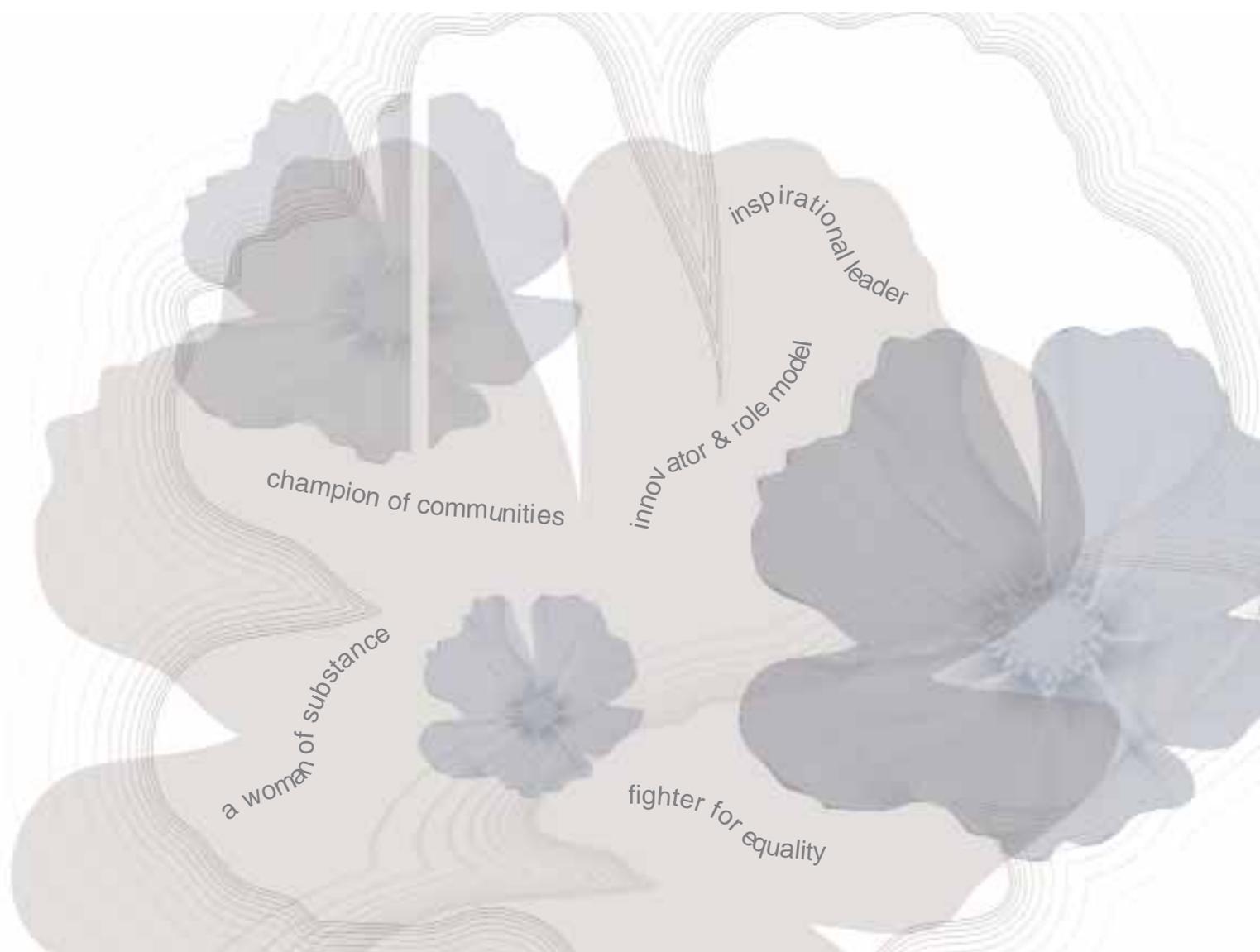


# the Adiaha Antigha Memorial

a celebration of her life & achievements (1949-2006)



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Ocean Music Venue, Mare St, Hackney, E8

An evening of remembrance including - Guest Speakers, contributions from her family, friends and the communities she worked for, an exhibition of her achievements, as well as poetry, dance and cultural music that she loved...

# the Adiaha Antigha Memorial

## programme of events

### **4:30 Welcome and networking reception**

#### **Ceremonial opening (Dakrobi & Sofora)**

Master of Ceremonies (Ngozi Headley-Fulani & Sola Oyebade HCVS Chair)

#### **Guest speakers:**

Nigerian High Commission Representation, Diane Abbott MP, Penny Thompson, CEO

Hackney Council

#### **Blessing by Reverend Ben Enwucho**

### **6:00 Memorial Dinner whilst being entertained by:**

International Dance and Music Centre, (solo saz player), Whittington Steel Band

#### **Open Mic - (30 mins) for audience tributes**

MDMD Arts juniors, Celal (Turkish flute player), Negro Spiritual Choir

### **7:30 A Celebration of Adiaha's Achievements including:**

Speeches from Adiaha's family and friends, HCVS Staff and Trustees

#### **Open mic (30 mins)**

### **8.30 Entertainment and performances by:**

MDMD Arts Seniors, Junior Mix Band, Sharone Brown, Max Asher Edwards, Naldo Tafari,

Sister Joe, Janet Kay & The World Citizen Movement Band

### **9:30 Music and Dance (DJ)**

### **11:30 End**

On display throughout the venue an exhibition of Adiaha's achievements and contributions from her colleagues. **'Friends of Amma' Adiaha's favourite charity has a stall in the venue for guests wishing to make a donation. Speak to a member of HCVS staff for more details**

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Registered Office:

**Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS)**

84 Springfield House  
5 Tyssen Street  
London E8 2LY  
T: 020 7923 1962  
F: 020 7275 8577  
E: [info@hcv.org.uk](mailto:info@hcv.org.uk)  
W: [www.hcv.org.uk](http://www.hcv.org.uk)



Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) is Hackney's leading voluntary & community sector support agency (registered charity no 1069736, registered company 3365292).

'Adiaha stood for so much for so many. What she achieved at HCVS in her 9 years as Director may never be surpassed. This commemorative brochure reminds its readers of her fantastic contribution to life for all local communities and voluntary sector organisations in Hackney and Liverpool. All the staff at HCVS pay tribute to the opportunities Adiaha gave us to join her in making Hackney a better place to live and HCVS a key local institution. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts for the example she set in tackling inequality and the commitment she showed for us to emulate'.

**If you would like to know more about the work of HCVS or would like to contribute to Adiaha's lasting memory then contact HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or email: [gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcv.org.uk)**

# Adiaha Antigha - a lasting legacy

## Make a donation to Adiaha's favourite charity

Through her extraordinary acts of love and self-sacrifice, Mata Amritanandamayi, or Amma (Mother) as she is known, has endeared herself to millions of people around the world. Tenderly caressing everyone who comes to her, holding them close to her heart in a loving embrace, Amma shares her boundless love with all-regardless of their beliefs, who they are or why they have come to her. In this simple yet powerful way, Amma is transforming the lives of countless people, helping their hearts to blossom, one embrace at a time. In the past 30 years, Amma has physically hugged more than 25 million people from all parts of the world. In some places, she has embraced 40 to 50 thousand people in a single programme, sitting almost 24 hours to do so.

**Friends of Amma** is the official charitable organisation set up by Amma in 1996. It is a registered charity in Great Britain, and its registration number is 1056505.



more info from [www.amma.org.uk](http://www.amma.org.uk)

If you would like to make a donation to Friends of Amma in Adiaha's name visit the Friends of Amma stall in the main room and pick up a leaflet which explains how to make a donation. Alternatively you can write a cheque made payable to 'Friends of Amma' and post directly to The Treasurer, 19 Hitherwood Drive, London SE19 1XA.

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## Annual Adiaha Antigha Community Awards & Supporting Young People

As part of HCVS's 10th anniversary celebrations, we will be hosting the first HCVS annual community awards event to celebrate local people's contribution to civic life in Hackney and their achievements as community leaders and practitioners. The awards, in Adiaha's name, will provide a focus for her legacy and help to continue the work she started 9 years ago. HCVS will announce further information about these awards in the New Year. If you would like to make any sort of contribution to the planning and hosting of this event, then please contact Jennifer Rowe or Gillian Trevethan at HCVS on 020 7923 1962 or email [Gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:Gillian@hcv.org.uk). Also as part of Adiaha's enduring legacy, HCVS will also be exploring developing a Youth Bank for young community entrepreneurs and establishing a centre for young people in Hackney in Adiaha's name.

# A personal address from Lisa Antigha - Adiaha's Daughter

I am really proud of my mum's achievements and all the good work she has done for others in Liverpool and London but I wish she had taken some time out for herself.



Jacob  
Grandson



Ismay  
Granddaughter

My mum was so proud of being a grandmother and loved both Ismay and Jacob very dearly. She was present throughout the whole

duration of both of them entering into the world and was the first to hold them when they were born.

She had a very close relationship with both of her children, Raphael and I. She also had a very good bond with Ismay who confided in her Nan a lot and enjoyed going on trips or shopping with her Nanny.

When Jacob was born she said she couldn't ask for more because she had what she wanted - a granddaughter and grandson.

Mum was always there for her children and grand kids, no matter what it was - she even instinctively knew if something was wrong. She was straight talking, kind, generous, funny with a dry sense of humour, loving and always had time to listen or would make time to do so.

I wish she had not worked so hard for other people then maybe she would still be here with her family.

I wish that she had had the chance to open her shop selling jewellery, crystals and clothes for plus sized women, with me and Ismay helping her to run it.

I wish she had been given more



A drawing of her Grandma by Ismay

time to write the books she wanted to write. But most of all I wish she wasn't taken from her family so soon. To enable her to see Ismay growing into a young woman and see Jacob growing up so he could know his Nan and have wonderful memories of their time together. I miss her so much and always will.



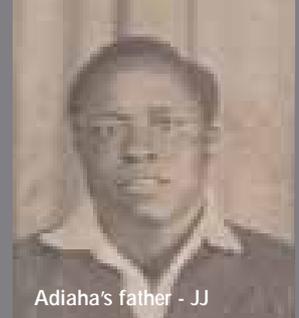
# A lifetime of achievements

## 1949 - 2006



Adiaha as an infant

Adiaha Antigha was born in 1949 in Liverpool. She has two children - Lisa and Raphael and two grandchildren - Ismay and Jacob.



Adiaha's father - JJ

### Adiaha at School

Adiaha attended St Bernard's from the age of 5-13 years. There she sat her 13 plus exam. On passing she secured a place at Fazakerly Secondary Grammar School until she was 17 years old in six form. There she achieved numerous O and A levels. She received a prize named 'The Mrs Wilson Prize for English Literature' which was presented by Lady Clery and made it into the Liverpool echo in 1965.



Adiaha at Fazakerly Grammar



Adiaha in 1966

### Adiaha's early career

1966 - 1976 Pioneer Life Assurance (Accounts Clerk)

1968 - 1969 Manweb Electricity (Accounts Clerk)

1970 - 1971 DHSS (Civil Servant)

1970 - 1972 University Settlement in Liverpool as a part time Tutor/Counsellor

1971 - 1973 Central Liverpool College

1973 - 1978 The Adult Education Centre and its successor the Charles Woolton Centre

### The Adult Education Centre

Adiaha became the first Director of the Centre and was the Co Founder of the Charles Woolton Centre for Further Education which catered for the needs of young black adults in Liverpool. She worked there for five years as part of the management committee. The centre provided a range of advice including immigration, education and welfare rights. Even though it was not solely set up for this, people felt comfortable coming into the centre instead of using mainstream agencies. Adiaha always made people feel welcome and embraced all nationalities in her work.



## Community Work in Liverpool

Adiaha worked for Liverpool Local Education Authority (LEA) at the **Adult Education Centre** from 1973 to 1978. She secured the funding and established a course known as Access and Vocational Courses to educate black men and women to O level/GSCE standard. This is still operating and has now become a women only course. She encouraged people on these courses to go into

professional careers such as teaching, social work and business start up. This

course focussed on people helping themselves and was particularly successful with young people. She also helped



Adiaha in 1970s

‘She became a role model for generations of young black people....Her name should be written into the history of Black Liverpoolians as a visionary and an enabler’

foreign students with legal matters, books, housing and provided a general support structure for them.

She was instrumental in bringing Trevor and Ron Philips to Liverpool to give talks about

black history. She also arranged trips for the Adult Education Centre students to visit other black communities in the UK and abroad. One trip to Holland involved a visit to a Drug Rehabilitation Farm. This trip opened up the mind of students to the fact that Toxteth, where Adiaha grew up and worked, could face the same drug problems - her prediction unfortunately came true for areas in Liverpool.

Adiaha raised funds for a community bus for the centre which enabled trips to the theatre amongst other places including performers such as the 'Dance Theatre of Harlem'. The bus also visited book shops in London such as John La Rose where black books and posters helped to broaden peoples minds.

As a founder member of '**Black Sisters**', Adiaha set up women's groups which discussed issues affecting women in Liverpool.

Adiaha initiated the first **African Liberation Day Conference and Music Festival**

in 1976 at Robert Jones Centre on Upper Parliament Street in Toxteth. This was a fantastically popular event that brought together people and artists from across the UK.



Adiaha was a member of the '**Wananchi**' black workers group in Liverpool and was also a member of the Black Peoples Organisation.

She was highly inspired by Angela Davis and was a member of the **Black Panthers** in Liverpool.

She became a role model for generations of young black people from the Liverpool 8 area and the surrounding districts and supported many into qualifications and careers or both. She was admired by her peers for her commitment to racial and social justice.

Her name should be written into the history of Black Liverpoolians as a visionary and an enabler.

# Adiaha's achievements at HCVS



Adiaha led HCVS with a gritty determination to get the best for Hackney's voluntary and community sector. This often meant fighting for the rights of local people and championing equality. Here are just a fraction of her achievements over her 9 year leadership...

**1997**

Adiaha starts as Director of HCVS and turns a £50k deficit into a £300k turnover in under a year

**1998**

Adiaha supports the development of Hackney Agency for Volunteering (now called Hackney Voluntary Action)

Adiaha is part of the team which secures support from a charitable trust to provide emergency (transitional) funding to health and social care projects based in Hackney and Tower Hamlets and through the Bridges Fundraising Project over £1 million is raised for 38 health and social care groups.

**2000**

Adiaha works in partnership with Hackney Community College, HTEN and Focus TEC on the Opt into Hackney ESF capacity building project, which includes the launch of the HCVS's first small grants programme, delivery of delivery of NVQ D33/D34 advice, information assessor's training, accreditation and partnership brokerage to match small or large organizations.

HCVS works with the Community Legal Service to enable voluntary

and community groups achieve the Quality Mark, which is the quality standard for providers of legal and advice services.

**2001**

Working with local people and community networks, HCVS establishes the Hackney Community Empowerment Network - Adiaha elected by the sector to represent umbrella voluntary organisations.

HCVS secures Community Chest small grants and Community Empowerment funding through Government Office for London which starts a long fruitful relationship with central Government. This important funding stream represents an investment of £4.5m for the sector and supports 834 community regeneration projects. These programmes benefit over 11,000 people in Hackney every year.

Adiaha helps Disability Hackney become a fully independent organisation - this is just one of many new organisations that Adiaha gives wings to.

**2002**

HCVS secures Local Network Fund small grants programme contract - this has meant an investment of £2.8m for the children & young





peoples' community sector - over 360 local projects have now been supported.

### 2003

Adiaha wins the Hackney Mare De Gras **Community Development Award**.

HCVS works with NCVO to lead the **Empowering East London research programme** for Hackney, Tower Hamlets & Newham which identifies specific barriers to the development of ethnic minority organisations. Nationally recognised, this research discovers the voluntary & community sector generates income of £256m in just Hackney alone.

HCVS establishes **Streetwise Capacity Building programme** which provides over 300 one to one sessions for smaller community organisations, sets up the **Refugee Community Champions programme** with

the Hackney Refugee Forum, develops a **Women's Leadership programme** and supports a number of streetwise youth initiatives.

### 2004

Adiaha masterminds HCVS's move from the Print House to **Tysen Street** and establishes a voluntary sector hub, supporting both large and small organisations.

HCVS plays host to local MP, **Diane Abbot's, monthly consultation surgeries** for Hackney residents.

Adiaha secures the **LEAD Learning Network contract** which supports hundreds of frontline training providers on behalf of the London East Learning & Skills Council.

**HCVS secures European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund** matched by Neighbourhood Renewal Funding NRF (£1m) to

support over 200 local people with their enterprise ideas and establish a programme for community leaders & facilitators.

### 2005

Appointed Team Hackney **Board Champion for Strategic Commissioning** - a process designed to secure the delivery of priority outcomes based on analysis and evidence in an effective and transparent way.

Adiaha with other select CVS Directors **invited to meet Whitehall Ministers** to discuss future of the voluntary sector.

300 local people and organisations attend the **Community Conference 2005**.

HCVS now employs 15 staff, has 330 members, and delivers over 18 different programmes for the sector.

### 28th February 2006

Adiaha passes away.

# a message from Diane Abbott

*MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington*



# a message from Penny Thompson

*Chief Executive of Hackney Council*

A key priority for me when I joined Hackney was to work closely with our partners to drive forward improvements for local people. Working closely with the Mayor and colleagues from across partner agencies, both statutory and voluntary and community, we agreed that we needed to refresh our local strategic partnership so it was much better able to meet the key challenges facing us all.

Adiaha understood this and recognised that to bring about a real and lasting change in Hackney we all had to work together. So Team Hackney, our newly revitalised local strategic partnership, was borne, a partnership committed to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in Hackney and for ensuring that all of those who provide services for local people work together to do this. Adiaha was absolutely committed to this and worked closely with myself, the Mayor and our partners to make this a reality. She became the strategic commissioning champion for the board and worked tirelessly to make sure that the aims and objectives of Team Hackney became a reality. The really good news for us all is that things are changing in Hackney and whilst there are many challenges ahead, the commitment from all our partners for better joined up working is demonstrated in the positive outcomes we are seeing.

I know Adiaha would have been proud of the changes we are seeing in Hackney today. Adiaha leaves Hackney much loved, much improved with real prospects for continued progress towards a good quality of life for all.



# Messages from Staff & Trustees



Jennifer Rowe  
Business Manager



Kristine Wellington  
Children & Families  
Development



Popi Begum  
Receptionist



Jake Ferguson  
Chief Officer



Kishore Kanani  
Senior Capacity  
Building Officer



Elizabeth Adebola  
Senior Grants Officer



Nadia Capogrosso  
Grants Officer



Manish Punjabi  
Finance Officer



Emmanuel Mensah  
Finance Manager



Josh Folkes  
Hold It Down  
Productions



Ali Riza Aksoy  
Refugee  
Champions Worker



Marika Mason  
Development  
Consultant



Marie Walker  
ESF Coordinator



Zarah Mohoboob  
LEAD Coordinator



Marta Kolinska  
Grants Officer



Gary Francis  
Director Strategic  
Priorities Unit



Dave Ramdial  
Business Support  
Officer



Dean Wallace  
Hold It Down  
Productions



Louise Hart  
CEN Coordinator



Gillian Trevethan  
Info & Comms  
Manager



Elroy Bailey  
MDMD Arts  
Coordinator



Devon White  
Streetwise  
Coordinator



Clifford Hinkson  
Development  
Consultant

*'Adiaha achieved a great many things at HCVS. Not only did she turn the organisation's finances from a deficit to a positive in a short period of time but critically, she instilled a professionalism that set standards across the sector. Adiaha worked tirelessly for all communities and secured £millions for the sector, establishing community funding systems that have been commended by Government and provided models of good practice to other areas across the country. Her uniqueness was matched by her tenacity for achieving equality for all. The Trustees at HCVS are dedicated to maintaining Adiaha's legacy and look forward to a successful future in her memory'*

**Sola Oyebade, HCVS Chair on behalf of HCVS Trustees.**

*'Adiaha was an extremely special person to me. Words can't describe what she taught us as staff at HCVS. She was a formidable leader with the strength and integrity to match anyone but she was also very gentle and compassionate - she taught us how to love all communities and to fight for justice at the same time. Stepping into her shoes as lead officer has been very tasking but continuing her legacy is an honour I would accept any day, anytime'*

**Jake Ferguson - Chief Officer, HCVS.**

*'We would always have intimate friendly chats. She would always know the answer to a problem. In my book Adiaha, you have gone but will never be forgotten'.*

**Jennifer Rowe, PA to Adiaha for 6 years.**

*'I was the chair of HCVS and appointed Adiaha as Director in 1996. When we had interviewed all the candidates we had a number of options. There was this stropy woman from Liverpool and we said this will be a bit risky or two other candidates that could do the job and were a bit safer. I am so glad we took the risk because although it was a bit of a roller coaster for the first couple of years the organisation was much the stronger as a result. I really miss the late evening chats and the good laughs we had - Adiaha was not only a very professional colleague but also a very good friend'* Roger Harris, HCVS Treasurer.

*'To me Adiaha was always nice and fair...now she is a guiding Spirit'.*

**Popi Begum, worker at HCVS for 7 years.**

# Adiaha - 'a champion for all communities'

*by Marika Mason, a colleague*

I worked with Adiaha for several years and witnessed the highs and lows in her fight for equality and justice for the community groups working on the frontlines in Hackney.

Hackney has specific problems in terms of health,

reality for many people in Hackney and Adiaha saw community groups as an essential source of support for local people. What the community lacked was resources and skills and Adiaha was on a mission to change all of that.



'Adiaha's journey up the mountain cleared the path for others to follow. She was a social entrepreneur in creating opportunities for community groups. She was a drum major for justice'.

education, crime, housing, etc. But the problems engulfing Hackney did not deter Adiaha in the least. The more people told her it couldn't be done in Hackney the more determined she was to make a difference. She wasn't fazed by difficult issues. She didn't buckle under defeat. She just kept going...and going...and going.

As far as Adiaha was concerned Hackney was a mountain she was going to climb regardless of the obstacles. Because folks said it couldn't be done that didn't stop her. She went on to achieve what she had been told was not possible. A champion for the dispossessed, the voiceless Adiaha was on a mission to get fair deal for the communities of Hackney. Poverty and deprivation were and are a

Adiaha loved working in Hackney. She came from Liverpool so knew intimately well about hard times. It didn't take Adiaha too long to begin spotting opportunities and building alliances and engaging with all kinds of people to start turning around the fortunes of the voluntary and community sector.

She was climbing that mountain which had her name on it and she was bound for the promised land. Her successes included:

■ Inward investment by bringing millions of pounds into the borough. I came to Hackney because of an advert for fundraising consultants and the rest I can say is our work history.

■ Development of forums and networks to

give voice to the concerns of those people that are most silent, least visible, least powerful, e.g. Disability Hackney, Women's Forum.

■ Training programmes to upskill the sector, e.g. the Neighbourhood Facilitators Project, where local people working with Hackney's diverse communities are supported to access professional training and development opportunities and thus became qualified/accredited counsellors, trainers,



community consultants, capacity builders, etc. She wanted Hackney people to benefit from government regeneration programmes and thus saw the need for local people to take up leadership positions.

■ Administering the small grants programme for public agencies so that voluntary and community organisations are able to access funding to deliver services to those most in need in the community.

■ Partnership working - Adiaha was well chuffed to serve on the board of Team Hackney as an equal partner.

I could go on but I won't. What I will say is that Adiaha loved Hackney. She was an ambassador for the borough and liked to shout on the rooftops about the good work people in Hackney were doing.

Adiaha's journey up the mountain cleared the path for others to follow. She was a social entrepreneur in creating opportunities for community groups.

She was a drum major for justice. I believe Adiaha did get to the mountain top and it is now up to us to keep the light glowing.

**Forward ever, backward never.**

I'd like to end with these words from Sweet Honey and the Rock:

*Step by step the longest march*

*Can be won, can be won*

*Singly one, singly none*

*And by union what we will*

*Can be accomplished still*

*Drops of water turn a mill*

*Singly none, singly none.*

# Adiaha - in your words

HCVS received hundreds and hundreds of messages from individuals and organisations that worked with her, were supported by her or simply met her once ....here is just a selection of those condolences

*She was a great personality a great fighter and a leader for the community. She fought all the way for the community and for the people, she will always be remembered deep in our hearts.*

**Refugee Workers Cultural Association Management Committee**

*She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.*

**Cllr Dawood Akhoon - Cazenove Ward**

*Adiaha, has been a voice of encouragement and empowerment for the vast majority of African and Black organisations in Hackney and beyond. She has championed the cause of all the disadvantaged groups in Hackney and all those who are falling under the weight of discrimination, racism and social exclusion.*

**Josephine Yanga - Director, DIASPORA Sudanese community project**

*She is a real champion of the community and she will be greatly missed.*

**Elizabeth Ladimeji - Head of Partnerships, NCVO**

*Adiaha was an inspirational member of the community - you could say "lady Hackney".*

**Ron Newman - Chair, Disability Hackney**

*A wonderful and courageous woman who will be missed greatly.*

**Jerry Le Sueur - Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor**

*Its disheartening to hear the sudden death of our loving Adiaha who has been our rock and a friend to all, may her soul rest in eternal peace.*

**Apollo Kakaire - Busoga Association UK**

*She will be greatly missed.*

**Algin Saydar - Executive Director, DERMAN**

*Adiaha will be sadly missed by all.*

**Lee Jasper - Advisor to Mayor of London**

*Adiaha was a wonderful woman who spent her life for the betterment and development of others. Her kindness and good work can never be forgotten.*

**Adun Alabi - On behalf of the Empowered Women staff and members**

*She has made a huge contribution and even when we didn't agree was someone it was always possible to do business with. My sympathies to all at HCVS and of course to her family.*

**David Sloan - former Director of Public Health, City &**

**Hackney PCT**

*Adiaha's legacy will live on and we all have a duty of care to make it happen; not only for the people of Hackney but for those across the country who suffer from inherited disadvantages.*  
**Superintendent Leroy Logan - Metropolitan Police**

*In my short time in Hackney I have benefited from her knowledge of the community and voluntary sector and honest advice.*

**Dara de Burca - Head of Youth Services, LB Hackney**

*As an individual I was touched by Adiaha and what she stood for, it was as a direct result of her speech at the HCVS conference some years ago that made me take note and get involved with HCVS.*

**Elaine Paul - Sounds Good Multimedia**

*She was an inspiring example to all of us that you can stick to your principles, agitate for reform, for openness and accountability and represent the interests of those who suffer the greatest deprivation and exclusion and still run a competitive, high value organisation which manages to obtain sufficient funding and contracts to deliver the goods*  
**Chris Walsh - Wise Owls**

*The voluntary sector is deprived of a motherly figure.*

**Mohammad Yousuf Qureshi**

*I did not know Adiaha personally but had met her at meetings etc and had admired her forthrightness, clear thinking and commitment to social justice.*

**Sussan Rassoulie - Islington & Shoreditch Housing Association**

*Adiaha was part of the Good Place to Grow Up Partnership board and always made valuable contributions.*

**Cllr Carole Williams - Hoxton Ward & Cabinet Advisor for Children and Young People**

*This is a deep loss to Hackney of a great advocate for its people and the voluntary sector. She was a great colleague, challenging for all the right reasons, generous in her understanding and sharing of knowledge. We need to carry on building the work she has done.*

**Carl Blakey - Head of Commissioning, Children and Young People, LB Hackney**

*She was a dear friend to us all.*

**Melanie Danan - Interlink Umbrella Organisation for Orthodox Jewish Voluntary Sector**

*The death of Adiaha is a blow to us all. The whole of the voluntary sector will feel her absence.*

**Maia Kruger and Durrah Mahmood - Songololo Feet**

*Sound Life Trust is one of the legacies of Adiaha, she helped us by providing the ladder of first funding and never left us*

*alone till today through all the wonderful staff of HCVS in providing fund raising, helping to establish BEMA and other networks .*

**John Omole - Sound Life Trust**

*A true champion of the community has gone, long may we cherish her memory and all the good she did while she was with us.*

**Orishe Olugbo - SKEIN Hub Worker, London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium**

*She will be greatly missed for her untiring dedication to the needs of the people of Hackney and to our voluntary services.*

**Martin Davis - Head of LB Hackney Community Safety Team**

*We the workers and users of Halkevi Community Centre are deeply upset and can not find a word to describe our sadness about the news of our comrade Adiaha's passed away. I knew her for the last 26 years and we will miss her very much.*

**Yashar Ismailoglu - Halkevi Community Centre**

*I only met her a couple of times but she made a deep and lasting impression on me - as I'm sure she did on many others.*

**Lisa Greensill - Head of Voluntary and Community Sector Team GOL**

*It is especially sad that she died at a time when the sense of concerted action involving sections of the community and the various agencies is getting stronger and scoring successes. But that is in part her legacy,*

*and remembering her contribution to it should encourage us all to keep at it.*

**Geoff Taylor - Councillor for Victoria Ward, Hackney Town Hall**

*At one time or another most of our staff had met or spoken to Adiaha and found a friend.*

**Caroline Rouse - Aston-Mansfield Community Involvement Unit**

*Adiaha was a real representative and champion of our communities. As all those trying to work for our communities, we will miss working with her.*

**Ahmet Sezgin - Chair, Day-Mer Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre**

*Adiaha was that bridge over troubled waters. She was very passionate about her work and a Champion for the rights of communities to be given the opportunity to do things for themselves. She loved a challenge, when others tried to denigrate her, she came up victorious. Like so many women of colour, she was a fighter. I for one, will miss her but I know her memory will live on L-O-N-G after numerous others are forgotten.*

**Hazel Ellis - Director, Claudia Jones Organisation & HCVS Trustee**

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HCVS staff and Trustees would like to express its sincere thanks to all the messages and gifts received from members of the community, Hackney residents, Councillors, government officials and her work colleagues.

# Adiaha's travels around the world

## The Early 70s

She went back packing around **Morocco** and **Spain** for months with her friend Alisa.

## July - December 1980

As part of her degree course at University College London (School of Oriental & African Studies) studying African History and the African Language (Swahili) she travelled to East Africa. She went to **Tanzania** and **Zanzibar** with her friend on the



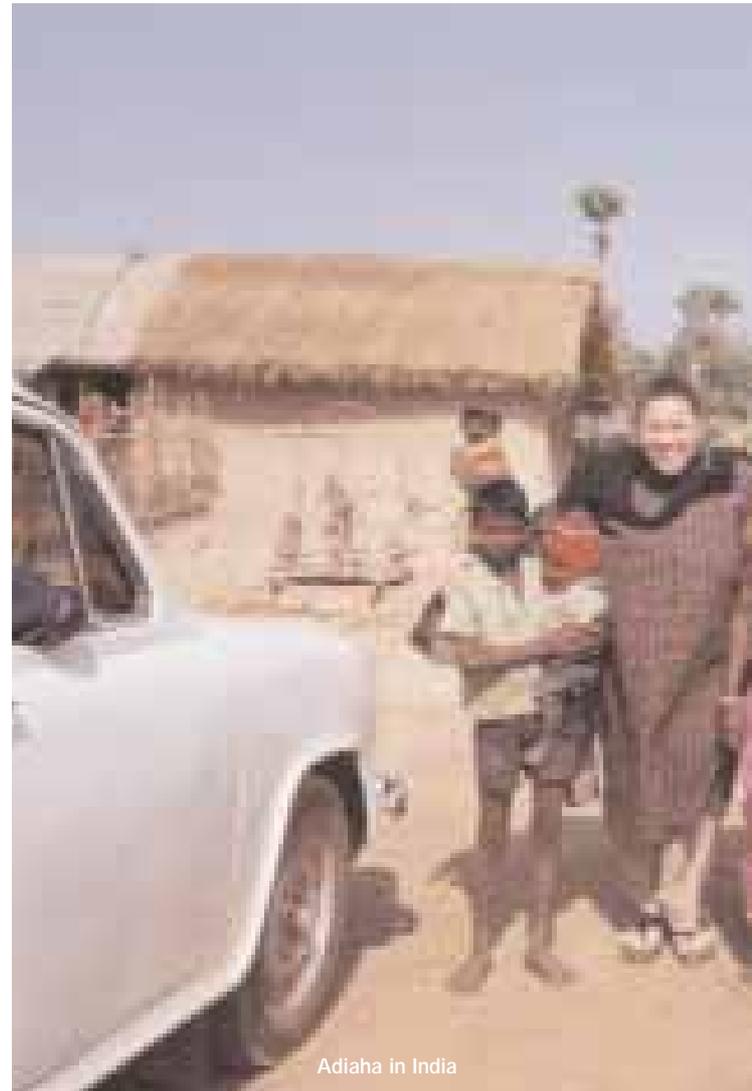
Adiaha in East Africa in 1980

same course Brenda. She stayed a month in a **Masai** village and loved every minute staying there.

She got on great with the local people of both countries. She even tried to adopt a little girl from **Zanzibar** who was orphaned from a very young age but due to strict immigration laws was not able to do so. She didn't stay in hotels but with different families in different parts of each country, travelling around seeing what it was really like to live in East Africa

## December 1980 - January 1981

On her way back from East



Adiaha in India

**Africa** she decided to take a two week holiday in **Egypt** with her friend Brenda to find out more about African history.

## December 1985 - January 1986

She went to Nigeria with uncle Antigha to visit her family in **Eket** a town in **Calabar State** and visited **Lagos**. There she stayed with her dad's (JJ) brother, Uncle Uso. She met his wife, children and grandchildren. Also meeting



Adiaha in Nigeria with her uncle Uso



cousins like Nse and their families. She formed a great bond with Uncle Uso who she loved dearly and she kept in contact regularly by mail, until he passed away in April 2002. She also kept in contact with her cousin Nse and he wrote and came over to see her in London occasionally. She was very happy she got to meet her dad's brother and all her family back in Africa as well as seeing

Yvonne. She liked it there and meeting her sister's Irish friends; Fiona, Imelda and Ann.

#### **October 1999**

She travelled with her friend Kiran Dixit to **Lourdes in France** on a Christian pilgrimage for one

where her father lived before coming to England.

#### **November 1992 - April 1993**

She went to America with Raphael and visited her cousin **Minty in Sacramento.**

#### **1997 or 1998**

She went to **Ireland** and stayed in the small town **Kilkenny** with her beloved sister

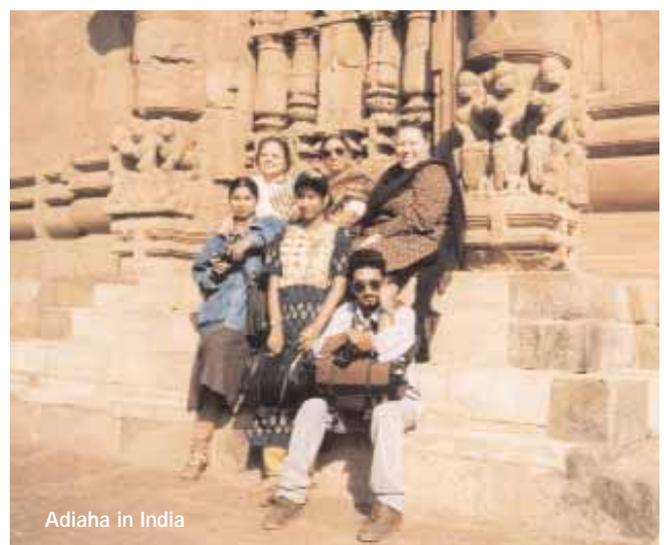
week. She found this to be deeply moving and walked around religious sights with people with all kinds of disabilities.

#### **20th November 2000 - 19th June 2001**

She travelled to **India** and visited **Bengal State** and stayed with her friend Kiran. She visited lots of temples and met lots of local people, including college students studying art.

#### **2003**

Adiaha travelled to Stonehenge for one week and other spiritual



landmarks.

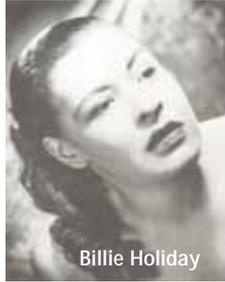
# The pictures and people that inspired her



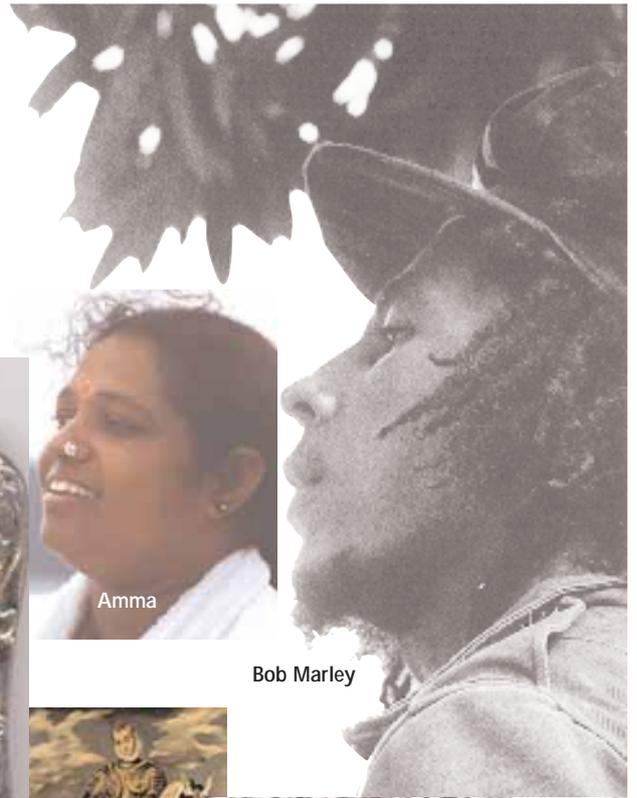
Angels



St Francis of Assisi



Billie Holiday



Bob Marley



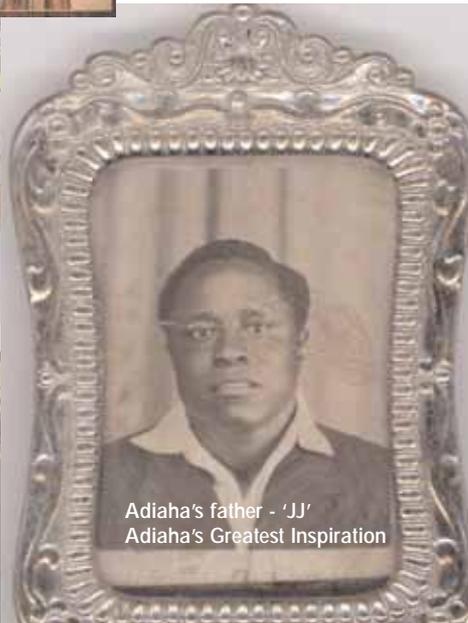
St Martin



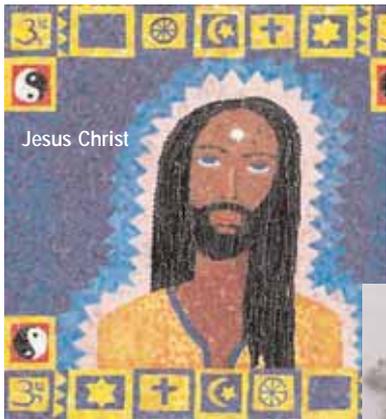
Angela Davis



Africa



Adiaha's father - 'JJ'  
Adiaha's Greatest Inspiration



Jesus Christ



Jacob Grandson



Ismay Granddaughter



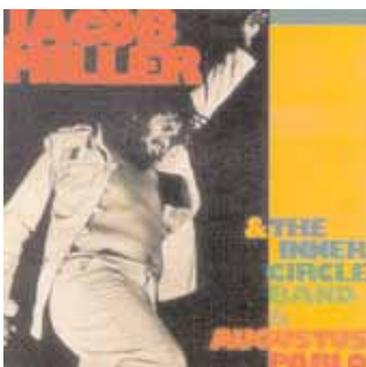
Che Guevara



Frida Kahlo



Marcus Garvey



Jacob Miller & THE INNER CIRCLE BAND

# Acknowledgements

HCVS would like to thank the following individuals and organisations:

## Adiaha's family & friends

### HCVS Staff & Memorial Task Group

Jennifer Rowe, June Sullivan, Marika Mason, Nadia Capogrosso, Manish Panjabi, Gillian Trevethan, Jake Ferguson

### HCVS Trustees

Adam Hart  
Adu Seray Wurie  
Andre Joseph  
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### HCVS Funders

Team Hackney  
Neighbourhood Renewal Unit  
Department for Education & Skills  
London East Learning & Skills Council  
European Regional Development Fund  
European Social Fund  
London Borough of Hackney  
London Councils

### Memorial Guest Speakers

Dr Christopher Kolade - Nigerian High Commissioner  
Diane Abbot - MP for Hackney North & Stoke Newington  
Penny Thompson - Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney  
Reverend Ben Enwucho - Nigerian Chaplain of the UK

## All HCVS member organisations

### Event Coordinator

June Sullivan

### Event Performers

Ngozi Headley Fulani - Master of Ceremonies  
MDMD Arts Dancers, Juniors & Seniors  
Celal (Turkish flute player),  
Negro Spiritual Choir  
Mehmet Karakus & International Music and Dance Center  
Dakrobi and Sofora  
Junior Mix Band, Sharone Brown, Max Asher Edwards, Naldo Tafari, Sister Joe, Janet Kay & The World Citizen  
Movement Band

Ngoma Dee "24 Carrot" Silver

### Event Volunteers

### HCVS Partners

Hackney Community Empowerment Network  
Hackney Marsh Partnership  
Common Resource  
Chicco  
Community Accountancy Project  
Hackney Training & Employment Network  
Hackney Voluntary Action  
Link Up Hackney

### Memorial Programme

Produced by Jake Ferguson

Please accept our sincere apologies for anyone missing from this list



# Supporting Hackney's Communities



HCVS encourages hundreds of local people to develop community projects, providing them with the skills, knowledge, funding and expertise to deliver better solutions to renew their neighbourhoods or communities.



HCVS publishes *SPARK* - the quarterly magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector. Got a story or some good news about your project then contact Gillian at [gillian@hcv.org.uk](mailto:gillian@hcv.org.uk)



HCVS is funded to support local voluntary and community action. We are supported by a number of national and local agencies:

## What we do?

- Provide small grants for new and existing community projects
- Coordinate the Hackney Community Empowerment Network
- Offer free one-to-one fundraising support, capacity building and training courses for community and voluntary groups
- Assist street-level training providers through LEAD
- Provide training and help community groups achieve quality standards
- Represent the sector on different boards such as Team Hackney - Hackney's Strategic Partnership
- Conduct research about the sector
- Facilitate volunteering and community leadership
- Provide a 'hub' of practical resources for small community groups such as photocopying, internet access



HCVS has a conference room for hire. Seats up to 60 people

To check availability, please contact Jennifer on 020 7923 1962 or email: [jennifer@hcv.org.uk](mailto:jennifer@hcv.org.uk)

**For more information about HCVS**  
call 020 7923 1962 or visit [www.hcv.org.uk](http://www.hcv.org.uk)

Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS) is the leading voluntary & community sector support agency in Hackney (registered charity no 1069736, registered company 3365292). HCVS is a member of NACVS and the Accountable Body for the Community Empowerment Network in Hackney.

