

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FECH DONATES TWO AMBULANCES TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DOUALA

Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 2008 - The Foundation for Education Culture and Health (FECH) has donated two fully equipped ambulances to the Archdiocese of Douala in an effort to improve delivery of health services in the Central African country of Cameroon.

The Archdiocese of Douala is one of the largest healthcare providers in Cameroon. Through its twelve health centers, the Archdiocese provides health services for over 342,000 patients each year, including primary healthcare, prenatal consultations, tuberculosis testing and treatment, and treatment of AIDS-related opportunistic infections. With its ambulances, the Archdiocese seeks to expand patient access to its health services and to improve transportation of patients between its twelve health centers in Douala, a city with a population of over 1.5 million people.

In a presentation before the Chicago City Council in August 2007, FECH officer Jeremy Ebie outlined the various initiatives through which the organization supports health and education in Cameroon and requested the City's support of the Archdiocese's efforts to provide emergency healthcare to the people of Douala. The Council voted unanimously for a proposal to transfer two retired ambulances from the City's fleet to FECH in support of its health initiatives in Central Africa.

Alderman Isaac S. Carothers, Chair of the Police and Fire Committee, which introduced this initiative, expressed the City Council's enthusiastic support for FECH's work in West Africa. "The City of Chicago is proud to support FECH in its effort to provide much needed medical support to communities in Central Africa, particularly Douala, Cameroon. We commend the global vision of this organization and the initiative that it has undertaken. We wish FECH much continued success."

Eileen Joyce of the Department of Fleet Management for the City of Chicago acted on behalf of the City in negotiating the transfer and refurbishment of the ambulances by the Committee of Police and Fire of the City of Chicago. Among other upgrades, the City installed functioning sirens and provided new seat cushions for both of the vehicles.

FECH released the following statement upon its presentation of the ambulances to the Archdiocese of Douala on November 3, 2008: "FECH offers its most sincere thanks to the City of Chicago for its support of our mission through this donation. The people of Douala will greatly benefit from the gift of a City that cares. As an organization founded in Chicago by Chicagoans, we are proud of the international interests of our City and honored by its profound support of our efforts. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the City in the years to come." FECH also received approximately \$40,000 in in-kind contributions from Chicago-area healthcare professionals and institutions. Supporters of the ambulance delivery project included Advocate Trinity Hospitals in Chicago, which contributed medical equipment, and Dr. Dennis M. Fruin of Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, who donated pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

FECH was established in 2003 to generate awareness and support for health and educational initiatives in developing communities. FECH has partnered with three organizations in Cameroon that conduct work in the realms of HIV/AIDS prevention education, clinical research, and treatment, respectively. As one of FECH's three project partners, the Archdiocese of Douala has been one of the most dedicated and effective organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Cameroon.

FECH is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation dedicated to the improvement of the human condition in the critical realms of education and health. Through garnering financial and material support for educational initiatives and the most pressing health concerns, FECH aims to serve as an interface between effective social programming and necessary resources.

For additional information about FECH, please visit www.fech.org or contact:
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