



The Award Winning

Jimmy Carter Library & Museum

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Countdown to Zero: Defeating Disease **Events**

Atlanta-The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum and The Carter Center have two special free events coming up as we *Countdown to Zero*.

On Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30, we'll have a free screening of the short film, "*Foul Water: Fiery Serpent*", about the debilitating parasite known as Guinea worm. Humans get Guinea worm when they drink stagnant water in which the worm has laid its eggs. The worms live and grow inside the human body. When a worm begins the painful month-long process of emerging from the body, it is wrapped around a stick which is tightened a little bit each day.

There were 3.5 million cases of Guinea worm when the Carter Center and its partners came up with the idea of having people filter their water, because there are no vaccines available to prevent the disease. Last year, there were 25 cases.

Following the film, you'll get to meet one of the heroes in this fight to eradicate Guinea worm, Makoy Samuel Yibi Logora, the director of the Southern Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program. He'll be joined on stage by Mark Siddall, the curator of the American Museum of Natural History and of the exhibition *Countdown 2 Zero*.

Following the conversation, visitors will get to tour the exhibition, which covers not only Guinea worm but other diseases targeted for eradication.

Then on Saturday, April 1st we'll focus on one of those other diseases, polio. We'll have a day filled with information and family activities beginning around 10:00am. Actor Jim Fowler will be here with a one man show as one of the world's most famous polio victims, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

At 1:00pm, we'll have a free screen of the documentary "The Last Poster Child: the life of Pam Henry." Stricken as a 14-month-old child before the advent of vaccines, Pam became the national symbol of the struggle against the disease in 1959 when,

at the age of nine, she became the March of Dimes national polio poster child. Her likeness was on millions of billboards and publications and she toured the country, meeting politicians, celebrities, and journalists and helped to raise millions of dollars to help eradicate the disease. Ironically, the vaccines were so effective (although too late for Pam) that she would be the last poster child to represent polio.

Pam went on to have a successful career as a journalist and we are fortunate to have Pam and producer/director Don Sherry here for the event. Numerous organizations will have information and activity booths at the event and you'll be able to tour the exhibit *Countdown to Zero* as well. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

You can keep up with the Carter Library events on the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library page on Facebook and follow the CarterLibrary on Twitter. If you wish to unsubscribe to these news releases, simply email tony.clark@nara.gov and put "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.