

THE CARTER CENTER NEWS

FALL 2007

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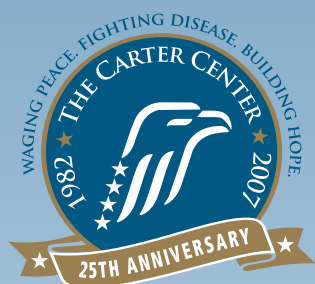
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25 Years of The Carter Center: Changing Agenda, Enduring Principles



President Carter listens as the village elder who guards the dam in Savelugu, Ghana, explains how he keeps the water source safe from Guinea worm through close monitoring. The Carter Center promotes active participation by community members in its work.

The year 2007 marks the Carter Center's 25th anniversary. In the following article, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter reflects on the Center's evolution and his hopes for waging peace, fighting disease, and building hope into the future.

BY JIMMY CARTER

My original concept for The Carter Center was a place for mediation, a place where leaders of countries or regions in conflict could come to resolve their differences. Looking at the work of the Center today, with programs that have touched lives in more than 70 countries promoting peace and good health, it is safe to say that the Center has far exceeded Rosalynn's and my initial dreams.

BEGINNINGS

The Center was established in 1982 soon after I accepted an offer from Emory University to be a distinguished professor. My assistants and I found ourselves working out of the top floor of the Emory University library on projects and quickly broadening our work to include compelling issues in human rights, nuclear arms con-

trol, global health, and the environment, with a special emphasis on Latin America.

As programs expanded, so did our physical space—the current campus of the Carter Presidential Center opened in 1986, encompassing the Presidential Library and Museum and The Carter Center.

As the Center took on new projects, a set of principles emerged: We would not duplicate the effective efforts of other organizations, we would be nonpartisan, we would not let the possibility of failure deter us from making our best effort. Another unique characteristic of the Center was our desire to be an action agency, not just a think tank. Since the basic character and purpose of the Center were unprecedented, we had to prove the worth of our efforts step by step, expanding our financial resources as we demonstrated tangible results.

TODAY

Although our past work has been quite varied, today the Center's projects tend to fall into two buckets: peace and health. Our

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From Dr. John Hardman, President and CEO Small Measures Create Waves of Change

If conflict, ill health, and poverty always seem to walk hand in hand, so do peace, health, and economic opportunity. An improvement in one aspect of a community's well-being can yield unforeseen dividends in other areas.

At The Carter Center, we take on projects to improve a specific facet of life—monitoring elections to ensure citizens have a say in how they are governed or fighting a devastating disease. Happily, we find that the results of our work often expand beyond the initial project scope to help improve the overall quality of life in a community, a ripple effect in which one positive change leads to others.

For instance, our trachoma program promotes latrine construction in seven African countries to control fly populations that spread the damaging bacterial eye disease. Beyond controlling trachoma,

sanitation provided by latrines benefits the entire community as the prevalence of diarrheal disease and intestinal worms diminishes—leaving people healthier overall.

In Ethiopia and Sudan, our trachoma control efforts are combined with distribution of the antibiotic azithromycin. Although our primary goal is to treat active cases of the disease, we are seeing deaths from other bacterial infections dwindle as the drug fights upper respiratory, skin, and sexually transmitted infections as well.

Similarly, election observation can bring results beyond one free and fair vote.



Emily Staub

A girl stands in the doorway of her family's latrine in Motto, Ethiopia. Latrines help control trachoma but also improve overall community health.



Rebekah Raleigh

Dr. John Hardman (right), Carter Center president and chief executive officer, and two members of the Center's election observation team discuss an issue at a polling station in Jamaica in 2002. The Center's involvement in two Jamaican elections led to its work to help the country develop legislation giving citizens access to government documents.

The Carter Center observed Jamaica's elections in 1997 and 2002 to help deter violence and raise confidence in the electoral process. As the country's democracy strengthened, we began closely working with Jamaican officials to promote government transparency, specifically the right of citizens to request information and documents from their government. Jamaica passed access to information legislation in 2002, giving more power to citizens to hold government accountable and creating a foundation for even greater good.

It inspires me to see how many of our projects have gone beyond our initial goals to truly improve the quality of lives of those we assist. Small ripples can become big waves—spreading peace, health, and hope around the world.

Project Strengthens Judicial System Across Rural, War-Torn Liberia

Fourteen years of civil war left Liberia's infrastructure, including its justice system, in shambles. As the country slowly rebuilds following four years of peace and a new government, the justice system is starting essentially from scratch. There are few means to communicate or enforce new legislation beyond the capital city of Monrovia.

A new project by The Carter Center is helping the Liberia Ministry of Justice improve rule of law, especially in overlooked rural areas. The Center has been closely involved with Liberia since 1991, when all sides of the country's civil war



Jeffrey Austin

Raymond Chie conducts a town hall meeting for residents of Big Suehn in Grand Kru County, sometimes called "walking county" because it has so few roads. Chie works for the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, one of the Carter Center's partners in Liberia.

invited the Center to assist in the peace process. The Carter Center also observed Liberia's 1997 and 2005 elections.

"In Monrovia, the formal justice system is training lawyers and police, passing new laws, and building jails," said Tom Crick, senior political analyst for the

Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program. "But what does this mean for traditional people? Most Liberians live in rural areas and have not heard of these new steps. They don't always trust that the justice system has their best interests in mind."

The Carter Center aims to increase public confidence in a functional rural judicial sector that serves local needs; increase people's knowledge of their rights and responsibilities through public education and awareness, including women's rights and basic human rights; and develop awareness of the local judicial mechanisms and conditions, including statutory, traditional, and informal processes.

The Center is working with community-based organizations to educate rural citizens about the formal justice system, new laws, and ways to increase access to justice. The groups conduct civic education activities including dramas and town hall meetings; they answer questions and talk at length with village members.

At one such event performed in the town of Cavalla, near the Cote d'Ivoire border, actors performed a series of dramas about a woman's right to inheritance and anti-rape laws. Most villages have no television sets, few books, and only sporadic radio coverage, so seeing people act out a story is very entertaining. People howled with laughter. After each drama, the actors took questions and discussed with attendees what the law said about particular matters.

"Women were particularly excited," said Jeffrey Austin, Carter Center consultant in Liberia. "Some raised their arms and cried with joy when they heard that they had a right to inheritance or that rape included forced sex even between a husband and wife. People are so hungry for information. Even if they disapprove of

what is being said, they are desperate to know as much as possible, and they ask question after question."

The Center awards small grants to its organizational partners. These funds are vital to their work and empower people in a place with so few resources.

Thomas Flah Cooper works as a monitor for one of the Center's partners in River Gee County, one of the most underdeveloped counties in Liberia. Cooper monitors the courts and prisons, visits outlying vil-



Jeffrey Austin

The magisterial court clerk in the River Gbeh district stands outside the court. River Gbeh is a district in one of the most remote counties in Liberia.

lages, mediates petty disputes, encourages people to handle rape cases criminally, and draws attention to violations. He has no office, but he does commute to towns throughout his county on a cheap motorcycle. Much of the county has no phone service, so Cooper communicates with his regional headquarters by sending handwritten notes with travelers moving up and down the dirt highway.

"I have seen him lead town hall meetings, and he is excellent at engaging people," said Austin. "He asks questions and seeks responses and has a genuine discussion with people. Despite the hardships of living in such a remote and underdeveloped place, Flah works hard and serves a vital function."

In a country with so little development, change takes time. The Carter Center will remain in Liberia at least through May 2008.

Human Rights Defenders Find Allies in Faith Groups

Harassed, labeled as traitors, and sometimes jailed for their work, human rights defenders come from backgrounds as diverse as the issues they advocate in their home countries. Many work from an equally diverse platform, one of personal faith. Defenders from 20 countries convened at The Carter Center in September for the fourth annual Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum, co-sponsored by Human Rights First.

and Freedom: Protecting Human Rights as Common Cause,” attendees discussed challenges they face in addressing mass atrocities and developed recommendations, which they addressed with representatives of governments and multilateral institutions. The event was co-chaired by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour.

“Economic justice, the alleviation of

Representative leaders of faith communities attended the forum, including Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Ingrid Mattson, the first female president of the Islamic Society of North America; and Dr. Marc Ellis, author and professor of Jewish studies at Baylor University. Faith leaders heard the concerns of defenders and pledged to work within their own constituencies to promote human rights.

Several defenders at the forum also came from a platform of faith. They emphasized that faith can play a positive role in the promotion of human rights, despite the common media portrayal of religious extremism.

“I was brought up as a Muslim and brought up to believe that God is just and Islam is just,” said Zainah Anwar, executive director of Sisters in Islam, a Malaysian nongovernmental organization. “Rejecting our religion in order to become a feminist is just not a choice—we want to be feminists, and we want to be Muslim as well. We want to locate our search for justice, for liberation within our tradition, within our belief.”

President Carter warned against the expansion of religious fundamentalism in his closing remarks.

“When several leaders profess to speak for God and believe they are absolutely right, and others are inferior, that is a root cause of human rights violations,” he said. “We must reach out to bring in as our new ally those religious groups that agree with us.”

In the concluding session of the forum, defenders presented their recommendations for addressing mass atrocities. These included monitoring media output for incitement and hate speech, promoting an independent and free press, and training journalists in human rights and defenders in media skills.

On the Web at www.cartercenter.org: Read the final statement from the forum identifying challenges and recommendations and read the personal stories of human rights defenders.



Thomas S. England

Karen Tse, an international human rights attorney and Unitarian Universalist minister, discusses her experiences at the Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum as Imam Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood in Harlem, New York, listens.

Their untold stories are often dramatic—a Muslim woman advocating for women’s rights within the framework of Islam, a Catholic priest with leukemia fighting for the civil rights of Haitians from exile in south Florida, or an Israeli labeled as an “Arab-lover” for documenting human rights violations against Palestinians.

For the first time, this year’s forum participants considered the role faith communities could play in working with human rights defenders. Under the theme “Faith

poverty, and prevention of human rights atrocities such as in Darfur are central tenets to both faith communities and the work of human rights defenders,” said Karin Ryan, director of the Carter Center’s Human Rights Program. “There are more opportunities for collaboration and synergy between the groups beyond Darfur. Human rights defenders play a vital role by alerting the world to escalating crises, preventing crimes against humanity and genocide. We should listen to their views and concerns.”

Profile: Karin Ryan

Director Assists Activists Fighting for Human Rights

After Iraq's 2006 elections, the United States and other Western governments celebrated that country's move toward democracy. But as Karin Ryan knows from her 20 years with The Carter Center, an election is only a small step on the long road toward a true democratic government.

"The big question is 'what happens after the election?'" said Ryan, who directs the Center's Human Rights Program. "Elections alone do not constitute a democracy. A country needs laws and institutions that protect human, social, and economic rights. It especially needs to protect the rights of the individuals who speak out on these issues."

Such people are called human rights defenders, and Ryan organizes the Center's annual conferences to support them. Ryan's position is ideal for someone who knew even at age 18 that she wanted "to change

the world"—and who believed in her own ability to do so. She was then a volunteer English teacher in Zaire through a Baha'i service program. It proved a chastening experience. "I wasn't educated," Ryan said, "and I soon realized that without a degree, I couldn't be very effective."

But she never lost her faith in the power of the individual. In 1987, while studying for a degree in political science at Emory University, she volunteered again—at The Carter Center.

"I visited the museum here," Ryan said. "The exhibits emphasized President Carter's vision of American leadership—

how it should be about lending the moral power of our nation to help other countries. That just lit a fire in me."

Ryan brought her energy to the Center just as it launched new human rights initiatives. "It was such a good fit for me," she said. "It's about shifting power to

individuals, so that any person can have a platform to speak up about the rights of others. That idea just screamed out to me as a way to fix what's wrong with the world."

Ryan's position as a volunteer office assistant soon turned into a full-time job: "We first helped identify individuals who were wrongly imprisoned around the world. President Carter worked on their cases to free

them." In time, this led to the Center's efforts to help countries transitioning to democratic rule, as well as the human rights defenders.

"They are the truth-tellers about what is wrong in a society, and so they are often persecuted," said Ryan. "Protecting them and assuring that their words get out is one of our jobs." The Center assists in this work through conferences, by supporting the U.N. human rights programs, and introducing defenders to U.S. policy-makers.

With the new level of concern about terrorism, the need "to stand shoulder to shoulder with the individual activist" has grown substantially. "It's easier for countries to label activists as terrorists to get them out of the way," Ryan explained, noting that human rights are even in danger in the United States. "We have a strong judiciary, so our courts are pushing back. But what happens in a young democracy, such as Kenya or Iraq? Someone needs to protect the Martin Luther King Jr.s. of these societies."



Thomas S. England

Karin Ryan, director of the Human Rights Program



Deborah Hakes

Karin Ryan (left) listens to a voter explain the trouble she's had with her registration card during the 2006 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Center Observes Historic Elections in East Timor

A Carter Center delegation commended East Timor for its orderly and peaceful parliamentary election on June 30, the first to be administered solely by Timorese officials. Previous elections had been overseen by the United Nations as East Timor transitioned to independence from Indonesia in 2002.

The island nation of 800,000 residents is still recovering from a troubled history. In 1999, the Indonesian military razed the capital Dili in response to a Timorese vote for independence. More conflict came in May 2006 when civil-military conflicts erupted in violence and displaced hundreds of thousands of families.

"The country bears scars from its past—refugee camps, burned buildings, and unemployed youth," said Samantha Aucock, director of the Carter Center field office in East Timor. "But these elections were a source of hope and

positive change for the Timorese."

The 15-member Carter Center delegation found that polling stations were well organized and electoral workers carried out their responsibilities competently and professionally. Observers reported only isolated irregularities during the conduct of the poll that were unlikely to affect the overall success of the vote.

The Carter Center began its involvement in East Timor in June 1999, when former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, while leading an international observer mission for Indonesia's parliamentary elections, met with detained East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao in Jakarta. The Carter Center then observed the 1999 public consultation for independence, the 2001 constituent assembly elections, the constitution

drafting process, and East Timor's first presidential election in 2002. The Center also worked to strengthen civil society through a small grants program and implemented a four-month project to strengthen communities and the rule of law.



An East Timor election worker shows a voter a copy of the ballot. The 2007 elections were the first overseen by the newly established East Timor government.

Campaign Finance in Latin America Has Severe Faults, Study Reveals

Political party and campaign financing is deeply flawed in eight Latin American countries, according to a recent study by The Carter Center and Transparency International.

The problems include a lack of oversight for private donations, scarce accountability by candidates, and unreliable data delivered by parties. In addition, information about political financing is not made public in most of the countries studied, which included Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

The study was presented in May 2007 during an Organization of American States meeting in Panama.

"Our goal is not to criticize but to help

democratic governments to do better," said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "To achieve equitable participation for voters, we must prevent wealthy candidates and parties from deriving undue advantage from their superior resources and assure that donors do not unduly influence the decisions of elected officials whose campaigns they helped fund. Political financing regulation is essential to a healthy democracy."

In most countries studied, reports presented by political parties to the electoral control agencies cover only public funds, leaving private contributions unreported. The Carter Center and Transparency International hope the study results will be used to open public discussion about campaign finance reform in Latin America.

Ecuadorians Vote for New Representatives

The Carter Center observed constituent assembly elections in Ecuador on Sept. 30 and found the elections to be generally peaceful. Observers recognized poll workers for their close attention to the law, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal for organizing elections, and the group Participación Ciudadana for conducting a transparent quick count.

Carter Center observers did note some problems, including confusion at some polling sites, campaigning on election day, and isolated violence.

The targeted mission focused on political climate, compliance with campaign rules, and election administration. More details about the elections can be found at www.cartercenter.org.

Group Brings Hope to Nigerians Disfigured by Swollen Limbs

Swathed in a loose-fitting tunic conservatively hiding his deformed right leg, 38-year-old Hamisu Isa pulls up a white plastic chair to join a group of his fellow Nigerians under two mango trees in the city of Jos.

“There is no cure, but there is hope,” Carter Center lymphatic filariasis expert John Umaru told the group. “If you keep your leg clean and treat cuts for infection, the swelling will not increase and may even decrease.”

Isa is a member of a support group in which people suffering from the disease lymphatic filariasis come together to discuss the physical challenges and social stigma of the disfiguring condition that causes grotesque swelling of legs and genitals. Caused by the bite of a mosquito, the parasitic disease not only disfigures the body but also causes incapacitating fevers.

The support group that Umaru leads is among the first of its kind. Here, participants learn about transmission and prevention of lymphatic filariasis and discuss techniques for preventing skin infections,

such as proper leg washing. The disease can be prevented and managed through health education and annual single-dose combinations of oral medicines—albendazole donated by GlaxoSmithKline and Mectizan® donated by Merck & Co., Inc.

During the first few meetings of the Carter Center-assisted support group, Isa sat quietly on his chair and listened to other members describe their symptoms, challenges, successes, and hopes. For years, he had suffered in silence from the disease’s severest form, elephantiasis.

The disease ripples beyond the individual, forcing victims to rely on the support of loved ones as effects often make it difficult and sometimes impossible for them to farm and carry out other basic daily tasks of living.

After he had been in the group for awhile, Isa began to share his own experiences with his peers. He said that people—including his own family—would shun him because the infection in his leg created a bad odor. By taking proper care of his leg, he was able to stop the sores,

Facts About Lymphatic Filariasis

- Lymphatic filariasis is a debilitating parasitic infection caused by thin worms that are transmitted by the bites of mosquitoes in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.
- The World Health Organization ranks lymphatic filariasis as a leading cause of permanent and long-term disability worldwide.
- There are approximately 1.1 billion people in 80 countries at risk for contracting this disease and 120 million people infected worldwide.
- Nigeria is the third-most lymphatic filariasis endemic country in the world and the most endemic in Africa; an estimated 25 million people suffer from this disease.
- Working in partnership with the government of Nigeria, The Carter Center assists in the elimination of lymphatic filariasis in Plateau and Nasarawa states in Nigeria.

and the swelling decreased. As his health improved, he found a job selling second-hand clothing at the market. In the past, the disease-related fevers kept him from holding a job or completing seemingly simple tasks.

“Hamisu’s story shows other people that someday they can be better, too,” said Umaru.

Today, Isa’s life has turned around. His skin looks clean, and, because he is feeling better, Isa recently earned a teaching certificate and is teaching mathematics and English at a local elementary school a few times a week and working in the market part time.

And now Isa can serve as an inspiration to new members of the support group. He may even recognize shades of his former self in people such as Helen, a distraught 20-year-old with severe elephantiasis who avoids eye contact and does not speak above a whisper.



Hamisu Isa stands in front of his kiosk at a secondhand clothing market in Jos, Nigeria, his long robe hiding a leg that is misshapen due to lymphatic filariasis.

Emily Staub

Uganda Attempts Nationwide Elimination of River Blindness

River blindness is such a pervasive disease in Africa that many global experts believe it can only be controlled not eliminated. But Uganda has announced plans to rid the disease, despite hefty challenges. The country's Ministry of Health officials believe that eliminating the disease will be more cost-effective than continuing control efforts indefinitely for its estimated 2 million citizens at risk.

In early 2007, high-ranking Ugandan government officials announced the country's strategy for eliminating the health threat. The Carter Center has assisted the Uganda River Blindness Program since 1996 and supports the new initiative.

The confidence to eliminate river blindness in Uganda is strengthened by

success in previous decades in eliminating it in three areas affecting more than 3 million people by vector control—that is, killing the flies that carry the disease. The plan announced this year calls for conquering the disease in isolated areas where the flies that spread the disease can be controlled.

One factor that makes Uganda a good place to try elimination is the nature of river blindness vectors there. The black fly responsible for about 70 percent of river blindness transmission in the country (called *Simulium neavei*) has a very short flight range, which means that these flies are unlikely to spread the disease to neighboring areas because they cannot travel far. In other parts of Africa, the fly that transmits the disease (*Simulium damnosum* spp) has a flight range of more than 100 kilometers, making a vector control program more difficult to execute.

Efforts to control the fly population

Elimination Campaign Makes Progress in Americas

Earlier this year, Santa Rosa, Guatemala, became the first of 13 river blindness-affected areas in Latin America to be considered free of river blindness. As a result, officials halted Mectizan treatments in the area. This marks a milestone in the campaign to eliminate the disease from the Americas. A surveillance program of two to three years in Santa Rosa is now underway to ensure that the infection does not return.

Two more areas—Escuintla in Guatemala and Lopes de Micay in Colombia—are expected to follow Santa Rosa soon into the post-treatment surveillance period.

The Carter Center is the sponsoring organization of the Onchocerciasis Elimination Program of the Americas, which oversees efforts to eradicate the disease in the Western Hemisphere, where six countries are affected: Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Cameroon Program Integrates Vitamin A

Children under 5 years old are too young to receive the drug Mectizan, which treats river blindness, but in Cameroon, these children now receive a different health boost at the same time their parents are being treated with Mectizan—vitamin A. Vitamin A boosts overall immunity to other diseases, so children are less susceptible to infections such as measles, malaria, and diarrheal diseases. It also reduces the risk of childhood blindness. In Cameroon, vitamin A capsules were administered during national immunization days for polio. Now that polio vaccinations are drawing to a close as polio eradication approaches, Cameroon's river blindness program offers an alternative channel for delivering the nutrient. To date, 230,049 children between the ages of 1 and 5 years have received the supplement.



Community health workers distribute Mectizan in Uganda.

Moses Katabarwa



Moses Katabarwa

Ugandan community members gather for health education about river blindness.

will work hand in hand with mass treatment of the population with the oral drug Mectizan®, donated by Merck & Co., Inc., which is given to treat and prevent the disease. In the six areas currently targeted by Uganda for elimination, the program has intensified Mectizan treatments by moving from annual treatments to treatments every six months, an approach that has proven effective in Latin America for stopping transmission of the disease.

Although rarely fatal, river blindness's advanced symptoms, including intense itching, skin rashes, and diminished vision, strip people of their livelihoods. Young people who do not yet have severe symptoms are forced to leave school and take jobs to care for ailing family members. In Uganda, people who suffer from severe rashes and vision loss are sometimes psychologically traumatized or disrespected in the community.

Agricultural Pioneer Borlaug Receives Congressional Medal

Norman Borlaug, Nobel peace laureate and senior consultant of the Carter Center's Agriculture Program, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., in July for his work on high-yield, disease-resistant varieties of wheat credited with starting the "Green Revolution" and alleviating starvation in India and Pakistan in the 1960s.

The medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress awards, was presented by President George W. Bush.

"Norman Borlaug has dedicated his life to health and peace for untold millions around the world," said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "We congratulate him on this significant, and fitting, award."

Dr. Borlaug, whose work is credited with saving up to a billion lives, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. In 1986 Borlaug founded the World Food Prize, an annual \$250,000 award to people

whose work increases the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.

During the ceremony, Dr. Borlaug, 93, said that hunger remains a problem with the rapid rise in the world's population.

"We need better and more technology, for hunger and poverty and misery are very fertile soils into which to plant all kinds of 'isms,' including terrorism," he said.

Dr. Borlaug, an Iowa native, was educated in a one-room schoolhouse and went on to attend the University of Minnesota. He continues to work for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico and the Agriculture Program of The Carter Center

to bring the Green Revolution to Africa. He also serves as a distinguished professor of international agriculture at Texas A&M University, where he gives guest lectures.

The Congressional Gold Medal was first awarded to George Washington in 1776. Other past winners include Thomas A. Edison, Bob Hope, Pope John Paul II, and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



Chris Dowsell

Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel laureate and senior consultant for the Carter Center Agriculture Program

Journalism Fellowships Expand to Romania

Alex Ulmanu sometimes wonders if things could have been different.

"I had a colleague in university who was a brilliant, brilliant person and who committed suicide in her very early 20s. We learned afterward that she was suffering from schizophrenia," Ulmanu said.

Now as an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Bucharest, Ulmanu has considered how access to



Deborah Hakes

Ioana Avadani (left), Romania's international adviser to the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, and Alexandru Ulmanu, one of two incoming Romania fellows, discuss how training workshops will better prepare journalists to report on mental health issues facing their country.

accurate information on mental health in his homeland of Romania could have prevented his friend from succumbing to her illness.

"If she got proper treatment ... or maybe if professionals had more access to information ... or if things were perceived differently by the public ..."

Ulmanu and two of his colleagues from Romania visited The Carter Center in September for a three-day meeting with mental health professionals, media experts, and fellow journalists to discuss how media can reduce stigma and discrimination against people with mental illnesses through informed newspaper articles, television and radio broadcasts, and documentaries.

The meeting is part of the Center's

Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, which seek to reduce the stigma of mental illnesses by promoting a global dialogue on mental health through a core of journalists who strive to increase accurate reporting of mental health issues and decrease incorrect, stereotypical information. The program has trained journalists in the United States, New Zealand, and southern African countries. Now in its 11th year, it is expanding to Romania

through a partnership with the Center for Independent Journalism. Romania is a country still undergoing political and economic reforms nearly 20 years after communist control.

The fall of communism in 1989 led to a boom in private media companies in Romania. Today, there are an estimated 600 newspapers distributed throughout the country. In such a competitive market, journalists often do not have the time or the editorial support to thoroughly research and report on their

topics and their resulting stories often lack important information or, in the worst cases, are inaccurate.

Because Romania faces this unique challenge, Ulmanu and his colleague Paul Radu, co-founder of the Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism, under the leadership of their advisers, will develop intensive workshops to train journalists on how to accurately report on mental health by exploring the latest scientific research and ethical concerns, among many other issues. These workshops will be offered to both journalists and professors of journalism working in select cities in an effort to improve the quality of reported information. In fall 2008, the program will award two new Romanian journalists with

The two Romanian journalists will join eight other 2007–2008 Rosalynn Carter Fellows, including six from the United States and two from South Africa.

Ilse Pauw, Senior Writer/Editor
Health24.com, Cape Town, South Africa

Topic: Features about individuals living with a mental illness

Andrea Petersen, News Editor
The Wall Street Journal
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Topic: Anxiety disorders

Molly Knight Raskin, Freelance
Journalist, Washington, D.C.
Topic: Borderline personality disorder

Kevin Roy, News Anchor/Reporter
WLS-TV, ABC7 Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
Topic: Suicide prevention

Marc Shaffer, Documentary
Filmmaker, Oakland, Calif.
Topic: Criminalization of people with mental illnesses

Chandra Thomas, Staff Writer
Atlanta Magazine, Atlanta, Ga.
Topic: Stigma surrounding mental illnesses in the African American community

Gregory Warner, Freelance Journalist
New York, N.Y.
Topic: Trauma treatment in the United States and abroad

Pieter van Zyl, Senior Writer
Media 24, Cape Town, South Africa
Topic: Influence of crime on South Africa's children, therapists, single parents, and others

fellowships to research and write on a mental health topic of their choice.

Accurate reporting on mental health issues has the potential to positively impact many Romanians silently suffering from mental illness.

"We are teaching people to really do journalism, not simply record what happens around them without asking the right questions. I think the percentage of people who would find mental health stories relevant for their own lives is really much higher than many in Romania think," said Ulmanu.

Skoll Foundation Supports Diverse Projects in Peace, Health

The Skoll Foundation takes an entrepreneurial approach to philanthropy—empowering people and programs that are making a positive impact in their communities and providing the support necessary to extend and expand their good work. With the Carter Center's emphasis on local ownership of our health and peace work, the two organizations share a vision of improving the well-being of the global community.

In August 2006, the Skoll Foundation

Foundation allowed the Center to carry out the Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum and the Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative replication conference.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The foundation was actively involved in the Center's Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum held in Atlanta in September. The event brought activists from 20 countries to discuss their work to

In addition to providing funding for the event, the foundation sent a writer from its networking Web site Social Edge, www.socialedge.org, to write a daily blog (Web diary) covering the forum. The blog was simultaneously posted to the Carter Center Web site. A Social Edge video crew also recorded the forum, and video from the event will be posted to Social Edge's channel on the YouTube Web site (www.youtube.com/socialedge).

EPHTI REPLICATION CONFERENCE

The Skoll Foundation also funded a replication conference held in February 2007 by the Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative (EPHTI). This Carter Center program works with seven Ethiopian universities and the ministries of health and education to contribute to improving the health of Ethiopians by enhancing the quality of training health staff receive. There is a severe shortage of medical personnel across Ethiopia. But The Carter Center is working with its Ethiopian partners to prepare health care workers to serve 90 percent of the Ethiopian population in more than 600 rural health centers.

The conference that EPHTI hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, convened ministers of health and education of 10 African nations to highlight the successes and challenges of EPHTI and its potential to be replicated throughout Africa in an effort to strengthen health care delivery on the continent.



Hailu Wondimu

Geraldine Namirembe Bitamazire, the Uganda minister of education, inspects laboratory equipment donated to Ethiopia's Defense College by the Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative. Bitamazire attended a conference to find out more about how Ethiopia is strengthening its public health system through the initiative.

announced an award of \$3 million over three years to The Carter Center. The grant was divided evenly between the Center's peace and health programs.

Founded in 1999 by Jeff Skoll, the first president of online auction giant eBay, the Skoll Foundation provided nearly \$30 million in grants in fiscal year 2006 and ranks in the top tier of foundations nationally.

In the last year, funding from the Skoll

fight human rights violations. This year, faith group leaders from around the world were also invited to the forum to see how religious groups can aid the struggle for human rights (read more about the forum on p. 4).



Thomas S. England

President Carter talks with Ruth Norris, senior program officer for the Skoll Foundation, during the Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum.

‘Conversations’ Webcast Live

Conversations at The Carter Center is an annual series of evening programs held at The Carter Center in Atlanta, designed to increase public awareness on issues of national and global importance. People outside Atlanta can be a part of the programs by watching them live at www.cartercenter.org.

The programs also are archived for viewing at a later time. The next program, “Heralding Freedom: Perspectives on Human Rights” will be Wednesday, Dec. 12, featuring President Carter



and former Ambassador Andrew Young. All programs start at 7 p.m. ET, and the full schedule is available online.

Carter Subject of New Film

“Man From Plains,” a new documentary by award-winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme, offers an intimate portrait of the public and private sides of President Carter. Filmed during his book tour in the fall of 2006 for “Palestine Peace Not Apartheid,” the documentary follows President Carter as he crisscrosses the United States to share his thoughts on Middle East peace prospects. The documentary opens in select cities at the end of October. For more information, visit www.sonypicturesclassics.com.

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25 Years

peace work involves monitoring elections in unstable democracies; strengthening democracy beyond elections through rule of law, transparency, and citizen participation in government; and promoting human rights. On the health side, we focus on tackling neglected diseases, mostly in Africa but also in Latin America. These are diseases that are no longer found in rich countries but still run rampant in the developing world. Such diseases usually do not kill a person but rather make his or her life unbearable.

One feature of our work of which I am particularly proud is our desire to see people and countries succeed as active participants in our projects. We work among people who are living on less than a dollar a day. We recruit those people to work side by side with us in solving their own problems. We give them, many of them for the first time, an experience that is successful. We can show them that a disease can be prevented or cured, that they can grow more food in their fields, or that they can have an honest election and choose their own leaders. We give people a chance to shape their own futures, rather than be dependent on others, convinced their suffering will never be alleviated.

In fact, early on, the Center would use a generic name such as “Global 2000” for some of our projects, so that village chiefs or heads of state could feel a genuine sense of partnership and be able to claim credit when successes were realized.

FUTURE

Looking ahead, it is hard to imagine what the Center might be like 25 years from today. The crucial factors that will determine the viability of The Carter Center are an innovative spirit, an insistence on complete independence, and a dedicated and competent staff. We must continue to probe for every opportunity to fill vacuums of need in the world and have the courage to take a chance on possible failure if the goal is worthy.

In general, the principles of the Center have been the same ones that should characterize our nation, or any individual. They are the beliefs inherent in all the great world religions, including commitments to peace, justice, freedom, humility, forgiveness or an attempt to find accommodation with potential foes, generosity, human rights or fair treatment of others, protection of the environment, and the alleviation of suffering. This is the agenda the Center will take forward with determination and commitment.

“BEYOND THE WHITE HOUSE: Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope” by Jimmy Carter, just published by Simon & Schuster, chronicles dramatic, emotional, and heartwarming moments in a quarter century of The Carter Center. Recounting progress on all corners of the globe in the fields of peacemaking, health, and human rights, President Carter reminds readers that, with determination and optimism, the world truly can be changed for the better.

