

Twinning Center Volunteer Honored at White House on World AIDS Day



Dr. Getachew Feleke, US Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, President Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and Angelina Magaga at a White House press briefing December 1, 2006.

Dr. Getachew Feleke of Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York, participated in a White House ceremony marking World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, 2006.

President George W. Bush lauded Getachew's participation in the Twinning Center's Ethiopia Diaspora Initiative, a program that matches skilled professionals with volunteer opportunities at PEPFAR-supported sites in target countries.

Getachew volunteered with Mekdim, a national association of

people living with HIV/AIDS, where he provided training and support for the group's ART program.

Relying heavily on the Volunteer Healthcare Corps, the Ethiopia Diaspora Initiative helps address the East African nation's severe lack of human resource capacity to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic.