



MAY 7 COALITION JOINS NGOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF AIDS ORPHANS

For WAOD 2006, a coalition of organizations, including Plan USA, NextAid, Global Tribe, ARYI, Peer Education Program, and partner agencies have joined forces to mobilize non-governmental and international organizations, women's organizations, youth, and others to listen to and support children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS.

The activities of the **May 7 Coalition** include child-lead forums, organizing "circles of friends" across the U.S and Africa, rallies, drama presentations, lobbying with mayors and government officials, town hall meetings, hosting a gala with international dignitaries in major cities, developing interactive websites and media tools, and conducting radio and television campaigns.

These activities, which will also link HIV/AIDS to other issues such as poverty and access to education, will take place around the world and last throughout the year to ensure the sustainability of national and international action to support orphaned and vulnerable children. Coalition members will also be present at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada in August, 2006.

WAOD 2005 campaigned for increased access to primary and secondary school education for children affected by HIV/AIDS. **WAOD 2006** will focus on mobilizing resources to reach the objectives set out in the 2001 United Nations Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS.

Specifically, FXB and the **May 7 Coalition** commit to action at all levels across five continents. Working with the Global Action for Children, FXB and the coalition will (a) lobby for the most effective U.S. and European government legislation for all orphans and vulnerable children, (b) attend and monitor meetings during which governments give updates on the realization of commitments made during the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS to stop the pandemic and care for those affected by it, and (c) inform the international press on all these issues. Media, businesses, entertainers, governments and others have also lent their voices to WAOD 2006, including actress Jane Fonda, who has recorded an audio clip which will be aired globally on English-speaking radios on May 7, 2006.

FXB and the **May 7 Coalition** welcome all interested individuals and organizations/movements/groups inspired to take action on behalf of children to join the coalition by contacting Charles Xavier, on behalf of the FXB/ARYI Coordinators, at cxavier@fxb.org.