



the source

AIDS INTERFAITH NETWORK

FRIENDS OF AIN That's what Friends are for

By Steven Pace, LMSW—Executive Director

As we prepare for World AIDS Day on December 1, what we know about HIV/AIDS is very alarming: 5 people worldwide die of AIDS every minute of every day. HIV has touched every part of our world—42 million men, women, and children worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. 5 million people were infected last year alone. Here at home, Dallas County had the highest number of new cases of HIV infection in the state of Texas for the year 2002. In the third decade of AIDS, the number of persons being infected with HIV is increasing once again.

The news is not encouraging and reminds me of the early years of the pandemic. At that time, it was also difficult to find anything hopeful. As the number of infections soared, people with HIV/AIDS were stigmatized and rejected—they often lost their friends, families, jobs, and homes; most lost their lives. Medical treatment was not yet effective against the virus, and most had very limited care, if any. Even the church closed its doors at first to those who were suffering and dying. Our clients often died before we could do much to help them. For me personally, I lost the majority of my friends to this disease. It was a time that I could never have imagined and is sometimes still difficult to comprehend.

But where I found hope during those years was in the actions of individuals. Throughout the history of the epidemic, the generosity of individuals has made the difference. Individuals became *friends of the cause* by first helping serve those in need, and then by giving the money to fund a sustained response to the crisis. In the background of that time, Dionne Warwick sang the words that became the theme song of the cause for many years: "...keep trying...know that you can always count on me, for sure...in good times, in bad times, I'll be on your side forever more...that's what friends are for..." These *friends* made the difference in the course of the epidemic then, and they still do now.

As HIV infections increase, the number of persons seeking services increases and the need for sustained services is greater than ever before. We need your help. This is the time of year that we begin our annual giving campaign. We are asking you to partner with us to raise funds by becoming a *Friend of AIN*. Join our *friends*, Honorary Co-Chairs Alexa Conomos, the Noon News Anchor for WFAA Channel 8, and Allan Peck, the Afternoon On Air Personality of 96.7 [The Twister] Radio, in making our Sustaining Fund drive successful.

As with all nonprofits, AIN has been affected by the economy. In addition, shifts in the priorities of government funding make raising funds even more challenging. While we recognize that our services cannot reach all the needs worldwide, we bring help and hope here in Dallas—and you can help. During this campaign, *Friends of AIN* make financial contributions and/or pledges to the AIN Sustaining Fund. These contributions become the basis of our operating budget and help us insure continuing operation of our programs and services. Individual giving makes the difference in our funding needs now just as in the past—in our funding campaign, *that's what friends are for*.

HIV/AIDS is still a crisis. Responding to the crisis must still be a priority here in Dallas as it is throughout the world. Whether you respond to this article or to correspondence you may receive soon from Alexa and Allan, please help us do the work that still needs to be done. Every dollar makes a difference. Thank You in advance for becoming a *Friend of AIN*.



Alexa Conomos
WFAA-TV

Allen Peck
The Twister

FRIENDS OF AIN - Why is The Sustaining Fund Important?

Government grants provide the majority of funding for HIV/AIDS care, but the priorities of government funding are changing once again. These funds are shifting away from programs that are classed as access or support services and are being absorbed into medical treatment services and HIV/AIDS medications. My purpose is not to debate the merits of these shifts, but is rather to examine their effects on AIN. For AIN, government grants represent over 70% of our program funding, and the shifts potentially affect over 30% of those funds in the next two years.

Most of our programs are classed as access, support, or educational services. Through them we currently serve 1,400 men, women, children, and youth with HIV/AIDS, and see almost 30,000 individuals through outreach, HIV education, prevention case management, and advocacy.

- The funding shifts do not change the needs of clients who must have a variety of support services in addition to medical care to sustain their lives.
- The shifts also do not change the need for continued intervention into the spread of HIV.

What the funding shifts define is our task: we must cultivate other sources of funding of our vital client service programs, and we must continue to decrease our dependency on government grants. To do that, we need help from our *friends*. One of our strategic goals is to increase the level of individual contributions to AIN. By becoming a *Friend of AIN*, you help us overcome these shifts and move toward a greater level of financial stability. Your contributions are the basis for funds that help sustain our programming now and in the future. Your contributions help our clients and communities know that we will be there to help and to serve in the future.

FRIENDS OF AIN - Who is served by our contributions?

Of our 1,400 clients in direct service, 55% are African American; 19% Hispanic; and 26% are Anglo or others ethnicities—22% are women and over 12% children and youth. Over 88% have incomes under \$10,000 per year, and over 95% live below the poverty level for their circumstances. 55% are medically unable to work; over 85% are unemployed; and more than 28% are from Dallas' homeless population or are living in transitional circumstances. Because of this level of need, AIN programs are provided without charge to clients regardless of their age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, political affiliation, disability, or mode of contracting HIV.

Through outreach, HIV education, prevention programs, and client advocacy, AIN will also reach about 30,000 individuals from our various communities. Hopefully, most of these will never get HIV because we are there to educate them or help them intervene in their behaviors. All of these individuals are at-risk and need information that we provide. Many need to be tested and we help that to happen. Some of these individuals may already be infected but do not know it; our contact helps them face the truth. Some know they are HIV positive but are not yet in care; we help them enter into care.

Your contributions help sustain the 9 different programs that AIN provides. Through them, we bring practical help, emotional or spiritual help, and hope those who are living with HIV/AIDS, and their families, friends, and caregivers.

FRIENDS OF AIN - How much money is helpful?

Every contributed dollar helps make a difference. Through the Sustaining Fund, we ask *Friends of AIN* to consider making a tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more if possible.

AIN'S 2003 Volunteer Recognition Event "Celebracion de Voluntarios"

The year 2003 brought us our most successful Volunteer Recognition Event yet! Celebracion de Voluntarios, a celebration of volunteers, definitely lived up to it's name. There is nothing more important to AIN than our volunteers. This year we wanted to show you, our volunteers, just how much we appreciate everything that you do. This year, nearly 100 people attended the event.

We thank the Cathedral of Hope for the generous donation of their fellowship hall to host our event. The evening began with everyone entering the hall with salsa music playing, signing in and registering to win fabulous door prizes provided by AIN, and gift baskets containing hair products donated by Trade Secret at the Galleria valued at \$250-\$300. The baskets were beautifully decorated and put together by Marc Bosaw and Victor Clements.

The program began with welcoming remarks from Steven Pace, our Executive Director and Mary Marshall, our Volunteer Coordinator. The first award presentation of the evening was The Crystal Hope Award given by our Board of Directors to either an individual, organization or group that has gone above and beyond the call of duty for AIN. This year's award was presented by our Board President, Carolyn Webber to Andy Scanlon. Andy has been the driving force behind the Leo Party that has raised funds at the Hidden Door for the past 16 years. These funds help support our adult day care program, the *Daire Center*.

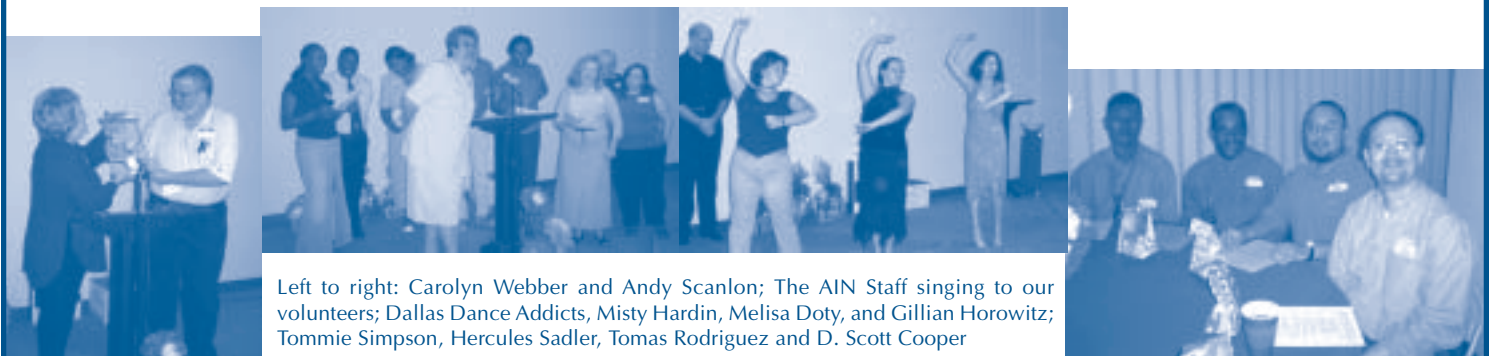
What AIN Volunteer Recognition Event would be complete without the Staff Song for Volunteers. This year, Sandra Hitz, the Coordinator of the Daire Center wrote the song to the tune of Feliz Navidad. As always, it was a hit! Everyone enjoyed a wonderful buffet of Tex-Mex food that was all graciously donated by Tejano Restaurant, El Ranchito, Chuy's, Taco Bell and On the Border in the West End. Top that off with an absolutely gorgeous vanilla cream cake filled with a raspberry chambord, decorated for the theme of the event, and donated by the incredible Dallas Affairs Cake Company. Thanks Betty for your time and talent.

The event continued with the dancing entertainment of the Dallas Dance Addicts. This group of people graciously donated their time and talent to entertain everyone with their fabulous Salsa and Merengue moves. Thank you Dallas Dance Addicts for showing us how it's done! The highlight of the evening was The Recognition of Volunteers for 2003. The following groups and individuals were recognized for their incredible dedication and commitment to AIN and our clients:

Outstanding Care Team: ***St. Patrick's Catholic Church***
Outstanding Cell: ***Cell Six***
Outstanding Care Team Leader: ***Grace McFerrin***
Outstanding Volunteers in Client Services: ***D. Scott Cooper and Janel Brown***
Outstanding Pastoral Services: ***Rev. Vanessa Ingram***
Outstanding Board of Directors: ***Robbin Peck***
Outstanding Center-Based Volunteer: ***Mary Lou Welch***
Outstanding Development Volunteer: ***Michael Dulaney***
Outstanding Community Volunteer: ***Administaff Companies***

We couldn't do what we do each and every day if it wasn't for these outstanding individuals, groups of people and ALL of our volunteers. Please be sure to check out our website at www.aidsinterfaithnetwork.org in order to view all the pictures that were taken at the event by Betty Viguet, one of our volunteers from Administaff Companies.

We would also like to thank Barry Creel, Lynn Burdick with Events by Lynn, and Daniel Blackburn for all their hard work in helping our Volunteer Coordinator plan and present this event. The invitations and programs were printed and donated by Dean Smauder and The Print Place in Addison, thank you! Another year has gone but the 2004 Volunteer Recognition Event will be here before we know it so get ready for another fun filled fabulous evening!



Left to right: Carolyn Webber and Andy Scanlon; The AIN Staff singing to our volunteers; Dallas Dance Addicts, Misty Hardin, Melisa Doty, and Gillian Horowitz; Tommie Simpson, Hercules Sadler, Tomas Rodriguez and D. Scott Cooper

Remember . . .

Holiday Concert

We are excited to announce our Holiday Concert returns this year on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH** at Church of Transfiguration, starting at 8:00 p.m. The concert will feature holiday favorites sung by ensembles from The Turtle Creek Chorale and The Women's Chorus (Turtle Soup and Soundscape). 1 A Cord, a combined chorus, will make their debut at this event. Dr. Timothy Seelig is the Director. You are sure to enjoy this wonderful evening of entertainment. The concert will benefit AIN and AIDS Outreach Ministry of the Church of Transfiguration. For ticket information, please call Maria Flippen at (214) 943-4444.

Christmas Ornaments

Shop early. We have our 2003 AIDS Christmas Holiday Ornaments on hand.

We invite you to support our vital programs through the purchase of our collector's editions holiday ornament. This year's stunning design features the **Wings of Peace** doves adorning a Christmas tree with a garland of red ribbon, representing the international symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness. This collector's edition ornament is solid brass with a 24kt gold finish accented by brightly colored enamels. The actual size is 1 2/3 x 3 1/3 inches. The cost is \$15.00.

We also have limited quantities of the stunning design for 2002 is still available. The 2002 theme features the "**Making Spirits Bright**" sleigh, which is symbolic of the celebration of life and the blessings of friends and family. Both collectors' edition ornaments are solid brass with a 24 kt. gold finish accented by brightly colored enamels and distinctively packaged in a gold foil stamped box with velour inside. These ornaments make a wonderful gift.⁹ The cost is \$12.00.

To purchase these Commemorative Holiday Ornaments please call Maria Flippen at 214-943-4444. You may purchase both ornaments for \$25.00



AIN's Holiday Wish List

As the holidays approach us, please consider making donations to AIN. The following items are on our "wish list":

- Volunteers to assist in client programs
- 2 new 5-7 passenger mini vans for transporting clients
- Warm mens clothing and coats for our Daire Center clients
- Modular conference room tables with stackable chairs
- Pentium III (or newer) computers, HP printers, computer monitors
- Overhead transparency projector, overhead computer projector

Please contact Maria Flippen at 214-943-4444 to make a donation.





World AIDS Day



According to UNAIDS estimates there were 38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children living with HIV at the end of 2002, and during the year 5 million new people became infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. 95% of the total number of people with HIV live in the developing world. But HIV still remains a threat to people of all ages and nationalities.

Stigma and Discrimination is the theme of the 2003 World AIDS Day. In many parts of the world, discrimination prevents people who are known to have HIV from securing a job or caring for their families. Discrimination can cause isolation and marginalizes people who have HIV and AIDS. This can prevent people from being offered or seeking the treatment which could save their lives.

In order for HIV to be effectively tackled on an international level, efforts need to be made to

- End the discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS.
- Educate people in safer sex and drug use, using appropriate media.
- Provide condoms freely to people in the developing world.
- Provide financial and medical assistance so that people with HIV and AIDS can be treated.

Started in 1988, World AIDS Day is not just about raising money, but also about raising awareness, education and fighting prejudice. World AIDS Day is also important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

Contact us for information about local observances of World AIDS Day 2003.

(Source: Avert)

Understanding The spread of HIV/AIDS in Dallas

Young people are highly at-risk of being infected with HIV, and this is as true in Dallas as in the rest of the world. HIV infections are once again increasing among Anglos as well as African Americans and Hispanics. Younger minority women represent over 22% of cases of HIV/AIDS in this country, while women represent almost 50% of cases worldwide. Youth, teenagers, and young men and women between the ages of 13 and 24 are the fastest growing group being infected with HIV. Young adults between the ages of 25 and 44 comprise the majority of persons now living with HIV/AIDS here. It could happen to anyone—one decision can change your life forever. AIN needs your financial support to make a difference in the spread of HIV/AIDS in Dallas.

Volunteer Program in Client Services

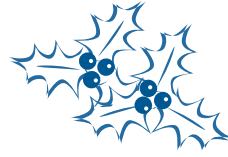
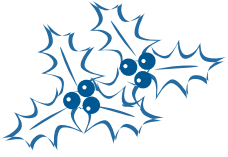
Mourning Is A Journey

The death of people we care about and love changes our lives forever. The transformation from time to eternity can be a painful journey. In my life and those of grieving people I have worked with, I have learned in healing we cannot skip over of our grief. Instead, we must journey through it, sometimes winding the side roads, sometimes plowing directly into its raw center. Mourning is a journey that requires an external expression of feelings and reflections of our grief. Mourning places you as an active participant in the grief process. It is natural to grieve when a love one dies, but our healing comes through the process of mourning.

Onward, Souls Eternal

I am so happy no soul is lost from God.
Onward, souls eternal, rise and walk with God.
Come and tread the pathway that the saints have trod.
Ever upward, onward, soar to heights sublime.
Live on Spirit's mountain all the days of time!
Onward, souls eternal, Sons of God are we.

Linda K. Lewis



Thank You

to all of our supporters in 2003.

We wish each of you a warm Holiday Season.

The AIN Board, Staff & Clients



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Carolyn Webber
President

Nancy Torell
Vice President

Donna Hugly
Treasurer

Robbin Peck
Secretary

Staff of AIN

Steven Pace
Executive Director

Georgia Thornton
Assistant Executive Director

Maria Flippen,
Director of Development

Joe Burnham
Director of Finance



"Your Source
of Hope and Help"

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