



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

December 12, 2005

Mr. Stephan Bekale
Hoops 4 Africa
1800 N. Kent Street Suite 901
Arlington, Virginia 22009

Dear Stephan:


It was a pleasure to see you in Kenya recently and to meet some of the NBA/WNBA players who serve as role models and have volunteered their time to assist you in your mission to advance HIV/AIDS awareness, education, and behavioral changes among African youth.

Providing a brighter future for the children of Africa will take a concerted effort across all sectors and a collaborative approach on all levels. You should be commended for your creative and innovative approaches including the incorporation of a feeding component into your program, as one of the parallel challenges faced in many countries is nutrition security, which is also a vital component in the formula to combat HIV/AIDS.

Your inaugural effort this year demonstrated the potential positive effect such an innovative approach can have throughout the continent and I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and discuss the Hoops 4 Africa program and learn first hand about the organization from those who know best - the volunteers of your fine program.

Sincerely,



Eric M. Bost
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services