



ATS newsletter

Are you ready? we need volunteers

How about spending two weeks with The Afrikaada Teethsavers family in The Gambia? We are in need of both short- and long- term volunteers for the spring team of 2010, starting January. A short term period is normally 2 to 3 weeks. Or are you ready for a long term period?

To know more please contact
afrikaadateethsavers@hotmail.com
or call 0046/708756329

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***How fare
dose your
money
reach?***

***500 sek
will pay
1 field
workers
salary for
one month***

The faces of Afrikaada and Afrikaada Teethsavers

Who are the people behind Afrikaada? Lars-Göran Wörn, one of the original founders, told us of the dynamic transformation of the organization. Golsara Mehryar, a board member and devoted in the improvement of Oral Health in The Gambia, told us about how she came to love her mission. Now, the turn has come to Kumba Jobe, one in a group of many young dedicated Gambians, working for the public good and without salary.

When I went to The Gambia, my mission was of course, Oral Health. Having a humanist soul and being a student of science, I often feel like I have to close that humanist eye of mine. Still, my interest for critical evaluations of our realities with respect to class, gender, age, race etc. are usually very hard to neglect. I was pleased to see that within Afrikaada there were strong female from different backgrounds. As I got to know many of the young activists, I also got to share their dreams. Goals set about becoming dentists, doctors, economists, engineers, I saw the hunger these young people felt for acquiring methods to change their world. It's said that nothing happens unless, first a dream. So I talked to Kumba, one of the many amazing women in Afrikaada and a dear friend of mine, we discussed her dreams and thoughts about the future.

Amina Esisse: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Kumba Jobe: I am 22 years old, live in Latrikunda German. I was born and bred in Bansang.

AE: How was it to grow up in Bansang?

KJ: It was nice, I had a happy childhood, with loving adults and a lot of playmates. I moved from Bansang when I was around 16 years old, and went to Armitage High School, which is a boarding school.

AE: Growing up in Bansang, what was your childhood dream?

KJ: I dreamt of becoming a medical doctor, for me, it was important to obtain the abilities to help those in need.

AE: How was it to study in a boarding school?

KJ: I learned a lot about how to work with people. I was surrounded and confronted with different ideas.

AE: I remember that during many of Afrikaadas trips, besides being an



Kumba Jobe

good coordinator, you were a good communicator. How many languages do you speak?

KJ: I speak four languages; English, Fula, Wolof and Mandinka. My maternal language is Wolof, English is the language used for teaching here in The Gambia. The other languages I learned from friends who are Fula and Mandinka.

AE: To me, speaking that many languages is quite amazing. I get this impression that The Gambia is somehow diverse when it comes to ethnicities for instance. Do you or did you think a lot about this when you were growing up?

KJ: I don't view it as something strange or out of the ordinary, to me, it's normal and I was also raised to be tolerant.

AE: Besides volunteering for Afrikaada, you also work as a dental nurse at the Swedent Clinic, can you tell us a little bit more about this?

KJ: Well, I really like my job. I applied to this job few years ago, and now I've worked here for 2 years and three months to date. I love to calm down the patients when they are worried, holding their hands. I also like assisting during surgical procedures, such as extractions. Sometimes the work is slowed down due to lack of dentists.

AE: What are your dreams for the future?

KJ: My dream for the future is to become a dentist.

AE: As you know, there are no dental schools in The Gambia, how do you feel about this?

KJ: I'm saddened by the fact that there are no schools here, I hope to pursue an education abroad. I feel like dreams will work out, if you work hard and strive with a clean heart.

AE: What are your thoughts about oral health in The Gambia?

KJ: It is an important issue because, like I said, we lack dental schools in The Gambia. People were not aware of it's bad effects before, but now, as people are very interested and aware, they keep their oral health in good condition The clinics I know of, besides Swedent, are Banjul, Smile, Methodist, Bansang, Sagamarr, Hamadian, Hope and Kindergarten.

AE: How did you start working with Afrikaada?

KJ: I started working with Afrikaada through the clinic, my boss Lars, the former manager Jonfolo and the coordinator samba are the one who introduced me to the project.

AE: What would you like to see happening in Afrikaada in the future?

KJ: I would like for Afrikaada to evolve, have more people involved and made more famous. I would also like to see more efficient organization.

Amina Esisse

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Afrikaada
Teethsavers
Org nr 802436/6448
Account nr
PG 30 70 94-3
Sweden

We welcome all
sponsoring amounts
Membership fee sek
150 pr year
To become a mem-
ber pay sek 150 into
Our account and
make sure you write
your name and
e-mail address
clearly

***Oral health for
everyone***

We have a winner

ATS members have
casted their vote and
the map of Africa deco-
rated with the Gambian
colors is now the logo-
type for Afrikaada
Teethsavers. The logo
won with 52.3%.



ATS has joined Gambia Grupperna

To know more check out the home page
www.gambiagrupperna.se
Gambia grupperna (FIOH) is a umbrella organiza-
tion for groups working in The Gambia.



***100sek
can pay for
fluoride rinse
to rinse
70children
for 1 year***

Contact Afrikaada Teethsavers

Chair person

Jette Lehrmann Madsen
jette_lehrmann@hotmail.com
Cell 0046/708756329

Treasure

Anders Söderberg
asoderberg@hotmail.com

Secretary

Silvio Kosovic
s.kosovic@gmail.com

Board members

Lars-Göran Wörn
lars@drwaern.se
Golsara Mehryar
golsara@hotmail.com

Adviser

Inger Wennhall

Editor ATS Newsletter

Amina Esisse
sabiira@hotmail.com