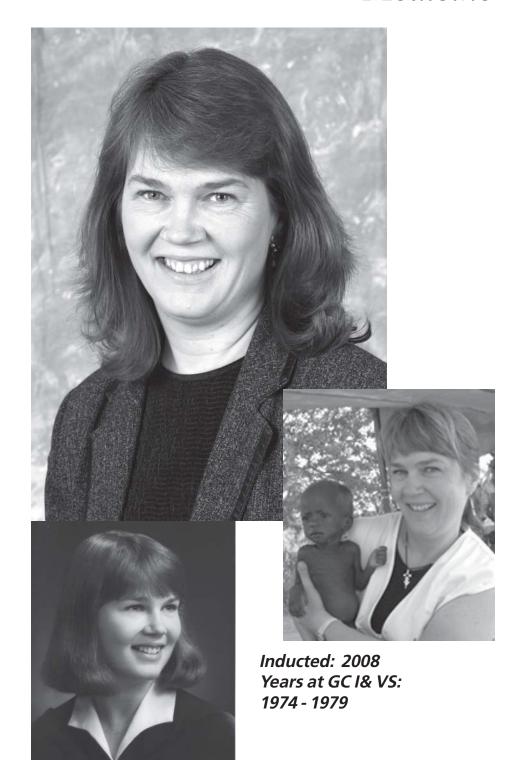# Jane Philpott
Medicine

Dr. Jane Philpott is a family physician who practices in Stouffville, Ontario. In 2004 she founded Give a Day to World AIDS to raise money to fight AIDS in Africa. Since then, Give a Day has raised over $1.5 million for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International, two Canadian organizations working to overcome the AIDS pandemic.

The program started when Dr. Philpott challenged a group of her colleagues at the Markham-Stouffville Hospital to contribute one day's pay. That year they raised $33,000. The following year, eight hospitals raised almost $100,000. In 2006 the campaign was expanded to include teachers, law firms, flight attendants, unions and businesses, and raised more than $500,000. More than $700,000 was raised in 2007.

Dr. Philpott's connection to Africa began in Niger, West Africa where she worked from 1989 until 1998. While in Africa she practiced general medicine and developed a community health-training program for village health workers. In 2005 she returned to Africa with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) during the food crisis in that country.

Dr. Philpott has also raised awareness of the problems facing Africa. She created an educational program "A Coin for Every Country" which has been adopted by York Region schools.

Dr. Philpott's roots in Africa are personal as well as professional. While working in Niger, she lost her two-year-old daughter to meningitis. "That really gave me a sense of what an African mother goes through," she told Global Television. "Even though it was obviously very difficult for me at the time, what came out of that was an understanding that African mothers lose their babies by the thousands every day. And so, as hard as it was for me, why should an African mother expect that 25 per cent of her children won't live to the age of five?" Despite the seeming intractability of the problems facing Africa, Dr. Philpott has urged the world not to give up. She quotes a West African proverb to make her point: "The river may be wide, but it can be crossed."

Dr. Philpott graduated from Galt Collegiate as an Ontario Scholar in 1979. She went on to study medicine at the university of Western Ontario. She then completed a Family Medicine Residency at the University of Ottawa and a Tropical Medicine Fellowship in Toronto. She has since begun graduate studies in Global Health at the University of Toronto. She was recognized as Global National's Everyday Hero in November 2007. Dr. Philpott and her husband have four children.

Inducted: 2008
Years at GC I& VS:
1974 - 1979

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