

## Press release

# Geneva Global leader will speak at White House event in Rwanda

Philadelphia, Pa., March 19, 2008 – Geneva Global Chief Operating Officer Doug Balfour will be a featured speaker at March 31 White House conference in Kigali, Rwanda, focusing on public-private partnerships to mobilize economic development.



**Doug Balfour**

Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., also are featured speakers at the conference, which is hosted by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI). The goal of the conference, and a second event in Zambia, is to promote innovative models that place faith-based and other grass-roots organizations at the center of the fight against poverty and disease in Africa.

“It’s an honor to be invited to speak at this event and share Geneva Global’s knowledge and expertise regarding effective development in Rwanda,” Balfour says. “Since 2002, our clients have invested \$12.94 million in 47 community-based projects throughout Rwanda that are forecasted to measurably improve the lives of at least 486,000 people. An additional \$1.26 million was recently invested by a Geneva Global client into a multiyear Initiative in Rwanda and Burundi that is designed to treat 7 million people for neglected tropical diseases.

“This conference is an excellent opportunity for shared learning among Rwandan government leaders, community-based organizations and donors, to continue to explore the most effective cooperative solutions for life-changing Initiatives,” Balfour says. “We are delighted to enable our clients to support such effective humanitarian work by little-known grass-roots organizations that are often the unsung heroes in community development in Central Africa.”

Geneva Global clients are currently funding several three-year development programs in Rwanda, including:

- Rwanda Clean Water and Sanitation Initiative. This Initiative is designed to bring clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene education to residents of one of the nation’s least developed areas – the arid East and North provinces. The intervention is forecast to measurably improve the lives of 150,000 Rwandans.

- Rwanda Human Empowerment Fund. This program focuses on healthcare, education and land reform to promote deep, lasting Life Change. This fund includes the Rwanda Education Improvement Initiative, which will provide well-equipped facilities and train teachers so more Rwandan students can access secondary school. This Initiative is designed to measurably improve the lives of 20,000 people.
- Rwanda and Burundi Neglected Tropical Disease Initiative. This Initiative is designed to reduce the prevalence of five neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Rwanda and Burundi so they are no longer significant health threats. The Initiative will provide treatment to at least 7 million people.

A White House delegation at the conferences will include OFBCI Director Jay Hein and Admiral Tim Ziemer, who oversees President Bush's Malaria Initiative. "Faith-based and community organizations are vital to engaging Africa's great needs and unleashing even greater promise," Hein says.

The conferences will include round-table discussions and site visits to highlight, honor and grow models of effective partnerships among government, corporations and nonprofit organizations to battle disease and build economic opportunity. Both conferences will explore best practices and train indigenous faith- and community-based organizations to partner with the United States to combat disease and spur economic growth.

Balfour has 25 years of experience in leadership, organizational development and alliance-building. Prior to joining Geneva Global, Balfour was executive director of London, U.K.-based Integral, a global alliance of 12 relief and development agencies. He previously served as general director of Tearfund, the United Kingdom's sixth-largest aid agency, based in Teddington. Earlier, Balfour held management and consulting roles with the Birmingham, U.K.-based Lucas Group and lived and worked in Africa. He studied geology at the University of Southampton, and earned a master's degree in business administration at the Cranfield School of Management, Cranfield, both in the United Kingdom.

## About Geneva Global

Geneva Global Inc. is a philanthropic advisory firm headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, Pa. Founded in 1999, Geneva Global provides independent research, advice and grant management to philanthropic investors. Through advisory services and research teams around the world, we assist clients in cutting through the complexities of international giving to connect the best community-owned solutions to humanitarian needs. We provide world-class philanthropic advisory services, helping each client make effective and exciting investments for lasting change in the world's hardest places. We have managed more than \$60 million in philanthropic investments, placing clients' funds into more than 1,400 projects in 110 developing nations and bringing measurable Life Change to more than 5.8 million people.

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