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Resident honored as 'Humanitarian of the Year'

Friday, March 09, 2007 - Updated: 02:19 PM EST

Salem resident Mamadou Diop will be the recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year honorable award at the Boston Chapter of the International Art of Living Foundation.

Mamadou Diop is originally from Senegal, West Africa and is the president of A3D Inc. (African Development through Drum and Dance), leader of the World Music band MAMADOU and principal organizer of the multicultural festival called Salem CultureFest, which will be held July 28 and 29 this year on the Salem Common.

A local nonprofit, A3D is dedicated to helping people locally and in West Africa. Recently, they provided 1,600 students at the AEDEC School in Dakar, Senegal with a state-of-the-art computer lab and network — the first of its kind in a public school in Senegal — and sewing machines to a job training facility, Les 3D, in Porokhane, Senegal to assist young women in becoming self-sufficient.

The Greater Boston chapter of the Art of Living Foundation (AOLF) joins more than 35 cities across America, in honoring a small group of local citizens who illustrate commitment to uplifting human values.

On March 7, the AOLF was set to host a celebratory reception at Boston College's Gasson Hall to honor the six honorees. Newton Mayor David B. Cohen and Joe Januszewski, vice president of corporate partnerships for the Red Sox were scheduled guest speakers.

Learn more about Diop's music at www.mamadou.com and about A3D at www.a3dinc.org. For more about the Art of Living Foundation, visit www.artofliving.org.

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