

AIDS Alive

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 1999

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS...

Eight years ago, one phone call telling us that our son was diagnosed with HIV changed our family forever. Witnessing Bob's suffering and death from this horrible disease, we experienced an overwhelming feeling of helplessness. We could hold Bob when he had the shivers; we could pray with him at night, but we could not keep him alive and with us.

Through Bob's courage to break the silence and reach out to help others, we started educating students, teachers, and parents about AIDS Awareness and prevention. In 1997 we formed a non-profit organization called AIDS Alive, Inc. Since then we have raised funds to support programs that create awareness and foster compassion for those on the journey.

Bob's mission is accomplished when we as individuals and AIDS Alive as an organization can help to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and offer hope, and understanding to those infected and affected. We know we are "Making a Difference" in people's lives. The impact of our organization is most strongly felt when those whose lives have been touched by this disease feel comfortable enough to share their pain and fear with us and confident that we will embrace and support them in any way we can.

Because of each of you and your goodness and compassion, AIDS Alive has touched many lives. You have enabled us to encourage the strong, help carry the weak and cradle the dying. Thank you and may God bless you and your families.

Martie and Bob Gillin

COMCAST CNS "CHANNELS" ITS ENERGIES TO HELP AIDS ALIVE

They ran bake sales, sold red ribbons, held raffles, and conducted telethons. They ran cables, rigged lighting, held interviews, and produced programs. They are a phenomenal team of people whose energy and spirit "Make Things Happen!" They are the men and women of COMCAST. We thank them for dedication to our cause and for partnering with us to "Make A Difference" for those who have been touched by a disease whose demographics have no limits.

1999 - AN ENERGIZING YEAR

With all the promise and excitement surrounding the new millennium, we may at times forget the wonderful days, weeks, and months that have helped to shape 1999. For AIDS Alive there were many more "firsts" as well as numerous opportunities to strengthen and enhance some of our earlier-established events and programs.

Our first "Stay @ Home Ball" provided a tremendous opportunity to welcome other sectors of our community – hosts, chefs, restauranteurs, caterers, and TV producers – who joined together to help change people's attitudes about those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

We also developed a warm and rewarding relationship with COMCAST and its caring and generous staff. Through the untiring work of Mike and Lynn Doyle, Rich Levinson, and a host of others, the message and mission of AIDS Alive was carried into the hearts and homes of millions of Americans.

With a special grant from the Tony Cox Foundation and the expertise of Frank Garrity, AIDS Alive now produces "Coming to Terms," a public service program televised on Adelphia Cable.

By partnering with Neiman Marcus at the Short Hill Mall, AIDS Alive took its message into the states of New York and New Jersey.

This year's *Hoops for Hope* resulted in an enormous increase in the number of participants and sponsors.

Through the efforts of such talented public relations supporters as Kim Hannum, Hugh Braithwaite, David Lipson, Pauline Bogaert, Christina Alex, and many others, the mission of AIDS Alive has been the subject of numerous programs, as well as newspaper and magazine articles.

Like everyone else, we look forward to the turn of the century and to the new millennium. But as we look back on the past year and all its precious moments, we are thankful for one that has been memorable, rewarding, and truly blessed.

...STAY @ HOME BALL IS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING THE MESSAGE AND MISSION OF AIDS ALIVE TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE

Initially it appeared to be a "pie in the sky" concept. The idea of networking people, parties, and the general public on a Saturday evening in April to show support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS seemed like no short order. Yet on April 17th, thirty hosts, chefs, and restaurants, hundreds of patrons, and a talented crew of supporters from CN8 The Comcast Network teamed up to produce a true "pies de resistance." The brainchild of AIDS Alive supporters Suzi and Scott Lustgarten along with Board Members Alex Wolfington and Steve Gillin, the *...Stay @ Home Ball* was designed to be a follow-up to the 1998 Red Ribbon Ball. The plan was to have thirty hosts invite thirty guests to their home for a theme-type dinner party. Thirty of the area's renowned chefs, restaurants and caterers were asked to prepare and donate thirty meals for a particular party. Supporters throughout the area were encouraged to spend an enjoyable evening at home with their friends and families in their own style. At 10 PM, everyone was invited to tune into CN8 to share in a special one-hour COMCAST production telecast live from one of the parties.

After many months of planning and preparation, the mixture of hosts, guests, restaurants, chefs, caterers, and TV producers blended together to create an evening unlike any other. We thank all of those whose generous spirit helped us to prepare "A Recipe for "Making a Difference."

“ACCESSORIZE” TO HELP AIDS ALIVE

M.M. Gillin Lang knew she wanted to do something special to honor the memory of her brother Bob. “Ag had written the article for *Mademoiselle*, Steve had orchestrated *Hoops for Hope*, Martie has used her experience in drafting grant proposals, and everyone else had come up with some way of promoting the work of AIDS Alive. I wanted to plan an event that could be accomplished close to my home where my friends and community could share in the mission of AIDS Alive.” That planning became a reality when over 150 women gathered on October 20th at The Mall at Short Hills for the AIDS Alive...Neiman Marcus Accessory Fashion Show and Luncheon.

M.M. worked hand-in-hand with Erica Grippo - Public Relations Manager for Neiman Marcus, as well as Bill Maggs - Visual and Flowers Manager, Nancy Taylor - Vice President and General Manager, and Sandra Wilson - Senior Fashion Designer - to carry off an elegant afternoon of fun, fashion, and facts about the mission of AIDS Alive.

The committee chaired by M.M., included Brenda Armstrong, Jenny Beimfohr, Aimee Dougherty, Peg Flynn, Martie Gillin, Lizanne Kenney, Leigh Porges, M.Q. Reimel, and Karen Theune. Jessica Haverstick of Stix Graphics designed the unique invitations, and Laurence Craig Distinctive Catering and Event Management prepared a delicious luncheon. Kim Hannum and Co. handled publicity for the event.

Besides being a tremendous financial success in raising \$15,000, the events of the afternoon inspired one of the guests who had lost her brother to this disease over 13 years ago. She remarked about how the openness of M.M. and her family gave her the courage to share this secret that she had kept to herself for many years. Remarked Martie Gillin, “You know you have made a difference when even one person who has been touched by this disease becomes unburdened with the knowledge that there is love and support out there for them.”

M. M. Gillin Lang with Erica Grippo of Neiman Marcus and guests at AIDS Alive...Neiman Marcus Accessory Show and Luncheon held October 20th.

HOOPS FOR HOPE

Pictured from left to right are AIDS Alive founder Martie Gillin, Director Karen Theune, Camp Dreamcatcher Director Patty Hillkirk, Co-Chair Chris Bozzi, St. Joe's Coach Phil Martelli, Villanova Women's Coach Harry Paretta, Co-Chair Beth Devine, St. Joe's player Rob Haskins, and Penn Quakers Coach Fran Dunphy.

AIDS Alive Holds Court at Rosemont

Students from eighteen-area middle and high schools participated in the AIDS Alive *Hoops for Hope* basketball tournament held Sunday, October 24 at Rosemont School of the Holy Child. Local college coaches Fran Dunphy, Phil Martelli, Steph Gaitley, and Harry Paretta were on board to referee and spur the teams on to victory. The arrival of the Phillies Phanatic, The B101, and The Hawk scored high with the players and fans. A pre-tournament reception took place at The Great American Pub in Conshohocken where a “Dare to Duel Pop-A-Shot” contest was held. The sponsor for *Hoops for Hope* was **AND 1 Basketball Clothing**. Numerous local businesses donated prizes and awards for the event. Co-chaired by Chris Bozzi and Beth Devine, the tournament is in its second year and was established by AIDS Alive to raise funds for children to attend Camp Dreamcatcher, a summer overnight camp specifically designed for children infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. To become involved in *Hoops for Hope 2000*, contact the AIDS Alive office.

SPECIAL THANKS

AIDS ALIVE WAS A BENEFICIARY OF THE WOMEN IN CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS GOLF OUTING. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF \$5,000.

MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE ENVISIONED

After five years of providing AIDS awareness education, we have come to the conclusion that HIV/AIDS is only a symptom. The underlying issue is that our youth do not fully realize their value and potential as individuals and they are starving for clear and consistent guidance and leadership from their parents and teachers. To address the issue, AIDS Alive has realized that we need to do the following four things if we are to be effective in

helping youth protect themselves from HIV/AIDS:

- 1 - Help the youth to value themselves
- 2 - Cultivate the leadership skills within and among youth
- 3 - Improve the communication skills of families and teachers
- 4 - Provide parents and teachers with the tools to work together to support the student's efforts to improve their self-esteem, leadership, and communication skills.

organizations and individuals working to address the many other issues facing youth today. We envision coordinating a Millennium Conference to include speakers who have a reputation for making a strong commitment to youth and families.

To learn more about our plans for the **Millennium Conference** or to become involved in this exciting project, contact Karen Theune at AIDS Alive, 1084 E. Lancaster Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010

To help accomplish these goals, AIDS Alive recognizes the need to join forces and collaborate with

Phone: 610-519-9600
Fax: 610-526-9630

AIDS ALIVE WISH LIST

We have moved our offices and are in need of some items to equip this office and help us to continue our mission. If you can donate any of these items, we would be most grateful.

- Staff Salaries
- Two PC's
- Laser Printer
- Four rolling adjustable office chairs
- Phones - 2/Line and Conference
- TV and VCR
- Microwave
- Water Cooler
- Small Refrigerator
- Projection Screen

THANK YOU

AIDS Alive
1084 E. Lancaster Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010

PLEASE NOTE
OUR NEW ADDRESS

- I would like to support the work of AIDS Alive through the enclosed tax deductible gift in the amount of: \$ _____
- I would like to discuss corporate sponsorship for AIDS Alive and its programs of Awareness and Prevention. Please call me at: _____
- I would like to arrange an AIDS Awareness Presentation at my School. Please contact me at:
- _____
- Name of School
- _____
- Phone Number
- I would like to become involved in planning the Millennium Conference: ____
- I would like to volunteer: ____

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

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