



## Backgrounder — What's a *Harambee*?

A **Harambee** [hah-rahm-bey] is a Swahili word meaning “all pull together,” or put simply, a “party with a purpose.” In the tradition of many East African countries, these community events have long been important ways for communities to pull together for a common cause.

***Give a Day to World AIDS*** is a grassroots movement that proposes to recognize **World AIDS Day**, December 1<sup>st</sup>, each year, by giving one day's income to an organization that is directly involved in the fight against AIDS in Africa. Recipient organizations are **Dignitas International** and the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**.

In the tradition of East Africa, a ***Give a Day*** Harambee is a gathering of supporters, talking, listening to great African music, breaking bread together, sharing and learning about what they can do to be part of the solution to HIV/AIDS in Africa. It's not a somber event, but an opportunity to come together to do some good.

Hosting a Harambee is easy and hundreds of Canadian take part each year. Visit the Give a Day website ([www.giveaday.ca](http://www.giveaday.ca)) to access our **Harambee Toolkit** and get your own Harambee planned in November.

Here are some other Harambee tips:

- Once you decide on a day and time for a Harambee, the next step is to choose the venue. The possibilities are endless – yours or a friend's home, your office, a neighbourhood restaurant, bar or café, or any other venue of choice.
- Invitations can be extended to colleagues, family, friends and friends of friends. At the Harambee, all guests are encouraged to give a day's pay to recognize World AIDS Day. Having a laptop available is a great idea so people can donate online to either one of Give a Day's two recipient organizations.
- Participants are encouraged to take photos at their Harambee, which can either be posted on the ***Give a Day*** blog, or on the Facebook fan page.

For more information, please go to [www.giveaday.ca](http://www.giveaday.ca) and click on “Host a Harambee.”