

Westchester Author Supports Aid For Congo

(West Harrison, NY) West Harrison author Dave Donelson announced today his sponsorship of a team to run in the NY Run for Congo Women on October 4. The event is part of a nationwide effort by Women for Women International to raise awareness of the plight of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the setting for Donelson's latest novel, *Heart of Diamonds*.

"Thousands of women have been systematically raped by combatants in the ongoing civil strife in the Congo," Donelson says, "And millions more have been killed or died from war-related disease. The world needs to know about it."

The NY Run for Congo Women will be held Saturday, October 4, 2008, at Firefighter's Field on New York's Roosevelt Island. Volunteers will run or walk five kilometers and raise funds for Women for Women International's programs in the Congo. The four-star charity helps women care for themselves and their families by teaching them skills they need to end the cycle of poverty and suffering, providing funds to help them start businesses, and teaching them to protect themselves against the terror around them.

Donelson is a local freelance writer and photographer whose byline has appeared in publications as diverse as *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Westchester Magazine*, and *Disney's FamilyFun*. He also serves as a trustee of the Westchester Library System.

Heart of Diamonds, his third book, is a romantic thriller about love, scandal, and death in the Congo that draws heavily on Donelson's travels in Africa and extensive research of events in the war-ravaged land at the center of the continent.

The novel also addresses the major issues facing the Congo and much of Africa. "The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo face so many human challenges that they just had to have a big place in the book," Donelson says. "More than five million people have died there since 1998—making what's known as the Second Congo War the deadliest conflict since World War II. And it's still going on!" Donelson writes about rape as a weapon of terror, child soldiers, widespread corruption at all levels of government, and the very sad plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from the violence that continues to wrack the nation.

Heart of Diamonds was published by Kunati Books, named Independent Publisher of the Year at the 2008 Book Expo America.

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For more information, contact James McKinnon at Kunati Books (866) 356-2442

To speak to Dave Donelson directly, call (914) 949-7483

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High-res photos and audio clips are at www.heartofdiamonds.com/Press_Room/press_room.html