

## Karen Ande and Ruthann Richter Receive Eric Hoffer Book Award

San Francisco -- May 29, 2011



The book *Face to Face: Children of the AIDS Crisis in Africa* has been honored with an Eric Hoffer Award as one of the best books in the “Culture” category, the group announced May 26.

The awards, named for the great American philosopher Eric Hoffer, recognize independent books of exceptional merit. The book received a silver-medal equivalent in its category.

“This book combines the compassionate personal narrative of award-winning medical writer Ruthann Richter with emotionally compelling photographs taken by documentary photographer Karen Ande,” the reviewers wrote. “Their joint focus on the devastation of the hopes and dreams of specific children—living in places such as the Mama Darlene Children's Centre and the Saidia Children's Home—that have lost one or both parents to Aids/HIV and or have themselves contracted the disease renders an emotional and deeply personal perspective of a crisis affecting 12 million children living in sub-Saharan Africa.”

Richter and Ande first traveled together to Africa in 2004, trekking through the slums of Nairobi and the pastoral villages of the East African bush to visit families and children affected by the AIDS pandemic. They were devastated by they saw: children who had witnessed the death of their parents and were struggling with the challenges of living alone or with little support. Many lacked the essentials of life: food, shelter, education and the nurturing of a caring adult. Richter and Ande resolved to bring the issue to light.

Ande is a San Francisco-based photographer who traveled extensively as a volunteer with NGOs in Kenya and Rwanda, photographing community-based projects and the people they serve (see [AndePhotos.com](http://AndePhotos.com)). She was the 2010 winner of the Global Visions competition of the World Affairs Council and mounted a solo exhibit there. Her work has been featured widely in newspapers, magazines, websites, television, and exhibitions.

Richter has been covering HIV/AIDS since the early 1980s and has won multiple awards for her writing, including awards from the American Cancer Society, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. She serves as the Director of Media Relations at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Richter and Ande have lectured widely on the issue of AIDS and Africa’s children, presenting to audiences at book stores, universities and secondary schools, religious and civic organizations.

For more on the Hoffer Award, visit: <http://www.theusreview.com/USRhoffer.html#culture>

For more on the book, visit: [facetofaceafrica.com](http://facetofaceafrica.com).