



The Rouge River Connection will play an AIDS benefit in Stouffville next week.

COMING UP: African flavour to concert

# Harambee comes to Stouffville

BY SANDRA BOLAN  
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Two local groups are joining forces to create a Stouffville Harambee in support of Give a Day to World AIDS.

Rouge River Connection and Albert Street Four will offer a mix of folk, country, bluegrass and gospel during the Nov. 25 event at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

Harambee means pulling together in Swahili.

The benefit concert is the brainchild of Joanna Reesor-McDowell, who saw Stephen Lewis speak during last year's Give a Day to World AIDS event in Markham.

"What touched me the most was hearing him describe the orphans and the grandmothers raising those orphans," Ms Reesor-McDowell said. "I was really impressed with the cause Jane Philpott has basically founded. ... I thought: 'Next year, I hope I can make something happen in (Dr. Philpott's) hometown - Stouffville.'"

Ms Reesor-McDowell, who is a vocalist with Rouge River Connection, approached the other band members as well as those in Albert Street Four.

"They were all more than happy to volunteer for the cause," she said.

Give a Day to World AIDS was founded by Dr. Philpott in 2004 when she asked her fellow physicians at Markham Stouffville Hospital to donate a day's pay to the cause via a pair of organizations, the Stephen Lewis Foundation

and Dignitas International in recognition of World AIDS Day (Dec. 1).

So far, Give a Day has raised \$2.5 million to assist people affected by HIV.

"It speaks to her success if she's getting other people inspired to do something," Ms Reesor-McDowell said.

As of 2008, there were 22 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa with HIV, according to Give a Day.

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"It underscores why it is such a big concern for people living in Africa," Ms Reesor-McDowell said.

Proceeds from the concert will go to Give a Day for World AIDS.

"We're also hoping some people, having learned more, will choose to make a donation beyond the purchase of a ticket," Ms Reesor-McDowell said.

Tickets are \$15 each and available at Chic Thrills, 6316 Main St. and Reesor Farm Kitchen, 100 Ringwood Drive.

For more information go to [www.giveaday.ca](http://www.giveaday.ca)

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Free Snacks & Refreshments

Speaker: Marilyn Byers

The Journey of

PFLAG Canada - York Region  
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Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7:30 P.M.

St Matthews United Church

333 Crosby Ave - Richmond Hill

(Between Bayview Ave & Yonge St \* blocks North of Major MacKenzie)

For Further Information Call

Marilyn 647.347.1202

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For details on the YRAAC and how to apply, visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca) or call 905-830-4444 Ext.1305 (toll free 1-877-464-9675) TTY 905-762-0401

Application packages are also available from the main reception desks at:

York Region Administrative Centre  
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The deadline to submit an application is **Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

  
York Region