



3rd Annual Dining for a Cause

**November 18th, 2006
University of Delaware, Clayton Hall**

Excerpts of Keynote Speech: Water is Life

By Kimmie Weeks

"If 5 million Americans died from water borne illnesses...I take that back-if 50,000 Americans died from waterborne illnesses, if 50,000 Europeans died from waterborne illnesses there would be an international outcry. The World Health Organization would be rushing - not to find meager solutions, but to completely find solutions to help those 50,000 Americans or 50,000 Europeans. But with 5 million people, mostly Africans dying because they don't have water to drink or dying from sicknesses contracted from water, the world remains largely silent."

"For Africans, we ourselves must stand up and fight and we ourselves must speak up, and we ourselves must take up the fight. I believe that in order to rise above the chaos we must begin to think about ourselves not just as Kenyans or Nigerians, Liberians or Guineans. We must say we are Africans - one people and rise above our individual differences because only together as one people on one continent sharing our vast resources can we truly ever fight, can we truly ever make a difference for our people."

"As I travel through the continent I see a people of so much vibrancy. If you took a fraction - just a portion of the issues and problems Africans have to deal with on a daily basis and apply it to Europe and the United States you'd see mass suicides happening all over the place. But we see Africans and they're saying 'yes, I've seen war and yes I've seen human suffering and I've watched my children die but I know there is a better tomorrow and I will fight to see that tomorrow'. We are a vibrant people!"

"We must bring back the hopes and the dreams of the Pan Africans who dreamt of a United States of Africa. It is not too late, we can revive that hope and we can say to each other we can do it. We can stand together as one people and make our continent different and better."

"I believe that that the cures for some of the illnesses we're trying to find - Alzheimer's and cancer...we haven't found them because the cures are probably laying with the children we're allowing to die from thirst and hunger and war. When we allow African children to die, it is risk, it is a threat to ourselves because I believe that the ingenuity, and the know-how wasn't just left in the west but they're in Africa and we need to explore it and we need to bring Africa up to join the community of nations and help ourselves."

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