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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States and Zambia Partnering Together

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**United States Government Honors Champions  
Working with Youth to End HIV in Zambia**

Lusaka – The United States Government through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in collaboration with the Zambian National AIDS Council honored seven “Champions” working with youth to end HIV in Zambia today.

“We held this contest for the third year to draw attention to the extraordinary work people are doing throughout the country. This year’s Champions are working to make Zambia’s future bright. They stand out because they have recognized needs or gaps in their communities, garnered community support, developed impactful solutions, and acted on them,” said U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Eric Schultz.

The seven Champions were nominated by their peers, colleagues, and communities. They were selected for their passion, dedication, and commitment to working with youth.

To date, PEPFAR has contributed more than \$2.6 billion to Zambia’s HIV response. PEPFAR Zambia is embarking on two new initiatives with the Government of the Republic of Zambia to promote zero new infections among youth: DREAMS, to build Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe adolescent girls and young women aged 10-24 years; and Accelerating Children’s Treatment (ACT) aimed at doubling the amount of HIV positive children aged 0-19 on life-saving treatment.

“We are working to ensure that Zambian youth have the tools they need to be able to raise the first AIDS-free generation in Zambia since the start of this epidemic,” said Dr. Tamu Daniel, acting PEPFAR Country Coordinator. “It is possible but we still have a lot of work to do.”

The seven Champions, representing health workers and civil society, are making a big impact by doing their small part for youth locally. Each Champion will be featured in a PEPFAR Zambia 2015 Calendar in addition to receiving a cash prize of \$1,000 to donate to a local organization or community group of their choice. The Champions were honored in an official award ceremony at the Taj Pamodzi.

“There are many Champions in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Zambia. We need to honor champions, and be inspired and motivated by them each day of the year. Let’s all be working toward Zambia’s future,” said Dr. Daniel.

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