



## Backgrounder – Fact Finder

- The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) represents 159 hospitals in Ontario, Canada. OHA serves a population of over 12 million people and employs over 200,000 health care workers.
- The OHA is proud to celebrate its 80th year, which will culminate in OHA HealthAchieve2004 (North America's most important health care show, taking place November 15-17, 2004, and to be attended by almost 8,000 delegates)
- In response to a challenge issued to Ontario's hospitals by Stephen Lewis, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, the OHA will kick-off OHA HealthAchieve2004 with a special fundraising gala, entitled *OHAfrica Gala 2004: For hope, health and healing*.
- Funds raised from this special evening will benefit the Stephen Lewis Foundation and will help in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. "A recent report from the UN estimates that 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are infected with HIV/AIDS," said OHA President and CEO Hilary Short. "This is a humanitarian crisis and we are answering the challenge to help alleviate suffering and prevent the further spread of this devastating disease."
- As a separate initiative, OHA and its partners are also working hard on twinning hospitals and supporting nurses, physicians and pharmacists who will go to Southern Africa to treat and prevent this devastating disease. The OHA has already led a fact-finding delegation to the Kingdom of Lesotho to identify those areas of greatest need and to identify where Ontario's health care providers can most effectively assist in the battle against HIV/AIDS.
- *OHAfrica Gala 2004* will take place on Sunday, November 14, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (Constitution Hall, North Building) in Toronto, Canada. Dress is business attire.
- Set against an African backdrop, the evening will include an extraordinary cocktail reception and gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions with items from around the world, a spectacular prize draw, and outstanding entertainment, including a special performance by master impressionist Andre-Philippe Gagnon. The *OHAfrica Gala* will be attended by almost 1,400 of Canada's health, industry, academic, political, and social leaders.
- Individual gala tickets: \$375 per person. Tables: \$3,750 per table of ten persons. Corporate Tables: \$6,000 per table of ten persons, with benefits (include preferred table seating, signage at the table, and visibility in the Souvenir Evening Program). There are also corporate sponsorship and auction donation opportunities available, with an extensive range of benefits.
- Please join the leading individuals and organizations across Canada and around the world in supporting the *OHAfrica Gala* and help ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa.
- For more information: [www.ohaftricagala.com](http://www.ohaftricagala.com) or contact Mikhela Jason, Gala Director, Phone: 613-590-1849, Fax: 613-590-9952, Email: [mikhela@rogers.com](mailto:mikhela@rogers.com)

