



Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT

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**MAYOR TO JOIN HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO ZIMBABWE
AS PART OF PORTLAND-MUTARE SISTER CITY VISIT**

Mayor Tom Potter will join a citywide delegation on a humanitarian mission to Portland's Sister City Mutare, Zimbabwe October 15 – October 24. The two cities have been sister cities since 1991, when then-Mayor Bud Clark and Mutare Mayor Enoch Msabaeka promoted the partnership as an act of global solidarity against apartheid.

During this visit, the Mayor and members of the 19-member delegation of medical professionals, teachers and students will deliver medical and school supplies to St. Werburgh School and Clinic. The delegation will also work on improvements to school and clinic infrastructure, including installing wiring in the library for a future computer lab and construction of additional space for the medical clinic to house beds for those who need overnight care.

While in Zimbabwe, the Mayor plans to meet with non-governmental organizations such as the Family AIDS Service Organization (FASO), and representatives from the Anglican Church and Portland-based Mercy Corps. Mayor Potter will also visit with former Mayor Msabaeka during this trip to celebrate the success of the 17-year sister city relationship.

According to Neal Keny-Guyer, Mercy Corps CEO, "Mercy Corps' team in Zimbabwe is delighted to welcome this delegation. We hope that this visit serves to educate and inspire Portlanders on the development issues, challenges and opportunities in Zimbabwe, and to continue to be engaged on international issues long after their return to Portland."

Mayor Potter and his wife Karin are strong advocates for Portland's sister city associations and the work they do to promote mutually beneficial relationships and exchanges between the people of Portland and Portland's sister cities.

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The Mayor will share his experience in Zimbabwe in Portland on December 1, 2008 at the World AIDS Day event organized by the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association in collaboration with the Portland Area Global AIDS Coalition.

A send off party for the delegation will be held in NE Portland on October 9 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Tiga and Atomic Bean on the corner of NE Prescott and 15th Avenue. Please contact Dayna Morrison of Africa AIDS Response, daynakirk3@yahoo.com, for details.

Find More Information Online:

Portland-Mutare Sister City Association Web site
<http://www.africaaidsresponse.org/>

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