

a periodic
newsmagazine of AFH, Inc.,
underwritten by
Southwestern Bell

offices: (713) 623-6796
hotline: (713) 524-2437
eventline: (713) 629-9255
<http://www.aids-help.org>

LIFELINE

A I D S F O U N D A T I O N

H O U S T O N

W I N T E R 9 6

Think Negative it's the choice of a lifetime

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON recently completed the development of a comprehensive, honest public service campaign about AIDS. Tackling HIV/AIDS infection head-on, the campaign is called "It's the Choice of a Lifetime," and features actors holding packaged condoms and urging sexually active people to use them.

The public service campaign, which includes two TV spots, English and Spanish radio, and print, emphasizes the importance of using condoms as a way to help prevent HIV. The only reasonable choices, the TV ads maintain, are protected sex or abstinence. "This is a condom," says one woman at the end of the spots. "It can help prevent AIDS. Use it. Or avoid taking the risk altogether." Another spot highlights ways you can protect yourself, including using a seat belt, a life preserver, and a condom.

AFH took a straight forward approach, because our research showed that while people have a good understanding of the disease, many are still denying the need to protect themselves against it.

AFH has also launched a campaign called "Think Negative." The "Think Negative" message, aimed at young people ages 18 - 34, says "Stay HIV negative. Think negative about drugs and unprotected sex. And, think positive about using condoms or avoid taking the risk altogether. It's positively the best way to stay negative."

Many factors affect adolescent behavior, and we hope the "Think Negative" and "It's the Choice of a Lifetime" campaigns will bring a heightened awareness that will ultimately translate into prevention and risk reduction behaviors.

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A client talks about **SPIRIT CLINIC,** beecher-wilson apartments, **VOLUNTEERING**

MANY OF LIFELINE'S ARTICLES HAVE FOCUSED on the programs and services of AFH, but the client is always at the heart of everything we do. "Al" is such a client, who is also a dedicated volunteer, and he recently spent time with us to talk about Spirit Clinic, the Beecher-Wilson Apartments, and how AFH has changed his life.

"I was diagnosed with AIDS in March of 1992. I was really scared because I had just been diagnosed and was living alone. I knew about AFH, and moved into Beecher-Wilson at this time and also became a volunteer for AFH. In the very beginning I was concerned about living in a project for persons with HIV/AIDS, but after a couple of months I was very comfortable. I was in a place I could afford and I had a sense of security. This helped get me back on my feet.

"As I overcame my denial and depression, I realized I was just sitting at home doing nothing. I wanted to give back to the Foundation what they were giving to me. I know this sounds like a cliché, but this really is how I felt. After volunteering on the hospital team, I decided to return to work. I was now physically and mentally able to do so. I stopped volunteering and went back to work, working forty to fifty hours a week during the holidays.

"Then I left Beecher-Wilson and moved out of Houston for one and a half years. When I returned to Houston I was sick, both mentally and physically. Again, AFH helped me back on my feet. Working with the volunteers and staff helped me feel productive and my self-esteem improved dramatically. I was living in transitional housing and was placed on the waiting list to return to Beecher-Wilson. During this period, I worked as an office volunteer at AFH, doing whatever I could to help - events like the Toy Drive, the Gala, the Walk, as well as lending a helping hand to any



department that needed it. I moved back into Beecher-Wilson in April 1996.

"The Spirit Clinic opened around this time. I wanted to be involved from the beginning because I knew it would be successful and wanted to be a part of it. The clinic would serve clients and their families in a personal way. This appealed to me. I thought I could help get it started and keep it going.

"Since then I have used the clinic for my own care. I have had lab work done for viral load testing and CD4 testing. I have used every service offered. I like the clinic because you feel very comfortable. You don't have to wait to be seen, and Lyn welcomes you as you come in the door with an offer of a cup of coffee or candy. There are toys for children to play with in the lobby. The atmosphere is unlike any other clinic I've been to. The standard of care has been wonderful; it could not be better! Confidentiality is of the utmost concern of all those involved.

"Since volunteering at AFH my CD4 count has almost doubled, and I expect my viral load to go down drastically. I believe this improvement in my health is a direct result of volunteering at AFH and my mental attitude has changed tremendously. I wanted to do this article in order to express my gratitude to the staff and volunteers of AFH. Together we do make a difference."

Beecher-Wilson Apartments provide permanent housing for People Living With AIDS/HIV who have low incomes. This 32 unit apartment complex allows PLWA/HIV an independent, safe, and affordable living arrangement.

Spirit Clinic, conveniently located in the Montrose area, provides accessible health and wellness care to HIV-infected individuals and their families in a welcoming, comfortable environment. Visits are scheduled by appointment only, minimizing the waiting period for you and your family. Please call Lyn Greenberg, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner with Texas Woman's University, at 524-6052 to schedule an appointment.



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Buddies

by steve stellenwerf and cody hughes



EVER HAVE A REAL "DOWNER" OF A DAY? Ever think that it would be really great to have a shoulder on which to lean? On occasion, we all find some need for emotional, mental, or physical support. Imagine how great that need can be for someone with HIV/AIDS.

AFH's Volunteer Buddy Program provides that extra support for clients who are in need. Buddies offer a shoulder to lean on and an ear for listening. They engage in a wide spectrum of activities, and are there to celebrate the birthdays, holidays, and all the special days in between. The relationships between volunteers and clients are as varied as the hues of the fall season. Each relationship that develops is a special unique bond and unlike any other.

Recently, Sandra, an African American mother of three, was matched with Dorte, a volunteer who has recently moved to Houston from her native Germany. Dorte was doubtful that she could have much in common with Sandra. Within minutes, the two women were speaking on the phone as if they had been friends forever. Not only did they discover that they had much in common, but Sandra has a brother in Germany whom she has never met, and whom Dorte is trying to locate. Sandra has not only found a valued friend that she can count on in times of need, but she may also be closer to finding a brother that she has never met.

Mary, another volunteer, says that one of the most touching, yet funny, experiences involved helping arrange for her buddy to be baptized. Her buddy was adamant about wanting this, and asked for Mary's help. Mary says "I was thinking along the lines of a nice sprinkle, so I made arrangements." When she told her buddy everything was arranged, she was quite surprised when her buddy said "Honey, sprinkle tinkles don't count! I have to be immersed!" So arrangements were made at another local church, and Mary accompanied her buddy and her buddy's parents to the service.

Mary says it was one of the most moving experiences of her life, as she participated in the baptism and in the beautiful moving prayer afterwards. The pastor took the names of all the participants, so they could be included in the church's Sunday prayers. Immediately after the service, Mary's buddy entered the hospital. Until the day she died, members of the church visited her at home and in the hospital. Mary says, "Basically, that is what being a buddy is. Crises, Laughter, Frustration, Sharing, Sorrow, Love."

Currently eighteen AFH volunteers are matched with clients and provide this much needed service. Through the work of these remarkable people and the love and support they provide, we can recognize our common humanity and truly allow the "gift of friendship," not only to be given, but also received.

If you are interested in learning about the requirements to become a buddy, call AFH's volunteer department at 623-6796.

AFH'S 2nd annual black-tie

DIANE MARKS AND TREY YATES, GALA CO-CHAIRS, AND THE "IN YOUR EAR & OFF THE WALL" GALA COMMITTEE have been working fast and furious for the past several months to bring you a truly fantastic celebration of Life, Art, Entertainment, and Hope. The evening will be a lively, joyous time, filled with action and movement. Here's a preview of what you will enjoy:

- A very special Live Auction, consisting of numerous fabulous items
- A Fine Art Auction showcasing several well-known artists
- A Photographic Exhibition by renowned Houston photographers Kimberly Gremillion, Jim Olive, and Evin Thayer
- "The Living Wall", a collaborative community mural project reflecting the hope, challenge, and triumph of the human spirit in the face of HIV/AIDS
- A Raffle, which at \$5 per ticket, will be absolutely the best bargain in town, especially as a Christmas stocking stuffer!

Leading us up to the big night, two very special Kick-Off Parties have been planned by two of our major donors. Neiman Marcus co-hosted an evening with David Yurman, featuring this talented artist's jewelry, on October 24 at the home of Jim and Sally Salners. The Four Seasons Hotel will generously sponsor an exciting holiday party on December 2, when art and auction items for the gala will be previewed.

The Raffle Committee tells us the raffle will include unique packages. Some of their ideas have intriguing titles such as "You Do Voo Doo" (something to do with New Orleans, maybe?); "Culture, Culture, Culture" (we could all use some); and "Get Wired" (either you'll be a new high-wire circus act or high-tech is somehow involved!). The best part is that tickets are only \$5.00 each. There's more...buy at least 20 tickets (a mere \$100!) and become eligible for a very special Grand Prize. The tentative title is "New York, Your Way." Off Broadway, perhaps?

Thanks to the generosity of Jackson Hicks, Houston's premier caterer, "In Your Ear & Off The Wall" will take place at JAGS in the Decorative Center, on January 11, 1997. We promise you a very special evening.

Call AFH's Development Department at 623-6796 for information on corporate sponsorship, raffle tickets, table sales, and individual ticket sales.

All Around Travel Network (690-0445) will donate a percentage of all sales, business and pleasure, which is generated by customers who mention AIDS Foundation Houston. All Around Travel is a full service travel agency, located at 7015 W. Tidwell, Suite 100A Building G, Houston 77092. Ask for Laura or David, and tell them you heard about them in AIDS Foundation Houston's Lifeline.

Thanks

to your generous donations
twenty-two children
along with twenty-five volunteers
were able to go to
Camp Hope
the weekend of September 21st.



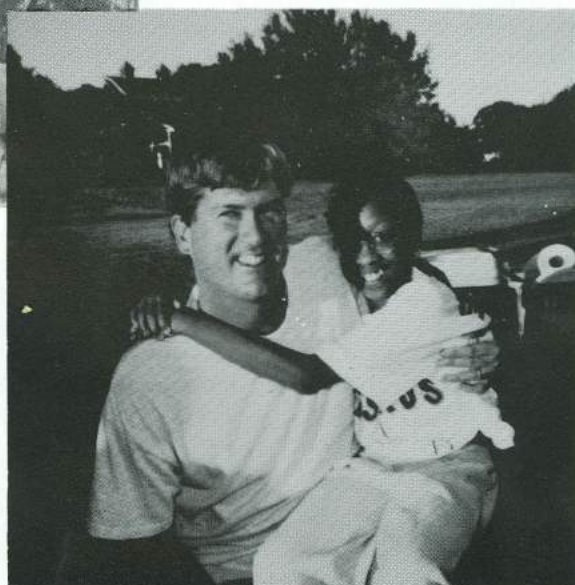
Tom jumping in the pool at swim time.

"I had a great time... When are we going back?"
Louis,
age 7

"It is something I will never forget."
Terry Raburn,
R.N.

"It's difficult to put into words... You just had to see the faces as the kids loaded the bus to leave..."

**Pam Dominguez,
Volunteer Counselor**



Kerelle and Mike Mizwa, AFH Dir. of Education

"I like climbing the walls!" Chante, age 11



Just a really great summer day



Danielle (l) and Roxie enjoy time in the pool

**"I liked camp because I was able to make new friends."
Roxie,
age 11**

"For at least one magical weekend we were able to give to a very special group of children..."

**Dina Billman,
Volunteer Counselor**



Juliett (l) and Kerelle show off their catch

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thanks
to
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take the opportunity
on this page
to highlight just a *few*
of the generous friends
without whom
we could not
survive.

If it was possible to mention every name, we would. As always... to the generous donors we have not specifically mentioned on this page, we thank you.

The founders of a newly-formed troupe of talented children, called Genesis Talent, contacted AFH several months ago, wanting to make their premier concert a benefit for AIDS Foundation Houston. This first-time benefit performance resulted in a generous donation to AFH.

Miss Camp America's annual performance, which benefits a number of Houston-area AIDS community-based organizations, was a resounding success. We are so grateful to have this community support each year.

The Montrose Singers, Inc., also known as The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, gave a performance at Jones Hall which benefited Stone Soup. It was an exciting day when they personally delivered a sizable check.

Take Five!, a group headed by an AFH volunteer, organized a very successful classic film festival at Rice University. These hard-working people donated 100% of the proceeds to AFH.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel hosted a "thank you" party for the Texas Commerce Bank Walk Team. TCB's team was the #1 team in pledges raised in the 1996 Southwestern Bell's From All Walks of Life, and the Crowne Plaza donated space and food for a beautiful party for the team to enjoy. Thank you, Tom Becker of the Alley Theatre, for coordinating this gift for us.

Finally, a very special thank you to all of our loyal and generous donors who responded to the Annual Campaign. We especially thank Victor Rodriguez and Suzy Ginsburg, who are responsible for our new logo and the Annual Campaign design. Your support is the backbone of AFH.

Are you looking for a unique opportunity to support AFH? Sponsor a month on our Internet web site for \$200 - see your name in lights! Your sponsorship will be prominently recognized on our home page. If interested, call the Development Department at 623-6796.

Because You Want to
Talk to Some of the People
Some of the Time,
Some of the People
All of the Time,
And All of the People
Some of the Time.
But You Don't Want to
Talk to All of the People
All of the Time.



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SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

FOR THE
HIV/AIDS
COMMUNITY

GENEROUSLY
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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 SonfFest" 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.
- 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The Board of Directors and management team of AIDS Foundation Houston have just returned from our third annual Board Retreat. The purpose of this intensive, weekend-long exercise is to re-examine our mission and vision to ensure that we are always acting in the best interests of our clients and the community. We also use the time to re-evaluate our own personal commitment to AFH and to rejuvenate our spiritual bonds with each other.

As a team, we reviewed the accomplishments of the past year, and were pleased at all the good things to which we can point. Several women who are part of Project A Friendly Haven have completed their GED certificate and are now employed full-time. Spirit Clinic has won an award of national significance. Twenty-two children with HIV/AIDS went away for a weekend to summer camp, thanks to our generous donors to Camp Hope. Beecher-Wilson's renovation was successfully completed. Land was acquired to build an apartment complex for Project A Friendly Haven....the list goes on and on.

As we move into 1997, we see changes on the horizon. We, the Board of Directors of AFH, have committed to ourselves to be patient through these changes, to work together and take care of each other. Together, we will continue to fulfill our mission and our vision for the future.

Sincerely,

Paul Sofka

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON

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Managing Editor: Mecie Hardin

Layout & Graphics: J. Randal Slocum, Jr.

Copy Editors: Patty Armstrong, Mecie Hardin, J. Randal Slocum, Jr.

Contributing Writers: Mecie Hardin, Cody Hughes, Steve Stellenwerf

Proof-reading, encouragement, and late-night ice cream runs: J. Dale Nowell

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