

*Southern Advancement Support Organization,  
Inc.*

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**SOUTHERN ADVANCEMENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION  
TO HOLD HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING EVENT  
TO BENEFIT AIDS ORPHANS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Washington, DC – August 30, 2007) – The Southern Advancement Support Organization (SASO) will hold its second annual holiday fundraiser, the “**Red Tie Ball**,” in **ST. GEORGE BALLROOM** on Saturday, November 10, 2007. The event is intended to raise awareness and funds on behalf of 266 AIDS orphans in Dilla, Ethiopia.

Founded in 2006 and based in Springfield, Virginia, SASO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. SASO seeks to support community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisting AIDS orphans and other needy children, youth and women in the southern hemisphere. The organization’s goal is to work with NGOs that empower children and women to become self-reliant members of their societies, by promoting self-sufficiency through education and the transfer of professional skills.

The Hansesha Assistance and Development Organization (HADO) was started in 2004 in Dilla to provide care and support to local AIDS orphans and other children in need. Using buildings provided by the community, HADO has established three kindergarten centers in the Dilla area, from which the group provides food, clothing, schooling materials and pre-school education to 266 AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. Students from local universities and high schools volunteer as teachers, further proof of HADO’s community-based support. The children live with their extended families, which also receive some support from HADO.

SASO’s fundraiser will be a night of solidarity with these 266 orphans, with proceeds from the event going to fund HADO’s Care and Support Program.

The “Red Tie Ball” will include a dinner featuring Ethiopian culinary specialties and dancing, with a lineup of renowned Ethiopian musicians and singers providing the entertainment. A cash bar will be offered.

**St. George Ballroom** is located at 4335 16<sup>th</sup> Street and provides ample parking. The event will begin at 7 PM, with dinner served at 8 PM and the musical program starting at 10PM. Tickets are \$50 and, like all donations to SASO, tax-deductible.

**Please call 703-231-6629 for more information.**