



## Edward W. "Ward" Brehm

In May 2004, President Bush appointed Ward Brehm Chairman of **the *United States African Development Foundation***, and was subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate.

USADF is a U.S. government agency which serves the "poorest of the poor" by making direct investments into African enterprise initiatives. Brehm has helped implement a bold new vision that has helped the poor not be poor anymore through small enterprise and agricultural coop strategies designed and owned by Africans themselves.

In February 2007, Brehm was selected by the U.S. Senate to be the first businessman to deliver the keynote address at the *National Prayer Breakfast* in Washington, DC. Brehm's experience also stretches into the diplomatic field having represented America as part of two Presidential delegations to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin. He has also served as a delegate to two African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) forums in 2005 and 2006. Brehm has been a speaker at two White House Faith-Based Conferences in September 2007 and February 2008.

Brehm has helped bring leaders from both sides of the political aisle together to unite in the fight against starvation, poverty, and disease on the African continent. Using relationships built over many years, Brehm has also been personally involved in the peace and reconciliation efforts in Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, bringing a model of reconciliation based upon faith, friendship, and common understanding.

As a humanitarian and outspoken "voice" for the poor, Brehm has traveled to Africa 32 times since his first trip in 1993. He initiated the *Windpump Project* to bring clean water to remote areas. He has funded numerous ventures to help the poor help themselves. He has also led teams of American businessmen and Members of Congress to Africa showing them firsthand that remarkable, yet deeply troubled, continent.

In addition to helping facilitate meetings at the highest levels within African governments, Brehm has also gained invaluable insight by living at the grassroots level with rural Africans. He took a six-day journey far from safety and his comfort zone along the Uganda/Kenya border with only his friend from the Pokot tribe as his guide. That journey became the subject of his second book, ***White Man Walking***, published in 2003. His first book, ***Life Through A Different Lens***, captured both the wonderful lessons, as well as great needs of Africa, following Brehm's first trip to Africa in 1994.

In his "civilian life," Ward Brehm is the founder and Chairman of The Brehm Group, Inc. a boutique estate planning firm catering to sophisticated tax related life insurance strategies for family investment offices.

He and his wife, Kris, have been married for 29 years and have three children Andy, Michael, and Sarah. He lives in Orono, Minnesota

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