



NEWS RELEASE

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CLAUDETTE BAILEY, CNM OF AFRICARE/LIBERIA WINS THE GLOBAL MIDWIFE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES

Silver Spring, MD – Claudette Bailey, CNM was awarded the “Global Midwife” Award at the 52nd ACNM Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois on May 26, 2007.

Claudette’s calling to midwifery began in Scotland, far away from her own birth place in Jamaica. Her international midwifery experiences have taken her to many countries including Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Claudette was appointed by Africare to the position of Chief of Party in Liberia, where she was tasked with implementing a large-scale development project funded by the United States Agency for International Development. In January 2004, she identified the need for and suitability of the ACNM Life-Saving Skills series to help address reproductive health care conditions in Liberia, whose infrastructure had been devastated by years of civil war. Since then a wonderful success story has emerged: an LSS facility-based training site has been set up, seventy mid level service providers have been trained in Life Saving Skills, and 30 midwives, 550 traditional birth attendants and over 6,000 community members have been trained in Home Based Life Saving Skills.

“Claudette’s relentless pursuit of integrated reproductive health services and her ability to keep all stakeholders involved and informed was rewarded,” said Deborah Gordis, MPH, ACNM Director of Global Outreach during the award presentation.

On January 31, 2007, the Ministry of Health officially endorsed Life Saving Skills at the facility and home based levels and expressed the desire for institutionalization throughout Liberia.

The Global Midwife Award recognizes Claudette's history of service and leadership in reproductive health, and her dedication and significant contribution to the health and well-being of the women and children of Liberia.

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With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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