

NEWS RELEASE

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ARK (ABSOLUTE RETURN FOR KIDS) ANNOUNCES £27m HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICA - NEXT PHASE TARGETS HIV+ INFANTS

ARK GALA RAISES £15.6M FOR NEW PROGRAMMES IN HEALTH, CHILD WELFARE AND EDUCATION

LONDON MAYOR BORIS JOHNSON ENDORSES ARK

The children's charity, ARK, (Absolute Return for Kids), today (5 June 2009) announced a £27m programme to combat HIV/AIDS in South Africa up to 2011.

ARK launched its first programme in South Africa, to prevent children being orphaned by AIDS, with the South African government in 2003. Today ARK's programmes treat one in ten of all patients on treatment in South Africa and ARK's anti-retroviral therapy (ART) treatment model is being replicated in Mozambique. ARK's treatment programmes are supported by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which committed \$9 million to ARK's ART programme this year alone.

Speaking at the charity's annual dinner, ARK Chairman, Arpad Busson, said:

"Today we are treating one in ten patients now on therapy in South Africa. In the next phase, ARK's programme will treat another 58,000 patients. But it's far from enough. The treatment gap is a million people. It is a massive challenge. We have to do more and we have to do it urgently.

"We need to protect the next generation. 60,000 babies a year are born with HIV or infected soon after. We have to drastically reduce mother to baby transmission to have any chance of achieving an AIDS free generation. Our pilot treatment trial will test new drug and care regimes that we believe can reduce transmission to the rates achieved in the first world.

"ARK's work has never been more important than it is today. Poor children bear the greatest risk of this economic downturn. Their loss isn't measured in equity values, it's the difference between getting life-saving drugs or not, or having an education or not.

"And that is our other challenge. How do we get every child the opportunities that the privileged take for granted? In the UK the route is academies. ARK has opened six academies. We will open two more in September. Today we teach 3,000 pupils. Many more need our

support. ARK's commitment to excellent education for children with the fewest opportunities is unwavering. By 2012 we want to run 12 academies, doubling our numbers today and offering every child we teach an education that enables them excel at school, at university and beyond.

Making the keynote speech to the dinner, London Mayor, Boris Johnson, said:

"Like most of you, I had great schooling. As London Mayor I want all London youngsters to have a decent chance. It's a disgrace that 60% of eleven year olds entering ARK's academies are more than a year behind in their reading and writing. Three quarters of children on free school meals do not even get the five GCSEs including English and maths that you and I would regard as the minimum necessary at 16 - and not remotely enough to set you on the path to higher education and a decent job.

"Education is the bedrock for extending opportunity. That means dramatically raising attainment among London's least privileged children, not just to the bare minimum but to allow them to compete with those with the greatest benefits. I am right behind ARK's drive to open academies that offer children an education modelled on the best that the independent sector offers. I passionately support ARK's out of school programmes on literacy, numeracy and academic attainment and I urge you to do likewise. ARK's schools should form a template for state educational provision.

"I am delighted to support ARK's ambitions tonight and I look forward to their continued role in London education. My challenge to ARK is to do more of it and faster!

ARK DINNER RAISES £15.6m

ARK announced that its eighth annual gala dinner, held on Thursday 4 June at Waterloo International in London, had raised a total of £15.6 million as more than 800 guests pledged their support.

In the seven years since its launch, ARK's donors have invested more than **£115m** in its work. Directly and indirectly ARK's programmes have improved the lives of **120,000 children**. The effectiveness of ARK's programmes has made it a trusted government partner wherever it operates, so that by 2011 partner governments will provide more than **£500m in funding and in kind support** to deliver and replicate ARK's programmes.

At the dinner ARK highlighted the continuing and increasing need for philanthropic commitment.

In the charity auction guests sponsored:

- the expansion of **15** HIV/AIDS clinics in Southern Africa, each able to treat up to 600 more patients a year,
- **15** accelerated learning programmes for UK inner city schools to offer pupils with lower prior attainment a passport to GCSE success,

- the re-housing of scores of abandoned Romanian children from neglectful and insensitive institutions, into loving homes, where they can grow and thrive,
- the provision of high quality, innovative music-teaching and instruments for children in inner-city UK schools

ARK's Chairman, Arpad Busson, added:

“I am overwhelmed at the generosity of ARK's supporters. I would like to thank Boris Johnson for his support tonight and as mayor. I also thank all those who made the event possible including: ARK's generous sponsors, Blue Crest Capital Management, Henry Wyndham and Lord Dalmeny for their skill and panache in managing our auction, Dan Dunn, Austin, Keedie, Boy Blue, the English Chamber Orchestra sponsored by Sir David Tang, the pupils at ARK academies for their wonderful entertainment and Starlight Design and Rhubarb Food Design for their immense contribution to managing the event.”

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About ARK

ARK is an international charity whose purpose is to transform children's lives.

ARK was founded in 2002 by senior figures in the alternative investment industry, pooling their skills and resources to improve the life chances of children. With a shared vision of collective philanthropy, ARK delivers high social returns on philanthropic investment.

ARK's strong results-driven model identifies, creates and delivers innovative programmes addressing critical issues in the areas of HIV/AIDS (South Africa, Mozambique), Education (UK, India) and Children in Care (Eastern Europe) that are transformative, scalable and sustainable. ARK applies the same principles and disciplines to managing the charity as it would to running a business, focusing on the transformation of children's lives through rigorous research, monitoring and evaluation. ARK's work meets high standards of efficiency and effectiveness.

ARK's Trustees and Patrons ensure that the charity's central administrative costs are covered so that 100% of donations go directly to programmes that are transforming children's lives.

ARK's Trustees are: Arpad A. Busson - Chairman, Paul Dunning, Stanley Fink, David Gorton, Kevin Gundle, Paul Marshall, Jennifer Moses, Mike Platt, Blaine Tomlinson, Ian Wace.

ARK in Southern Africa.

ARK's original target was to enrol 1,500 HIV+ caregivers and children on to antiretroviral therapy (ART). By 2008, the programme had expanded rapidly, with ARK supported clinics treating 55,000 patients.

ARK is working to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. In South Africa, ARK has already enrolled 45,517 caregivers and children onto ART and aims to treat 84,000 by 2011. In Mozambique, ARK has supported four government clinics, enrolled 550 patients onto ART and aims to treat 5,000 mothers, caregivers and children by 2011.

ARK in Eastern Europe

ARK and its partners have closed 15 institutions and moved over 2,000 children into family-focused environments. By 2010, ARK will have supported the closure of a total of 24 institutions.

ARK Schools in the UK

ARK Schools is founding a network of outstanding, non-selective, non-denominational academies offering high quality education to children of all backgrounds. It runs six academies in London with a further two to open in Birmingham and Portsmouth in September 2009. ARK aims to have 12 academies open by 2012, transforming the opportunities of more than 15,000 pupils.

ARK also runs and develops programmes to help schools succeed. The *Future Leaders* programme develops outstanding leaders for challenging urban schools.

About the Gala Dinner

This year's Gala Dinner was held in Waterloo International Station. Guests were greeted by the Military Band for London and platform performances by pupils from ARK academies.

Dinner was preceded by a performance by the English Chamber Orchestra / conducted by Simon Wright. The evening's keynote speech was from the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The auction was conducted by Henry Wyndham, Chairman, Sotheby's Europe and by Lord Dalmeny, Deputy Chairman, Sotheby's UK. Entertainment was provided by Dan Dunn, Austin, Keedie and Boy Blue.