

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa doctor and NGO founder to be honoured December 12 with Governor General's award for group's medical outreach work in Africa

Ottawa, ON December 7, 2017

Dr. Don Kilby will be awarded the 2017 Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal on December 12, at Rideau Hall, for his work with the NGO he co-founded, Canada-Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA). CACHA's mission is to improve health standards for underserved rural African communities.

In Bénin, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CACHA works with local partners on disease prevention, treatment, support and education for the most vulnerable populations. Combining volunteer missions and ongoing in-country projects, the Ottawa-based NGO brings short and long-term support to partner communities. The Meritorious Service decorations are awarded to Canadians performing "exceptional deeds that bring honour to our country". Recipients have included human rights activist Craig Kielburger, astronaut Chris Hadfield, and Olympian and mental health advocate Clara Hughes.

In its sixteen years, CACHA has treated over 200,000 patients; supported over 900 orphans and vulnerable children; donated over \$7.5 million in medical supplies and infrastructure; built schools, mobile clinics, HIV treatment centres, and youth facilities; and created training centres to empower women and youth. CACHA has sent close to a thousand Canadian volunteers on missions overseas.

"The CACHA family of supporters, staff and volunteers embodies the best of what it means to be Canadian," Dr. Kilby says. "Through our shared purpose, values and a long tradition of giving, CACHA supports ordinary people doing extraordinary things. In partnership with our friends and colleagues who share our vision and our determination, we can, through one small deed at a time, strengthen communities, by improving health, education, training and development. Success can only happen when organizations such as CACHA are nurtured and valued not only by good citizenry but also by our institutions and strong community leaders at every level of public and private influence. Canada has provided CACHA with the inspiration and the support and leadership that has spawned and supported so many NGO's like ours who work here and abroad in the service of others."

CACHA was founded in 2001, during Ottawa's Jeux de la Francophonie. When the University of Ottawa Health Services (UOHS) hosted the medical care facility for athletes and their physicians, Dr. Kilby had the opportunity to discuss the challenges facing African medical care providers, which led the way to CACHA's inception. Dr. Kilby has been on the forefront of HIV and AIDS in Canada for more than 30 years. He has been a primary care provider and director at the UOHS since 1980. He has chaired the federal Ministerial Council on HIV/AIDS, the Ontario Advisory Committee

on HIV/AIDS and the Ottawa-Carleton Counsel on HIV/AIDS. Kilby has been an advocate for legal access to healthcare for marginalized populations including the poor, the homeless, injection drug users and immigrant populations. Dr. Kilby has previously been awarded the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award and an Ontario Award for Good Citizenship.

What: Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal, awarded to Ottawa doctor Don Kilby for NGO's medical work in Africa

Where: Rideau Hall ceremony and inscription in the *Canada Gazette*

When: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Images available:

<https://www.facebook.com/CACHA.ASCCA/photos/a.306200669435685.76392.137725602949860/706145992774482/?type=3&theater>

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