

Dr. John Nkengasong announced as Heart to Heart International's Power of One Award recipient

For Immediate Release

Lenexa, KS — Heart to Heart International is pleased to announce Dr. John Nkengasong as the recipient of its 2018 Power of One Award. Dr. Nkengasong will be honored at Heart to Heart International's 25th Anniversary gala celebration on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas.

The Power of One Award is given to an individual who exemplifies compassion toward the underserved and victims of crisis or disaster by significantly supporting the Heart to Heart International mission to expand access to humanitarian health care for those in need.

Dr. Nkengasong's work to improve the health of people around the world demonstrates his commitment to the underserved and those in need. Nkengasong was born in Fotobong, Cameroon, but because of the region's high rates of childhood death from trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), he was sent away as a child. He knew he wanted to return and do something to improve the health of the people there. In 2016, Nkengasong, Heart to Heart International and Becton Dickinson (BD) began developing a plan for improving health care in Fotobong. This collaboration resulted in an ongoing volunteer service program to improve the Fotobong hospital with construction projects, training, staffing and sustainability programs.

"Dr. Nkengasong embodies the compassion and dedication to improving health that the Power of One Award represents. He has spent his life working to improve the health and lives of people around the globe. We have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Nkengasong in Fotobong, and we are honored to be able to recognize his work and generosity by presenting him with this award," Jim Mitchum, CEO of Heart to Heart International, said.

Nkengasong was formerly Chief of the Global HIV/AIDS International Laboratory Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Center for Global Health. In 2017, he was named the first Director of the newly formed the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

For information on the 25th Anniversary Gala, go to www.hearttoheart.org/gala2018.

Heart to Heart International is a nonprofit international health organization with its headquarters in Lenexa, Kansas. Since its inception in 1992, HHI has delivered medical aid and supplies worth \$1.5 billion to more than 130 countries, including within the United States. HHI responds to crises and natural disasters both domestically and internationally by supplying medical relief and mobilizing volunteers. The organization is a BBB Accredited Charity and is on the "Philanthropy 400."

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