

LIFELINES



the official newsletter of aids arms, inc.



a time for
unity

in this ISSUE:

Holiday Toy Drive 2008 pg 4

Help Aids Arms Earn Dollar-For-Dollar Matching Funds pg 5

AIDS Arms Hosts Russian Delegation pg 5

The Free World Bound / INSPIRE program pg 8

Dallas-Based AIDS Arms Reaches Out to Texans in Need pg 10

Report on Latinos & AIDS Community Voice Mail pg 11

2009 Board of DIRECTORS

J. Scott Chase, JD
2009 Board Chair

Matt Adams
1st Vice Chair

John Loza, JD
2nd Vice Chair

Dennis W. Fehlman
Treasurer

Katrina Franklin, CRNA
Secretary

Dennis Cordell, PhD

Jerry W. McDonald, MS
Advisory Board Chair

Jay R. Nolen

Harry Anderson

Valery Guignon

Mark Bunting

Rob Boverie

David Pass

Stephanie Sparks, JD

Michael Coles, JD

Nicholas Inman

Michael Regier

**Board Committee
Volunteers**

Ken Morris

Michael Grant

Lance Douglas

A Word from Our Chair...

As I assume the responsibility of being the Board Chair for what I believe to be the premier AIDS/HIV service organization (ASO) in North Texas, I think it is appropriate to highlight the accomplishments of the past year.

Under the leadership of the immediate past Chair, Jerry McDonald, the Board made great strides in all areas of its responsibility, particularly long-range planning and fundraising, and oversaw the development of several worthwhile projects. Among these were the completion of the Faces of Life video, a moving portrayal of several clients of the agency, and institution of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), a Board-level committee that oversees clinical trials at Peabody Health Clinic. We are lucky to have Jerry continuing his service as chair of the Agency Advisory Board.

All board members and staff contributed mightily to the success of the Agency, but I want all of our supporters to know of the special hard work of certain Board members and Agency staff. Faces of Life could not have been done without the expertise and dedication of Board member, Mark Bunting,

and the actions of the Resource Development Committee, chaired by Ken Morris and assisted by AAI Director of Resource Development, Margaret Byrne. The immediate success of the CAC was due to the hard work of Board member, Dennis Cordell, who co-chaired that committee, and Peabody staffer, Michelle Ukwu. Going into 2009, Kenya Woodruff will co-chair the CAC with Dennis. The Agency again passed its audit with flying colors. I want to thank Finance and Audit Committee Chair and Board member, Dennis Fehlman, and Agency CFO, Gilbert Kouame, for their efforts in this activity. And, as always, it is impossible to talk about the success of the Agency without highlighting our dedicated Executive Director, Raeline Nobles.



J. Scott Chase, JD

We welcome Stephanie Sparks, Rob Boverie, David Pass, Michael Coles, Nick Inman, and Michael Regier to full terms on our 2009 Board. Because of the state of our economy, 2009 will be a difficult year, but the Board is committed to the goals of expanding services and continuing to be the “go-to” ASO for both clients and funders in North Texas. I promise to devote my energies to these goals and I know the agency Board and staff will continue to function at a high level of energy and focus.

“Because of the state of our economy, 2009 will be a difficult year, but the Board is committed to the goals of expanding services and continuing to be the “go-to” ASO for both clients and funders in North Texas.”

2009 ADVISORY BOARD

Jerry McDonald, Chair
Fela Alfaro, RN
Dr. Brady Allen, MD
Trent Ates
Dr. Barbara Cambridge, PhD, LMSW-ACP
Michael Cox
Gregory “Scotty” Culbert, MPA
Steven Graves
Dr. Gordon Green, MD
Eliud Jimenez
Doug Johnson
Pamela Johnson, EdD
Wendy Krispin
Jonna LaGrone-Haynes, MHA
Alan H. Levi, CPA
J. Christopher Luna, JD

Cheryl McCue
Leza M. Mesiah, PhD
Ruth Nicholson
Curt Nonomaque
DeWan K. Perry, RN
Gregory Pynes
Neil Resnik, LUTCF
Phillip C. Roark
Phillip Shinoda, PhD
Ira Silverman
Rex Spivey
Susan Stahl
Gregory M. Swalwell, CPA
Raquel Tamez, JD
Rebecca Young

Live United



Did you know?

AAI has received the #1 ranking as a United Way Agency for the past 2 years. Pictured at left are Janice Jackson and Jay Gutierrez.

a time for change

President Obama has asked us to engage in personal sacrifice - how will you respond?

On January 20, 2009, our country witnessed the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America. We are hard pressed to remember a time when the inauguration of a President inspired such deep hope and hungry anticipation for positive change. Citizens from diverse groups pushed aside their differences to celebrate this hope in unity. That over two million guests converged in Washington, DC to experience this historic inauguration is a testament to our ability to live out our country's ideal of pluralism and solidarity of purpose.

President Obama begins his tenure facing great challenges of foreign policy, the economy, healthcare and equal access for all people to the basic resources and opportunities for achieving health, success and a new depth of personal responsibility. Many of these challenges affect our clients' lives on a daily basis -- and our organization's ability to create positive health outcomes and life stability for the most vulnerable in

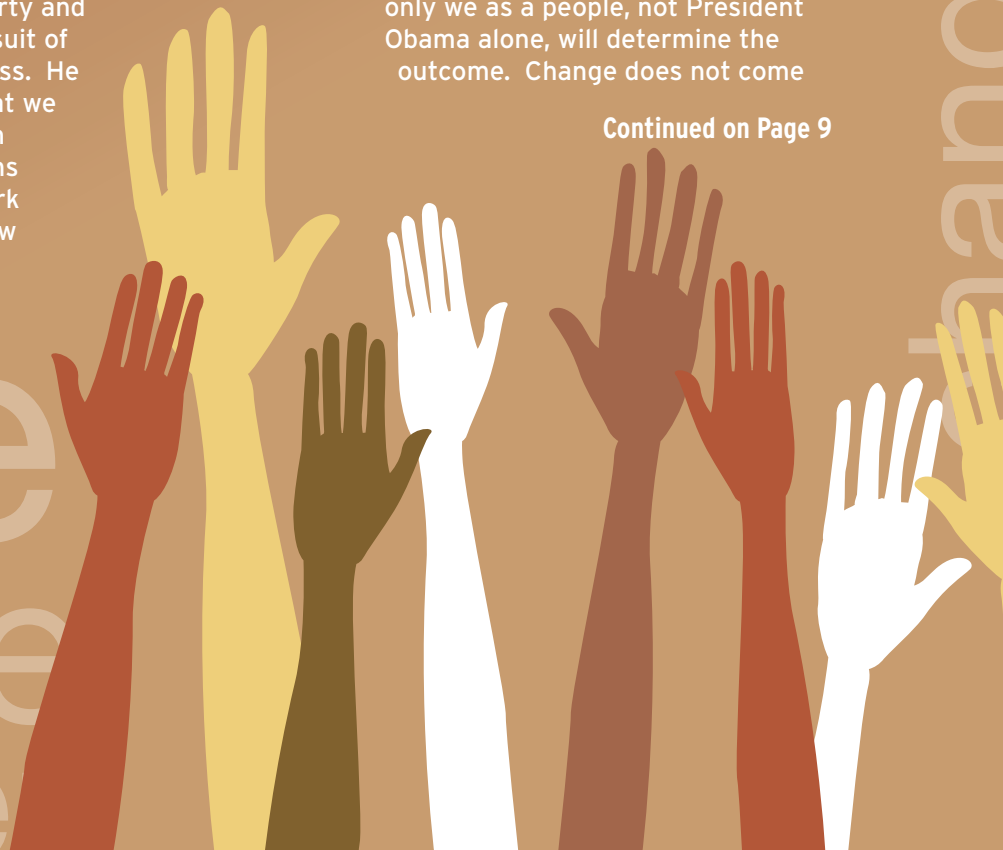
our communities. President Obama does not face these challenges alone, nor does he pretend he can or should. He has been clear during his campaign and again on inauguration day that "change" is up to us all - We must all play a critical role that will involve our wealth, wisdom, and hard work.

President Obama has given us an open invitation to more fully participate in the process - A process that is admittedly complex. He asks us to engage in personal sacrifice on behalf of doing "the right thing" for the whole. We all have the opportunity to benefit as individuals when the "whole" is strong, responsive and accountable. He invites us to play a role in creating and ultimately realizing our collective, historical vision of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He asks that we invest in programs that work and show

outcomes of improved health, increased access and greater cost efficiency. How will you respond to this invitation? What personal sacrifices will you invest to ensure our community is a place of increased health and quality of life? How will you invest in programs that work so that the hope and inspiration experienced on January 20, 2009, remain alive and evolve to a reality even our most vulnerable and forgotten citizens can truly experience?

It's a great time to be alive; to bear witness and participate in making all our lives, our country, and our world a safer, healthier place to be. Now is the time many have been waiting for and building towards for generations. It is the great social experiment of our time and only we as a people, not President Obama alone, will determine the outcome. Change does not come

Continued on Page 9



hope
change
voluntée

hope
change
voluntée

A Time for Giving...

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE 2008

The **Hoak Family Foundation's** donation of \$5,000 made it possible for the Women, Children, Youth and Families Program to ensure that AIDS Arms' children with little means of receiving basic clothing necessities and holiday gifts would receive age and size-appropriate gifts. These gifts addressed quality-of-life issues, making it possible for each child to receive holiday gifts and feel more like other children. Case managers donated their time by sorting and sizing the gifts, wrapping and labeling them with the child's name. Our case managers then distributed the gifts to the families' homes prior to December 24th.

The Santa Pub Crawl at the local Oak Lawn bars, that took place before Thanksgiving, provided \$1500 in cash for the program to succeed. Without those generous donations we would not have been able to get as many gift cards for the single family households. Thank you to all who participated in such a fun event!

We received many donations from **staff members, Board Members, and Heather, Jaden, and Morgan McLaughlin** who so thoughtfully donated children's DVD movies. Our clients' children enjoyed their new DVD

movies. One commented "I can't believe I got a new movie!" **The Dallas Tavern Guild** donated over 100 bags of goodies that included stuffed animals, snacks, and fruit for our clients and their families. **Hunky's Restaurant** did a canned food drive and donated large boxes of food for our clients during this special time. Thank you, Hunky's!

A special thanks to **Andrew & Liz Wilson** for adopting a family from the Women's Team and providing them with every item on their wish list. This was such a thoughtful and selfless thing to do for one of our families. The Wilson children helped in shopping for this family. They spoke of the great joy that comes from helping out those who are less fortunate.

Dr. Bellos and his staff were outstanding in their help with providing for the older children who requested items

such as MP3 Players and other electronic games. Without Dr. Bellos' staff we would have struggled to meet budget and provide for the youth aged children. Thank you, Dr. Bellos & staff!



OLD RED MUSEUM: A NEW DALLAS TRADITION

AIDS Arms, Inc., along with other Dallas non-profit organizations, shared the joy of this season in the Old Red Museum's exhibit. Its theme was celebrating Dallas County Holiday Traditions. There were a total of eighteen holiday trees and exhibits, each decorated by the volunteers and staff of a local non-profit organization to illustrate this year's theme. Visitors entering the museum voted for their favorite tree or exhibit by dropping their donations in the boxes near each tree. Monies raised benefitted the children of AIDS Arms.

Kwanzaa Fest, December 13-14, 2008

As one of the largest AIDS service organizations in Dallas and the surrounding metroplex, AIDS Arms rarely backs away from a challenge. Whether that challenge is providing top-notch care and services to individuals living with HIV and AIDS or offering prevention counseling, education and testing to stop the epidemic in its tracks, AIDS Arms has proven its commitment. It should come as no surprise that when Dallas County Health and Human Services wanted to provide 1000 HIV tests during 2008's Kwanzaa Fest, they asked AIDS Arms to contribute.

AIDS Arms' Prevention Team, with the help of staff volunteers, provided 453 HIV tests during the two-day event on December 13-14, 2008. More than 500 individuals were given education and information on how to reduce HIV risks and almost 4000 condoms were distributed. Special thanks goes to the AIDS Arms Prevention Team and other AIDS Arms staff who helped make our contribution to Kwanzaa Fest run smoothly.

For more information on this and other AIDS Arms initiatives visit our website at www.aidsarms.org.



AIDS Arms receives funding from Black Tie Dinner

On December 18th AIDS Arms was honored to receive \$44,190 in funding from Black Tie Dinner. Eighteen local beneficiaries and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation were honored by Black Tie, who distributed \$1.19 million dollars.

Black Tie Dinner began in Dallas in 1982 to help support the Human Rights Campaign. One hundred forty guests attended the first event, which raised \$6,000. By 2008, the gala had grown to include more than 3,000 guests and has resulted in close to a \$14 million dollar distribution to beneficiaries.

AIDS Arms greatly values its continued support from Black Tie Dinner and congratulates them on their tremendous success.

Black Tie Dinner 2009 will take place on October 3rd at the Sheraton Dallas. For more info or to purchase tables/seats please contact Margaret Byrne at mbyrne@aidsarms.org.

AIDS Arms Hosts Russian Delegation

On November 19th, AIDS Arms' Peabody Health Center hosted a delegation of Russian physicians as part of the Dallas-Saratov Sister City relationship established in 2005. Local physician, Dr. Edgar Nace, organized the visit to AIDS Arms' clinic with our medical director, Dr. Keith Rawlings, providing a review of current HIV care and treatment standards. While there are differences in language and culture between the United States and Russia, many of the national and local issues we struggle with in the United States are shared by our Russian counterparts -- particularly around a growing HIV+ population of poverty, decline in funding and a shortage of qualified physicians able and willing to care for HIV+ populations. We appreciate Dr. Nace for organizing the visit to our Peabody Health Center - It was a wonderful exchange of culture and ideas.



Help AIDS Arms Earn Dollar-For-Dollar Matching Funds On May 20

New online program makes researching and giving to charities easier, more effective

AIDS Arms has joined in a new endeavor to help North Texans become more-informed donors and non-profits become better collaborators. The initiative, called DonorBridge at donorbridgetx.org, is a new online database that makes mutual connections between non-profit organizations, donors and supporters. Featuring hundreds of straightforward profiles of DFW-area non-profits, the website aims to make simpler the process of gathering reliable information, making charitable gifts and addressing community needs.

**DONOR
BRIDGE**
The Power to Give Wisely

Each profile offers comprehensive, results-oriented information on non-profit organizations and specific programs.

Communities Foundation of Texas created DonorBridge in partnership with the Center for Non-profit Management and in collaboration with the Institute for Urban Policy Research at The University of Texas at Dallas, and with support from The Dallas Foundation.

DonorBridge will launch to the public on May 20, 2009. To access DonorBridge, please visit donorbridgetx.org.

HELP AIDS ARMS BY MATCHING FUNDS

DonorBridge at donorbridgetx.org, a new online resource for non-profit supporters in North Texas, is debuting to the public on May 20, 2009. To celebrate, Communities Foundation of Texas and The Dallas Foundation will match, dollar-for-dollar, donations given through the website on that day. Communities Foundation of Texas has committed \$250,000 and The Dallas Foundation has committed \$50,000 for a total of \$300,000 to encourage the public to give to local non-profits, especially in light of this year's hurting economy.

The day before the public launch, on May 19, Communities Foundation of Texas and The Dallas Foundation will match online grant recommendations to DonorBridge non-profits from the foundations' donor advised funds in the amount of 50 cents of every dollar contributed, up to \$2,500 per fund while matching funds last. A total of \$100,000 will be available this day.

On May 20, online public donations via a credit card* will be matched in the amount of one dollar for every dollar through DonorBridge, while matching funds last. A total of at least \$200,000 is available for the match plus any remaining matching funds from May 19. The minimum gift is \$25 and the maximum matching contribution per individual is \$2,500. Public users may support more than one organization with matching funds, as long as the total donations from one individual do not exceed \$2,500.

The maximum matching funds available per organization is \$25,000.

**All online credit card gifts made through DonorBridge will be processed through Communities Foundation of Texas. A credit card processing fee of 5% of the amount of the gift will be deducted from the total amount of the gift, with no charge to the non-profit organization.*

Celebrate Life.



LifeWalk

Special Thanks Goes out to Our Top Funders

Corporate Teams

- Third Place: VHA - \$17,349
- Second Place: MAC Cosmetics - \$21,582
- First Place: GLEAN JC Penney's - \$40,143

Civic Teams

- Third Place: St. Luke's - Team Taz \$4,045
- Second Place: Legal Hospice of Texas - \$5,981
- First Place: St. Thomas - The Doubters - \$22,530

Small Business Teams

- Third Place: Brooklyn Jazz - \$1,639
- Second Place: Dr. Peay's Botty Campers - \$1,790
- First Place: North Texas Infectious Disease Consultants - \$4,199

Individual Teams

- Third Place: Green Team - \$10,552
- Second Place: Cherchez la Femme - \$32,000
- First Place: Guys & Dolls - \$55,793

Individuals

- Third Place: Keith Lackie - \$2,050
- Second Place: Steven Floyd - \$2,236
- First Place: Maison Vasek - \$3,542

Partner Agencies

- Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund
- Legal Hospice of Texas
- Resource Center of Dallas
- Women's Chorus of Dallas

LifeWalk surpassed its goal of \$380,000!





Save the Date
LifeWalk
October 11, 2009



The Camping Couple

I first met Josh and Sally in the early summer of 2008. I was told that they were living in a motel and had some problems, because Josh had lost his maintenance job with the motel. I contacted the couple and they stated they had been evicted from the motel. Previously, Josh and Sally had been laid off from their regular jobs and were able to get the maintenance assistance job at the motel to work for lodging. They were ineligible for unemployment. They did not want to go to a shelter as they lived far from the nearest shelter in Dallas. They also had dogs and an old car with expired tags. The shelter could not guarantee room for the clients or the dogs due to severe overcrowding. The couple opted to stay in a tent at a local camp ground.

The couple learned they were HIV positive when Sally discovered she was pregnant and had gone for her initial

appointments and took her medications. The couple eventually found a place that would accept the dogs for an additional fee. The call again went out for donations and the couple was able to move into an apartment in mid November, just in time for the birth of their healthy (HIV negative) baby boy and the holidays.

According to some things could have been handled differently. Several people said, get rid of the dogs. I understand these opinions, but when HIV has taken so many things away from you and you are faced with a lifetime of pills, tests and side effects, personal things, like a dog, a car, or an old chair help you remember that life continues. Times are tough everywhere. Is it our right to say what is best for a client in the long run? AIDS Arms empowers clients to do the best with what they have while encouraging them to make better

AIDS Arms empowers clients to do the best with what they have while encouraging them to make better choices and offering resources to assist with those choices.

doctor's visit. Sally, pregnant and living outdoors was not the ideal situation. It rained and stormed a great deal and a few times Sally had fallen due to excess mud on the ground. The couple only had enough money for one week at the campgrounds. I sent an email right away to staff which was forwarded to the Steering Committee of LifeWalk and in came the offers of assistance.

We were able to pay for the camp site and groceries. There were also donations of bedding, dog food and coolers for ice and food. Josh was eventually called back to work as Sally's pregnancy progressed. Josh went to work every morning from the campsite as Sally kept doctors'

choices and offering resources to assist with those choices. This couple had hardships, but they were able to manage living in a tent to keep their family together, dogs and all. We were able to assist Josh and Sally in getting into safe, clean housing. It was because of loving generous donors that know it takes more than government programs to provide much needed support. It takes a group of people with unfaltering love for their fellow humans. Thank you for answering the call!

Contact Margaret Byrne for information on AIDS Arms at 214.521.5191, ext 314 or visit www.aidsarms.org.

-Story by Dana Hartney, AAI Case Manager

The Free World Bound/ INSPIRE Program educates thousands

The Free World Bound /INSPIRE program has been very busy over the past twelve months. The program aims to provide education to at risk communities on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and substance abuse. Over the past twelve months the program staff has provided education to 14,212 at risk individuals, 9,648 of those were minority and 8,871 were from the re-entry population.

The Free World Bound / INSPIRE program had several projects scheduled for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 6th and 7th, 2009. They provided education classes and offered free HIV testing at First Step Counseling on February 6th and 7th and also at Harry Stone Recreation Center on February 7th. The AIDS Arms Inc. prevention team provided testing along with Peabody Health Center.

Sheila Jones with the Free World Bound / INSPIRE program participated in another project on February 6th at the Juanita Craft Recreation Center. The focus was on young African American and Hispanic Women, ages 13 to 18. The name of the event was "An Intimate Pillow Talk", a social pajama sleepover designed to enlighten young women on the dangers of participating in risky sexual behaviors and the benefits of being safe, protected and aware.

American Airlines partners with AIDS Arms

As partners with American Airlines, AIDS Arms is a member of the Business ExtraA travel rewards program. Anytime you travel with American or American Eagle AIDS Arms can earn points for your trip and you still get to keep and redeem your own miles. All you have to do is make sure AIDS Arms' Business ExtraA account number (789403) appears on all your tickets. Whether you're booking online, by phone or in person, there is always an opportunity to give the AIDS Arms Business ExtraA account number.

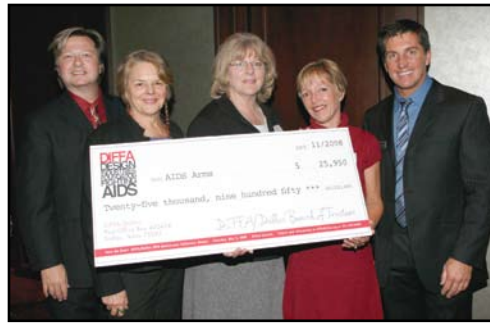
For more information on this and other AIDS Arms programs visit us online at www.aidsarms.org.



DIFFA/Dallas Celebrates 20th Anniversary of the Jacket Collection

Utopia will take place on May 2nd at the Hilton Anatole. Since 1988, DIFFA Dallas has granted over \$4 million to local programs. AIDS Arms is honored to have been a recipient of funding from DIFFA for over 10 years.

The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) is the oldest and one of the largest funders of HIV/AIDS service and education programs in the U.S. Since its founding in 1984, DIFFA has mobilized the immense resources of the design communities to provide over \$31 million to hundreds of AIDS organizations nationwide. Starting with volunteers from fashion, interior design, furnishings and architecture, supporters of DIFFA now come from every field associated with fine design. DIFFA has also been an innovative agent in drawing local and



national corporations into the fight against the epidemic, and enjoys tremendous support from the business community.

For more information on Utopia and other ways to become involved in DIFFA/Dallas please go to www.diffadallas.org.

Save the Date!
DIFFA/DALLAS COLLECTION 2009
Utopia
20th ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, May 2, 2009
Hilton Anatole Hotel

DIFFA
DESIGN
INDUSTRIES
FOUNDATION
FIGHTING
AIDS



A time for Change, con't from page 3

quickly or easily. No doubt, we may tire over time. Our compassion, energy, time, and financial contributions may become fatigued as we question the validity of our efforts. Fight the temptation to throw up your arms and walk away. These barriers will be overcome, and we must help each other through them. A brighter day, a better way is right there in front of us. We must reach and make it our own. Our clients and our communities depend on us to make this vision happen. They too must participate, contribute and take responsibility in new ways. In the words of President Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

AIDS Arms' programs have historically produced outcomes of increased access, improved health and decreased cost to community taxpayers that rank among the best in the country. Our investment in partnership and collaboration since 1986 has helped create a continuum of care that is responsive, cost effective and creates long term improvement in

people's health and ability to become and remain productive citizens. We are committed to care coordination and the effects of case management in concert with outpatient medical care. It works for people and saves hundreds of thousands of dollars for tax payers. We are committed to unrestrained prevention and risk reduction efforts to help decrease and eliminate new HIV, STD and hepatitis cases. It works, regardless of the "offense" some feel when sex, drugs and condoms are openly discussed and distributed. We are committed to research and continuous quality improvement. Both efforts discover, nurture and realize new ideas, new efficiencies and accountability.

When our most vulnerable succeed, we all succeed. As they live better, healthier lives, we do as well. The investment is large, the payoff is priceless. AIDS Arms has dedicated employees and volunteers who contribute to our organization far beyond their job description. We believe in AIDS Arms' programs as an effective investment in our community's health and quality of life.

We thank you for your contributions of Wealth, Wisdom and Work. We appreciate your past contributions in ways words can not express. Your continued partnership will allow us to continue building effective programs that are accessible to a growing HIV population of poverty and health care disparities.

We welcome you to participate with us in this great social experiment. Become a part of something that works. Join us in realizing an ideal whose time has arrived - for everyone.

Please visit our website to learn more about AIDS Arms' programs and view our new film, "Faces of Life," or contact Margaret Byrne for a tour or presentation at 214.521.5191, ext 314.



change hope volunteer

Dallas-Based AIDS Arms Reaches Out to Texans in Need

A I D S



It may sound unusual, but Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS grants committee finds requests for items like X-ray machines, cleaning supplies, new water heaters, and corrugated tin sheds exciting. It thrills us to fund essential bricks-and-mortar type projects, especially ones that federal funders overlook.

Dallas, TX's AIDS ARMS, for example, used our 2008 grant (\$10,000) to buy a sophisticated filing cabinet/medical records system which helped the busy staff at the organization's medical clinic, Peabody Health Center, manage a client list that grows by approximately 60 new clients each month.

"Peabody's outdated open utility shelving system could no longer keep pace with new patients. The new system holds more records in less space, provides heightened security for confidential information, streamlines retrieving and replacing charts, and can be added to as the number of patients grow," says AIDS ARMS executive director, Raeline Nobles.

Maintaining medical records, however, is just one of an extraordinary range of services provided by this AIDS Service Organization, which has served the Dallas area for more than 20 years.

OVER TWO DECADES OF CARE

Like so many organizations that originated when treatment options were limited and largely ineffective, AIDS Arms began as a grassroots organization of six people committed to finding resources for individuals with HIV/AIDS who were dealing with end-of-life issues.

The organization began offering case management services to the HIV infected communities of North Texas in 1986, under the leadership of the Community Council of Greater Dallas. In 1989, AIDS Arms became an independent non-profit organization and in 1991, an affiliate of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

By 1999, the Agency had grown to 35 professionals and had expanded its global comprehensive case management programs for several underserved populations including, gay men, women and youth, African Americans, Hispanics, and the recently incarcerated. Today, AIDS Arms has 78 full-time employees and over 500 volunteers, serving 12 counties, all backed by a budget of \$6.7 million.

AIDS Arms offers an impressive range of services and programming, including:

- **HIV Education, Testing & Prevention**
- **Outpatient Medical Care**
- **Medication Assistance Program**
- **Comprehensive Case Management and Medical Case Management** (for more on this, see "Saving Sarah" below);
- **ProACT for Women, Youth and Families.** A holistic approach to the HIV epidemic among women, its programming includes outreach testing and prevention work;
- **African American Outreach Program (AAOP)**, which also addresses the needs of recent African, Caribbean and South American immigrants, and **Viva!**, programming addressing HIV-impacted Latino communities, including those of undocumented workers;
- **Free World Bound (FWB)**, addresses the needs of HIV+ incarcerated and recently released people in 32 federal prisons throughout Texas;
- **OPTIONS** addresses the needs of HIV+ clients coping with the additional challenges of substance abuse and mental health issues;
- **HIV Research.** AIDS Arms Peabody Health Center is an approved AIDS Clinical Trial Group unit for the National Institutes of Health engaged in multiple studies on the HIV disease process, as well as multiple private clinical trials for emerging medications seeking FDA approval;
- **Bilingual Services.** Sixteen bilingual employees, including people proficient not only in Spanish, but also European languages, African dialects and American Sign Language.

SAVING SARAH

Since 1986, AIDS Arms has provided case management and support to over 15,000 clients. One of their most successful cases is "Sarah" (a client often cited in the organization's promotional materials), a woman coping with a number of issues who transformed her life with patient, long-term assistance from AIDS Arms.

Sarah's story is truly inspiring. At 36, she had a \$1,000 a day cocaine addiction when she met her case manager in August of 2003.

She was homeless and infected with hepatitis and HIV. Despite her risk behaviors and poor health, Sarah was in denial about her HIV status.

"Her case manager painted a stark picture of her future reality if she did not commit to major changes in her life, specifically drug rehabilitation and HIV medical care," says Nobles, who admits that, like many clients, Sarah initially resisted treatment, but her highly supportive case manager persisted until she agreed to undergo inpatient substance abuse treatment at Turtle Creek Manor, a facility that partners with AIDS Arms.

Sarah responded well to the encouragement and utilized the resources her case manager presented to her. When she successfully completed Turtle Creek's program, she began HIV medical treatment at AIDS Arms' Peabody Health Center while her case manager arranged transitional housing to safeguard her sobriety.

Sarah remained there for two years, benefiting from onsite psychotherapy, earning her GED and developing job and basic living skills. Once Sarah found a job, her case manager found her a more relaxed yet still sober living community, while maintaining treatment at Peabody.

Today, Sarah continues to work while attending college to become a licensed substance abuse counselor. Her goal is to help other women understand how substance abuse contributes to becoming infected with HIV. She is newly married and working towards reconciliation with her children with the continued support of her case manager.

"It is the countless stories like Sarah's that keep us all motivated to reach out and help people learn how to successfully manage the many challenges of living with HIV and AIDS. They are the reason we are here – And the core of our mission. Each client and family is an inspiration to us for the depth of tenacity, courage and hope they muster each day. It takes all of us investing what we have in time, money and wisdom to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic -- we just couldn't do what we do without the support of good people and organizations like Broadway Cares!" says Raeline Nobles.

To learn more about Dallas-based AIDS Arms, visit their website at <http://www.aidsarms.org>



Report Released on Latinos in Deep South Reveal High Rates of AIDS and HIV Diagnoses

On World AIDS Day December 1, 2008 the Latino Commission on AIDS released "Shaping the New Response: HIV/AIDS and Latinos in the Deep South" Report. The report documented the extraordinarily high rates of HIV and AIDS diagnoses among Latinos, the apparent contributing factors to this health crisis and recommendations for future action in the Deep South. Shaping the New Response's conclusions stemmed from two years of research involving more than 300 interviews, 8 roundtables covering all 7 states, analysis of epidemiological data, and a review of relevant studies.

As of 2007 there are 2,052,227 Latinos in the Deep South (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina) which is an increase of 431% since the 1990 census. In rates of HIV and AIDS diagnosis Latinos are representing staggering numbers. Although Latinos have far lower rates of HIV and AIDS diagnoses than that among Blacks in the region, they are 2 to 3 times more likely to be living with HIV/AIDS and 3 to 10 times more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than Whites in the Deep South.

The findings from the Commission's research are relatively simple - a lack of culturally and linguistically competent prevention and health care resources, distrust and lack of access to prevention and care providers given the anti-immigrant social and legal restrictions imposed by most States in the region, a well organized commercial sex industry, and a complete lack of programs for Spanish speaking men who have sex with men," said Tim Frasca, primary author of Shaping the New Response.

There are many professionals in health care institutions, community based organizations and State/County health departments that understand the difference between a public health crisis and the politics of the immigration debate. These local

heroes are attempting to reverse these health outcomes while responding to an overwhelming health crisis among regional Black populations. Most of the public health professionals we spoke to understood that the Latino HIV/AIDS epidemic can have extensive repercussions for each State and they have great ideas on how to stop it", said Guillermo Chacon, Vice-President of the Latino Commission on AIDS.

This health crisis must be attacked aggressively, allowing the public health system to operate with the freedom to use current and newly developed resources. We need a local infrastructure that will advocate and provide for increased services for Latinos at risk for and with this disease. Basic research needs to be done to determine innovative and effective methods for prevention and care for this mobile population. Miriam Vega, PhD, Director of Research and Evaluation for the Commission says that, "No one should delude themselves into thinking that the variables that are producing this HIV/AIDS emergency are not also affecting other areas of critical health care for Latinos."

The report provides a mixture of recommendations from roundtables held in each state on Latinos and HIV/AIDS and the Latino Commission on AIDS. A full copy of the Report is available at www.latinoaids.org. Printed copies of Shaping the New Response: HIV/AIDS and Latinos in the Deep South with illustrations can also be ordered at this website.

ABOUT THE LATINO COMMISSION ON AIDS

The Latino Commission on AIDS is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1990 to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis in the Latino/Hispanic communities. For more information visit: www.latinoaids.org or www.nlaad.org. UNIDOS PODEMOS / UNITED WE CAN

AIDS Arms Participates in Community Voice Mail

AIDS Arms is a participating agency in Community Voice Mail, a service sponsored by The Stewpot. With a limited number of boxes available for use, this service is particularly beneficial to clients who are homeless, in transition, without dependable phone service or need confidential messaging. Community Voicemail is a great way for clients to keep in touch with family, employers, potential employers, healthcare providers, social workers, parole officers, legal advocates, housing opportunities and anyone who needs to relay information to them.

"With the downturn in the economy and mounting job losses, housing agencies are predicting a rise in the homeless census making Community Voicemail even more important to our clients. Dallas is no exception to the economic situation and AIDS Arms has experienced an increased demand for Community Voicemail services due to client job loss and phone service disconnections. To date, we have been able to provide enough boxes to meet client demand, but anticipate needing to lease more boxes if current level continues."

Clients can be assigned a free 10-digit phone number (with a 972 area code) that has its own voicemail which can be customized with a client's personal greeting. Voice prompts are also available in Spanish. Community Voicemail is confidential and clients choose their own pass code (PIN) to retrieve messages. Messages can be retrieved from any phone. As an added bonus, job postings are broadcast to Community Voicemail boxes as well as inspiring lessons from Life's Little Instruction Book and information about other social service agency offerings such as flu shots or Community Court announcements. Unlike cell phones Community Voicemail does not use up minutes to retrieve messages and it never runs out of minutes. Contact your case manager to set up a Community Voicemail box.

For more information regarding this and other AIDS Arms services visit www.aidsarms.org.

Thanks to all our Lifewalk 2008 Sponsors!

Presenting Radio Sponsor



Life Partner



Red Ribbon



Water Sponsor



Water Station Sponsor



Life Supporter



FRIEND

Boehringer Ingelham • Ducky Bob's • Gilead Sciences • North Texas Infectious Diseases Consultants • Rx Partners Pharmacy • Starbucks • Steven Graves Insurance • Tibotec

AIDS



ARMS

219 Sunset, Suite 116-A
Dallas TX 75208
www.aidsarms.org
info@aidssarms.org



NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dallas TX
Permit No 3019



GENERAL DISCLAIMER

©2009, AIDS Arms, Inc. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed in AIDS Arms LIFELINES are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of AIDS Arms, Inc. Material contained in AIDS Arms LIFELINES is for information purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any health or exercise regime, program, therapy, philosophy, medical provider, company and/or organization. For adjustments and address changes (please include both old and new address), write to the address below. Allow six weeks for changes. Address all correspondence to AIDS Arms LIFELINES, c/o AIDS Arms, Inc., 219 Sunset, Suite 116-A, Dallas, Texas 75208.