



Photo by Marni Rothschild

Ida Taylor and Cindy Swenson ARE DRUMMING UP SUPPORT.

Ida, Director of the Gethsemani Community Center, and Cindy, a psychologist with the Family Services Research Center at MUSC, met seven years ago when Cindy was assigned to a summer outreach program in the Union Heights community. At the conclusion of that program, the women—nicknamed “Shorty Rock” and “Doc” by the kids—

wanted to continue to work together, and Djole Dance Company, a West African dance and drumming group for youths, was born. “A few years ago, we met a drummer from Ghana named ‘Powerful’ who makes all of our drums,” says Cindy. “He asked if we could work with him on a project to educate street children in West Africa about HIV and

AIDS.” In partnership with the City of North Charleston, they began planning and are currently trying to raise funds for the mission, which is set for June of this year. “In Africa, they disseminate information through the arts,” explains Ida. “And they’re going to teach us how to do that here.” For more info on Djole, visit www.djoledancecompany.org.