

Underwritten by a generous grant from  Southwestern Bell

Bering Care Center art program discovers hidden talents

'Human life itself may be almost pure chaos, but the work of the artist... is to take these handfuls of confusion and disparate things, things that seem to be irreconcilable, and put them together in a frame to give them some kind of shape and meaning.'



Even if it's only his view of a meaning. That's what he's for - to give his view of life.'

Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980) US short-story writer, novelist

Norma Zoda was not sure what to expect when she accepted the job as Bering Care Center's Activities Director and Client Services Coordinator almost a year ago. After ten years of working with mental health, psychiatric hospitals, drug abuse, and child abuse, she did not expect it to be as challenging as her past experiences. She has been quite surprised by how challenging the work at Bering is.

Norma's role is to provide the client's with an emotional outlet through art, activities, field trips, and weekly discussion groups. Many clients do not have strong family ties or connections with supportive peers. The Care Center provides them opportunities to be part of a family unit and establish friendships. The art and activities programs under Norma's direction facilitate this important bonding process by encouraging client's creativity and self-expression. Art and creative writing projects give them a safe outlet to express their thoughts. A key part of this process is the interaction of the clients with each other. By communicating with each other during the projects, they develop better interpersonal skills. 'I feel really blessed with this job,' says Norma. 'I am only here to make a difference for the clients.'



Norma Zoda, Bering Care Center Activities Director and Client Services Coordinator

Under Norma's direction, the art program has uncovered many hidden talents. The photographs on this page and the back cover of this issue show some of the clients and their individual talents. The clients planned and produced their first annual art show and sale in November featuring canvas paintings, watercolors, ceramics, dried floral designs, and holiday items. The clients were very enthusiastic about the show and worked diligently for many months in preparation. Another show and sale is planned for April. Details will be announced in our next newsletter. ♦

Photography of clients and their artwork courtesy of Wellington International.



President's Message

This is absolutely my favorite time of year. And, unlike when I was a kid, its not because of all the presents!

For me, this is a time of reflection and thanksgiving. 1996 has been a blessed year for the Foundation. We celebrated the thousands of hours our volunteers have given to Bering. What a labor of love it has been for our volunteers and staff to serve our clients. We established the first annual Chuck Hill Humanitarian Award in memory of an outstanding volunteer who passed away this year. The first recipient, Peg Nevers, is a Board member, a volunteer, a friend, and a real blessing to the Foundation.

We also begin a new collaboration with AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services) in the Care Center. AVES has been a wonderful partner for Bering in providing services and outreach to people affected by HIV/AIDS. AVES is a real blessing to Bering and the community we serve.

This year has also seen the passing of friends we will miss, especially Eric Chiarizio. This season of hope is a very important time to remember friends and families that have lost loved ones.

But Hanukkah and Christmas are, after all, celebrations of hope and of light over darkness. I can't think of a better season to symbolize all that Bering is.

Please know that our Board, volunteers, clients, and staff are grateful for all that you have done for us in the past year. We ask that you keep us in your prayers and that you remember us- if you can- in your holiday giving.

*Warmest personal regards,
John M. Gonzalez*

With special thanks to...

**Terry O'Rourke of
Kirby Glen Floral Studio**
for the monthly donation of beautiful
flowers for Care Center client birthdays!



Celebrating the presentation of the Chuck Hill Humanitarian Award are, from left: John M. Gonzalez- BCSF President, Bill Kersten-Executive Director, Robert Snellgrove- Care Center Director, and Peg Nevers- award recipient. The beautifully designed etched glass awards were generously donated by Bob Niel and David Pace of Glassworks.

Annual appreciation party recognizes Bering's devoted volunteers

Sunday, November 10, Bering staff and Board members saluted the efforts of Bering's dedicated volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Open House. Volunteers from all Bering programs gathered at the Nettie Roberts Pierson House for a reception and awards presentation. Bering Board President, John M. Gonzalez, and Executive Director, Bill Kersten, spoke about the importance of volunteers to Bering's mission of caring and presented certificates to each volunteer.

Special medals were presented to those volunteers who have given more than 100 hours of service in the past year. Recipients recognized for the service were:

- ◆ **Dick Altman**- 107 hours of service in the Care Center
- ◆ **Shawn Casaba**- 157 hours of service in the Care Center

- ◆ **Barbara Sadof**- 277 hours of service in the Care Center and Development & Outreach
- ◆ **Robert Meyer**- 300 hours of service in Development & Outreach, and Financial Assistance
- ◆ **Ray Jackson**- 301 hours of service in the Care Center
- ◆ **Charles Bennett**- 321 hours of service in the Care Center
- ◆ **Peg Nevers**- 355 hours of service in the Care Center.

Peg Nevers was presented with the Chuck Hill Humanitarian Award for her superior dedication to the Care Center through 355 hours of service. This award is named in memory of dedicated Care Center volunteer, Chuck Hill, who died earlier this year. Chuck's passionate devotion to the clients of Bering will be commemorated annually by the presentation of this award to the volunteer who devotes the greatest number of hours to the Care Center. ◆

Bering Dental Clinic Capital Campaign gaining momentum

As announced in our August newsletter, the Foundation has launched a \$300,000 Capital Campaign to renovate the Bering Dental Clinic. The renovation will enable the Clinic to expedite service delivery, protect patient confidentiality, improve wheelchair accessibility, expand service capacity, and enhance training of health professionals. The new design will help us deliver care more efficiently and will provide a more comfortable atmosphere for our patients.

The new facility will more adequately reflect the quality of care that the patients have been receiving. The

Bering Dental Clinic provides the most advanced HIV dental and oral medicine care offered in the country, but when many patients come in and see an old, run down facility, they assume that the care they receive will be substandard.

There are several options for donating:

- ◆ **cash donation**
- ◆ **donation of stock**
- ◆ **pledge**

Our goal is to begin construction by mid-1997, but only after the entire \$300,000 is raised. Donations are being sought from private foundations, individuals, and community groups. Opportunities exist to dedicate an area of the Clinic in the

name of an individual or group, as described below. A donation may be paid over the two year period, 1996-1997. There are several options for donating:

- ◆ *cash donation*
- ◆ *donation of stock*
- ◆ *pledge, either single or multi-year*

Please call Stacie Cokinos, Director of Development, at 524-9304 to discuss underwriting opportunities and the best method to make your donation. We can help you decide the best way to participate, while also receiving the maximum tax deduction possible for your contribution. ◆

Campaign update as of November 21, 1996:

<i>Dedication area</i>	<i>Gift amount</i>	<i>Gifts received</i>
X-ray room	\$ 10,000	\$10,000 Mrs. Carl Hermann, in memory of her son
Conference room	\$ 5,000	\$5,000 George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
Prosthodontics suite	\$ 14,000	\$10,000 Rockwell Fund + \$4,000 open for additional donations
Teaching Suite	\$ 30,000	\$10,000 Barry Browning + \$20,000 open for additional donations
Patient suite #1	\$ 24,000	\$12,000 Reach Out Houston + 1996 pledge
Patient suite #2	\$ 24,000	\$9,000 Soiree Aubergine 1996 + \$15,000 open for additional donations
Patient suite #3	\$ 24,000	open for donation
Patient suite #4	\$ 24,000	open for donation
Patient suite #5	\$ 24,000	open for donation
Patient suite #6	\$ 24,000	open for donation
Dark room	\$ 5,000	\$5,000 Peg and George Nevers
Sterilization room	\$ 10,000	open for donation
Patient Waiting Area	\$ 40,000	open for donation
Reception/patient records	\$ 22,000	open for donation
Offices	\$ 20,000	open for donation
Undesignated gifts		\$1,000 David Gosselin/Tenneco \$7,500 Houston Antique Dealers Association \$10,000 In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. T.A. McCardell, Jr. \$1,000 The Estate of John Ortega
1995 gifts for Architectural Plans		

We acknowledge with gratitude the 1996 major funders of Bering's general programs:

Without you our mission of caring would be impossible!

Art Colony Festival
 Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.
 DIFFA- Design Industry Foundation for AIDS
 First United Methodist Church
 George Foundation
 Halloween Magic
 Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS
 Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc.
 The M.W. Kellogg Company
 Robert W. Knox, Sr & Pearl Wallis Knox Charitable Foundation
 Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
 Methodist Hospital
 Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc.
 National Association of Catering Executives
 Pan Energy Corporation
 Prudential Foundation
 Ryan White Title I
 Soiree Aubergine
 Stewart & Stevenson
 Swalm Foundation
 Texas Department of Health
 Traveler's Foundation
 Traveler's Volunteer Incentive Program

Bering programs at a glance...

◆ Bering Dental Clinic

Quality dental care for people with HIV/AIDS through emergency, restorative, and preventative care. 524-7933

◆ Bering Care Center

A licensed adult day care facility with services specifically designed to address the physical, medical and social needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. 520-7070

◆ Bering Financial Assistance

Basic budget planning and financial assistance through payment of rent, mortgage and utilities for persons living with HIV/AIDS. 520-5327

◆ Bering Support Network

Nurturing spaces in which those whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS unite in spirit for the celebration of life through sharing mutual support, strength, acceptance and love. The program operates in tandem with Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. 526-1017

◆ Bering Sentry Program

(starting 1997) Trained volunteers offer respite relief for caregivers of persons with HIV/AIDS. 524-9304

From the desk of the Executive Director...

One of my favorite parables is the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25 (14-30). In this parable, three slaves are entrusted with several talents (talent is 15 years wages) from their master. Two of the slaves invest their talents and double their value. The third slave buried the money. When the master came to settle their accounts, the master praised the two slaves that invested their talents and rewarded them by entrusting them with more. The third slave was condemned for not using what was given to him/her.

The Bering Community Service Foundation is an excellent example of this parable. Almost ten years ago the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church took the gifts and talents it had and invested them in our community. Because of its good stewardship, the Bering Community has been entrusted with more resources, gifts, and talents. The parable of the talents assures us that as long as we use what is given us, we will grow and develop capabilities we never dreamed were possible. As we approach our tenth anniversary year, the Bering Community Service Foundation looks forward with enthusiasm to the continuing opportunities to invest in our community.

As you look to next year, remember the parable of the talents. All of us have been entrusted with special gifts and talents. Whether we use them is our choice. For those of us that do, more gifts and talents were given. Such rewards are truly joyful! Please do not bury your gifts and talents. Instead, invest and enjoy.

I hope this new year brings you the joy of many new gifts and talents.

Sincerely,

Bill Kersten

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR THE
HIV/AIDS
COMMUNITY

GENEROUSLY
UNDERWRITTEN BY

 Southwestern Bell

A PROJECT OF DIFFA/HOUSTON AND THE HIV SERVICE PROVIDERS, INC. • 552-9445

This calendar of fundraising events is brought to you by DIFFA/Houston and the HIV Service Providers, Inc. This listing does not include all events occurring in the greater Houston area. (For information about HIV/AIDS educational events please contact: 524-AIDS). Inclusion in this calendar does not imply endorsements by DIFFA/Houston or the HIV Service Providers, Inc. To receive the calendar, or to add your HIV-related fundraising events, please write: Tori Williams, Chapter Director, DIFFA/Houston, P.O. Box 131605, Houston, Texas 77219, or (713) 552-1671(fax). We look forward to hearing from you.

DECEMBER 1996

- 8 "A Christmas SongFest" tenth annual holiday party benefiting Omega House and The Assistance Fund. Texas Medical Center Ballroom, 2151 W. Holcombe. Tickets start at \$45.00, Open Bar, Buffet. Contact: 713-802-2088.
- 13 "Red Ribbon Toy Drive" deadline for toys to be delivered to AIDS Foundation Houston, 3202 Wesleyan Annex. Toys will benefit children from all ages up to age 15 who are infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. Please leave toys unwrapped. Anyone providing their name and address will receive a written acknowledgment of their donation. Contact: Kristi Conway, 713-623-6796.
- 31 "New Year's Eve Celebrate 97!" at the Wyndham Warwick, benefiting Bering Community Service Foundation. Contact: 713-529-6071.

JANUARY 1997

- 11 "In Your Ear and Off the Wall" evening of art, entertainment, fashion and hope benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. Jags in the Decorative Center. Contact: 713-623-6796.

FEBRUARY 1997

- 2 "Sweet Charity", Texas Medical Center Ballroom, 2151 W. Holcombe, 5:00 p.m. Entertainment, dinner, auction and magnificent chocolate desserts donated by Houston's finest dessert chefs. Benefiting The Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry. Contact: 713-682-5995.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

"Proof of Love" dinner parties in private homes throughout the months of February and March. Benefiting DIFFA/Houston. Contact: 713-552-9445.

MARCH 1997

- 22 "Proof of Love After Party" wrap-up party featuring "Scratch Off Auction", entertainment, desserts. Location TBA. Benefiting DIFFA/Houston. Contact: 713-552-9445.

MAY 1997

- TBA "Fur the Cause", an auction of decorator homes, beds, and other items for pets. Location TBA. Benefiting DIFFA/Houston. Contact: 713-552-9445.

JUNE 1997

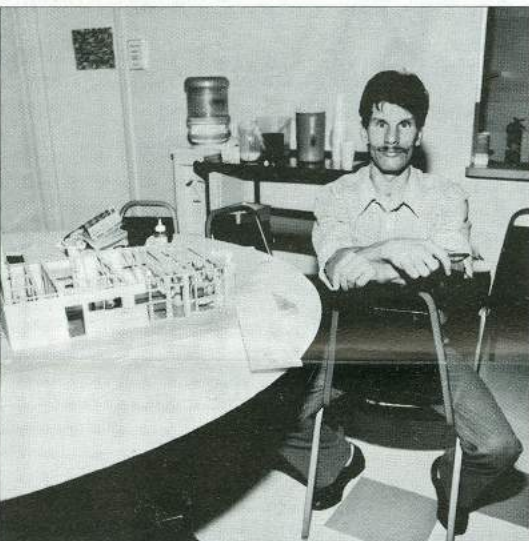
- 5 "Eat Out & Chip In", restaurants donate a percent of their income from the day's total sales. Benefiting DIFFA/Houston. Contact: 713-552-9445.

DIFFA/Houston and the HIV Service Providers, Inc. extend heartfelt thanks to the following individuals for making this calendar possible: Janie Alderman, Mani Kuffel, Stacie Cokinos, Cheryl Duke, Tori Williams, Nolan Norred, Southwestern Bell and our many supporters and donors.



*'Every
production
of an artist
should be
the
expression
of an
adventure
of his soul.'*

W. Somerset Maugham
(1874-1965) British author



Photography of clients and their
artwork on this page and on cover
courtesy of Wellington International.

Partnerships

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