

Twinning Center, Visions for Development, and NASTAD Host Outreach Event in Washington, DC

The Twinning Center hosted an informational dinner Feb. 5 at Almaz Ethiopian Restaurant in Washington, DC.

Some 45 Ethiopian professionals in the Diaspora attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and Visions for Development, Inc.

Heather Hauck, director of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's AIDS Administration; Ato Kare, director of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, Peoples Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia; and Amarech Agnedew, director of SNNPR's HIV/AIDS Prevention Control Office, discussed the HIV epidemic in Ethiopia and their collaborative efforts to strengthen the region's response. The two governmental health departments are partnering to build HIV/AIDS prevention and care capacity through NASTAD's CDC-supported Global Program.



Ato Kare provides an overview of HIV and other healthcare needs in Ethiopia's SNNP Region at the February dinner and discussion.

Dr. Tedla Giorgis, executive director of Visions for International Development — a professional organization working with the Twinning Center to match members of the Ethiopian Diaspora with volunteer assignments in their home land — and Laura Laskofski, HIV/AIDS Twinning Center program associate, discussed potential opportunities available in the region through AIHA's Volunteer Healthcare Corps (VHC).

To date, with funding from PEPFAR and CDC, the VHC has placed 18 skilled professionals in long-term volunteer assignments supporting HIV/AIDS programs in Ethiopia.