as that of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Discussions also included the need for transatlantic partnerships between the two governments' legislative bodies to focus on orphan policy throughout the world, and the importance of uniting to reach common goals on behalf of children in need of permanent families.



***Above Left: Senator Landrieu Addresses the Delegation in a Private Briefing. Right: U.K. Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell addresses those gathered at the Legatum Institute.***

The delegation then attended a program hosted by the Legatum Institute. Speakers included U.K. Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell; Barrister Glen Davis; Secretary to the All Party Parliamentary Group Christine Smith; Director of the International Reference Centre, International Social Services – Geneva; Allan Guinan and Forbes Anderson.



# 20/20 Vision Program

Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010



*The delegation outside the Legatum Institute, Mayfair, London*

The group also briefly toured the Foundling Museum in London. The Museum is located next to the original property of the Foundling Hospital, London’s first home for abandoned children (founded in 1739) and showcases the history of the up to a thousand babies abandoned every year in 18<sup>th</sup>-century London and the progress made in improving their care and outcomes.

## ETHIOPIA

Over the four days spent in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the delegation met with officials of the U.S. Mission to Ethiopia, Ethiopian government leaders, and key stakeholders in the Ethiopian orphan crisis. They also had the opportunity to make several field visits focused on demonstrating both the need and current response to orphan issues in Addis.



*Sen. Landrieu meets with community elders in Bantu, Ethiopia*

## Ethiopia Itinerary

The delegation’s time in Ethiopia included visits to the Buckner Bright Hope Assessment Center and Community Transformation Center, as well as a ceremony attended by the organization’s 500 foster children and their parents. These programs highlighted how private, Ethiopian-led not-for-profit organizations, established through the support of private international organizations, can provide quality services designed to strengthen and support children in families. The delegation also visited Buckner Bright Hope’s Elementary School in Bantu, a rural community two hours outside Addis and the home area of Ethiopian President Girma Wolde Giorgis. There the delegation observed the 400 school children enrolled at the school and engaged in a discussion with many of their families, as well as the elders of the town.



*Children at the school in Bantu, Ethiopia*

The delegation visited two different orphanages – the Government of Ethiopia’s ‘Kebebe Tsehay’ Orphanage for younger children, and the Missionaries of Charity Orphanage and Family Center which is run by Mother Theresa’s Order of Nuns. Like so many of their counterparts, both orphanages reported struggling with lack of resources and staff to fully care for the children’s physical needs.



*Left: Ambassador Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor to Secretary Clinton, with a child at the Buckner Assessment Center in Addis Ababa.*



# 20/20 Vision Program

## Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010

The delegation also met with representatives from the Embassies of France, Italy, Spain and Belgium, as well as UNICEF Ethiopia to discuss the role of intercountry adoptions of children from Ethiopia and to strategize about how to address identified areas of concerns with the current process. In addition, delegation members were asked to participate in a roundtable, hosted by USAID and UNICEF Ethiopia, which brought together panelists from the full continuum of care for orphaned children in Ethiopia – ranging from institutional care, child protection, reunification, foster care, domestic adoption, and intercountry adoption.

Interactions with the Government of Ethiopia were warm and fostered positive dialogue. His Excellence, President Girma Wolde Giorgis hosted the delegation and representatives from the U.S. Mission and UNICEF at a banquet in his home, the National Palace. Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin also hosted the same group for dinner at an Ethiopian restaurant.



***Principals of the delegation meet with Ethiopian President Girma Wolde Giorgis in the National Palace in Addis Ababa.***

In addition, the group met with lower level representatives of those ministries working on orphan and adoption policies, including:

- Mr. Solomon, Vice President of the Federal First Instance Court
- Ms. Rahila Abbas, Judge of the Federal First Instance Court

- Mr. Mesfin Zewde, Senior Adoption Expert of Children and Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Woman's Affairs
- Mr. Ali Siraj, Director of Charities and Societies Agency at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Tilahun Mulugeta, Head of Registration for the Charities and Societies Agency
- Mr. Temesgen Omer, Minister Counselor of Women's Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*"UNICEF Ethiopia welcomed the opportunity to spend some good discussion time with Senator Landrieu and the delegation. We agreed on the basic principles of family based care for vulnerable children and the imperative of developing a national child welfare system in Ethiopia which prioritises in-country support, including the urgent tasks of establishing national foster care and local adoption structures. This will be challenging but is the best approach to ensuring that the best interests of children in Ethiopia are at the forefront of our collective support."*

*Douglas Webb, UNICEF Ethiopia*

## OUTCOMES

### UNITED KINGDOM

CCAI hopes to continue the momentum towards building a transatlantic, strategic partnership between Members of Congress and Parliament. Toward that end, CCAI was honored to be asked to consider hosting a delegation of Members of Parliament for a visit to Washington, D.C. for continued in-depth discussions with a larger representation of Members of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. In addition, CCAI plans to continue to work with the Legatum Institute and the EACH Campaign to promote global awareness of and best-practices in orphan, foster care and adoption policies in the U.S. and U.K.



## 20/20 Vision Program

Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010

### **ETHIOPIA**

The delegation came away from this visit to Ethiopia with the confidence that the foundation for a relationship with the Ethiopian child welfare officials has been laid. They were encouraged by the obvious enthusiasm and skill demonstrated by those in charge of reforming the laws and programs affecting orphaned children.

#### ***Ministry Leadership on Implementation of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption***

Prior to the delegation's visit, the Ethiopian ministries had disagreed upon which had authority over intercountry adoptions. As a result of the discussions the delegation participated in with the Ministries, the Government of Ethiopia has officially acknowledged that the Ministry of Women's Affairs has the appropriate jurisdiction and can be designated as Central Authority for the purposes of implementing the Hague Convention.

#### ***Working Toward Hague Convention Accreditation and Hague Standards for Foreign Adoption Service Providers***

Prior to the delegation's visit, UNICEF and the U.S. Embassy had been in discussions with the Government of Ethiopia about moving toward implementation of the Hague, with hopes that the process of implementation might begin within the next year. This continues to be something these entities will strive toward together, but in the interim, delegation discussions of the need to protect Ethiopian children and families against fraud or corruption in intercountry adoptions led to a decision that Ethiopia will soon require all foreign adoption service providers to be accredited under Hague standards, thus lowering the likelihood of agencies partaking in questionable or fraudulent practices.

#### ***U.S. AID Task Force***

Since the delegation, USAID Ethiopia has begun working on the foundation for a USG task-force on children's issues in Ethiopia. Under consideration for the roles of this task-force are the following possibilities:

- Expanding PEPFAR partners' capacity and programs to reunify street children with their families or place children with new families under kinship or foster care;
- Working to align USAID's current assistance with the goal of strengthening Ethiopia's national child welfare system and to implement Ethiopia's new alternative care standards;
- Facilitating the growth of public-private partnerships in Ethiopia
- Integrating programs and mobilizing private sector resources;
- and identifying current U.S. Government partners and programs that can, within existing contractual parameters, work in HIV/AIDS-affected communities to support the implementation of GOE policy to transition children from institutional care to permanent family care.

CCAI is greatly encouraged by the strengthened relations, new partnerships, and enthusiasm of all partners engaged in both the United Kingdom and Ethiopia through the 20/20 Vision Program delegation, and looks forward to continuing to work with British and Ethiopian leaders and the U.S. Government to achieve these goals.

### **PRESS**

The following articles were published regarding the delegation:

Collins, S. (2010, September 16). Congressional Delegation Explores Issues on Vulnerable Children, Orphans [Buckner International, Web Article].

Retrieved from

<http://www.buckner.org/enews/index.php/2010/09/congressional-delegation-explores-issues-on-vulnerable-children-orphans/>.



## 20/20 Vision Program

Delegation to the United Kingdom and Ethiopia · September, 2010

Heinlein, P. (2010, September 7). Pilot Project Helps Ethiopian Orphans Avoid Overseas Adoption. *Voice of America News*. Retrieved from <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Pilot-Project-Helps-Ethiopian-Orphans-Avoid-Overseas-Adoption-102394554.html>.

Ladenson, J. (2010, October 6). U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu Visits Ethiopia to Discuss Children's Issues [DipNote, Department of State Web Log Message]. Retrieved from [http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/landrieu\\_children](http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/landrieu_children).

Office of Senator Mary Landrieu. (2010, October 14). *Landrieu Visits United Kingdom and Ethiopia; Focus on Plight of Orphans and Vulnerable Children* [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://landrieu.senate.gov/mediacenter/pressreleases/09-14-2010-1.cfm>.

President Girma Wolde-Giorgis held discussion with delegation. (2010, September ). *Addis Zemen*, pp. 1.

Senator Mary Landrieu Visits Ethiopia (2010, September 5). *The Capital*, pp.1.

Senator Mary Landrieu Visits Ethiopia for Four Days. (2010, September 4). *Ethio Channel*, pp.1.

Senator visits Ethiopia to discuss children's issues (2010, September 4-5). *The Daily Monitor*, pp.1, 21.