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GAIA's Global Citizen Gala to honor Drs. Sally and Bill Rankin for their shared commitment to service

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (Mar. 5, 2018) – The Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA) will honor its founder, the Rev. Dr. Bill Rankin and his wife Dr. Sally Rankin, Professor Emerita UCSF School of Nursing, at its annual fundraising event, the Global Citizen's Gala on Thursday, May 10 in San Francisco (details below). The GAIA Global Citizen Award is given annually to recognize exceptional individuals and institutions who have made extraordinary contributions to GAIA and global efforts to reduce glaring health disparities. For example last year, the award went to UCSF's acclaimed HIV researcher Dr. Jay Levy, who also serves on GAIA's medical advisory board.

Bill Rankin co-founded GAIA in 2000 with Dr. Charles Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Neurological Surgery at UCSF, in response to the devastating HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. He focused in Malawi as one of the poorest countries and most under-resourced to confront the epidemic. Although, Rankin retired in 2012, the NGO he built is going strong and now focused on ending AIDS in the remote, rural HIV hotspots where core programs are operational. As a nurse researcher at UCSF, Dr. Sally Rankin led several studies that helped GAIA and others working in the field to better understand the context and mount a response. For example, an early study funded by the NIH looked at the role of faith-based leaders in delivering life-saving HIV messages.

"Malawi where we focus our work is said to be the 'warm heart of Africa,' and I think most would agree that Bill and Sally have served as the warm heart of GAIA for many years," said Todd Schafer, GAIA's president and CEO. "We are grateful that they continue to give of their time and expertise to help GAIA continue its work to end one of the deadliest epidemics in human history."

With the advent of antiretrovirals and a "treat all" policy, today, GAIA's programs focus on achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 HIV treatment targets: 90% of all people living with HIV know their status, 90% of those on treatment, and 90% on treatment achieve viral suppression. In doing so, by 2020 we can tip the epidemic to its breaking point. In addition to the Global Citizen awards, the gala will feature updates on the 90-90-90 targets, including GAIA's new short film -- *AIDS Isn't Over, But It Could Be* -- which reveals the elements of this historic and urgent push to end the epidemic in our lifetime.

About our Awardees

Dr. Sally Rankin began working in Malawi in 2001 with GAIA, while at the same time serving as faculty member, department chair, and interim dean at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing. Her initial research in Malawi pertained to the impact of HIV/AIDS on Malawian women's lives. In 2006 she was funded by the National Institutes of Health for a project titled: *Malawi Christians and Muslims: HIV Prevention and AIDS Care*. Sally completed a five-year stint as co-Investigator on GAIA's USAID funded project to build nursing capacity in Malawi. Sally has been working for two years for UCSF's Institute for Global Health Sciences where she designed their new PhD program in Global Health. In 2015 she was named the Helen Nahm Research Lecturer by UCSF School of Nursing, was recognized as one of the 150 Outstanding UCSF Alumni over the past 150 years, and received with Bill, the Duke University Award for Global Service and Leadership. She holds a MacArthur Foundation Endowed Chair in Global Health Nursing in the UCSF School of Nursing where she continues to work on issues related to nursing research, education, and service throughout the world.

William Rankin, Ph.D., with Dr. Charles Wilson, is a co-founder and President Emeritus of GAIA. The Rev. Dr. Rankin is a priest in the Episcopal Church and is a former President, Dean and Wilson Professor of Christian Ethics at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. His Doctor of Philosophy degree is from Duke University. He has been a Visiting Scholar at Cambridge University, a scholar in residence at the Rockefeller Center at Bellagio, Italy, a Visiting Scientist at the Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland and a Visiting Researcher at the Brocher Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland. He received the Episcopal

Divinity School's 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award, and with his wife, Sally, received the Duke University 2015 award for global service and leadership. He is the author of four books and numerous scholarly articles.

About GAIA

GAIA is a secular 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2000 in response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Its mission is to develop and implement innovative and caring healthcare programs in resource-deprived regions in Africa, especially those most affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. To ensure the broadest possible impact, we rigorously test initiatives and promote the replication of successful models. GAIA programs aim to achieve UNAIDS 90-90-90 HIV treatment targets in rural, remote Malawi by 2020: 90% of people living with HIV know their status; 90% of those are on treatment; and 90% of those are virally suppressed -- a "treatment as prevention" strategy to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Event details

GAIA's Global Citizen Gala

The Observation Post, 211 Lincoln Blvd., The Presidio, San Francisco

5:30 PM-8:30 PM, Thursday, May 10, 2018

For questions or to RSVP: ninon@thegaia.org

SPONSORSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES: Your sponsorship will help GAIA achieve 90-90-90 in remote, rural areas in Southern Africa where we work.

\$15,000 – National Sponsor

- 15 tickets
- Full-page ad in event program
- Recognition in event invitation
- Sponsorship listing and logo inclusion on GAIA website
- Digital recognition at event
- Preferential seating
- Verbal recognition during event

\$10,000 – District Sponsor

- Half-page ad in event program
- Recognition in event invitation
- Sponsorship listing and logo inclusion on GAIA website
- Digital recognition at event
- Preferential seating

\$5,000 – Village Sponsor

- 10 tickets
- Quarter-page ad in event program
- Sponsorship listing and logo inclusion on GAIA website
- Digital recognition at event

\$2,500 – Family Sponsor

- 10 tickets
- Recognition in event program
- Sponsorship listing and logo inclusion on GAIA website
- Digital recognition at event

Sponsorships are due by March 13 to be included in invitation and by April 25 to be included in program.

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