

A Letter of Love

By: Virginia "Dinny" Truesdale

Virgina "Dinny" Truesdale, a member of The AIDS Project Advisory Board, was one of the top money raisers for the recent Maine AIDS Walk/Portland. She collected over \$1500 in pledges, much of it from her co-congregants at St. Bartholomews Episcopal church. The following is part of an open letter she wrote to those friends.

"We all are beginning to learn more about AIDS and its tragic consequences. But still, for some people, it is hard to feel its impact because they don't know anyone who has died of the disease. AIDS, like any other life-threatening disease, takes its toll on family and friends, but — unlike other diseases — our society places a stigma on people who are HIV-positive, or who are living with AIDS. Some people with AIDS are still rejected or disowned by their families. They lose their jobs, their apartments or houses because of discrimination or lack of funds. They are rejected by many caregivers, and even their friends seem to vanish into thin air. (Maybe it's because they feel that, 'there but for the grace of God, go I.')

One of the reasons I, and my family, feel so passionately about the subject is that our son has lost nine friends because of AIDS — all in one year! He devoted all his time to being a caregiver, driving his friends to doctors' appointments, visiting them at hospices, buying groceries, tending to their dogs and cats, holding their hands and comforting them on their death beds, allowing them to die with dignity. He was asked to assist someone who wanted to commit suicide. He said, 'No,

but I won't stop you either'. He has arranged for undertakers to come for a body (some undertakers are still very reluctant to do this). He has planned funerals, and held receptions at his apartment for broken and bereaved family and friends. He has acted as trustee for an estate. He has brought together families who had been torn apart by the fact that their son, daughter, brother or sister had AIDS. He has carried out last wishes, arranged flowers, read poems, and passages at services, cleaned out apartments. And he has cried. He has done all this before the age of 32.

All of these terrible experiences has had its positive aspects. Our son has joined a church and has gotten much strength, comfort, and support from his new friends there. He savors every day and takes notice of all the beauty that surrounds all of us but sometimes is taken for granted. He has learned to pay attention to the important things in life and disregard the unimportant. He never fails to show his love and appreciation for his friends and family. How lucky we are to have him as our son.

So, for all the people who still feel untouched by AIDS, I feel great happiness. But may they always remember that there are millions and millions of others whose lives will never be quite the same again because they happen to be a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, or a friend of someone who knows someone who is living with AIDS. Thanks again for all your wonderful support — and for letting me tell my tale."

The AIDS Project

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The AIDS Project provides support services to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS and prevention education in Cumberland, York, Oxford and Androscoggin counties.

We actively work to promote diversity and nondiscrimination, in particular to women, minorities, people with disabilities, people with HIV, and various sexual orientations. Finally we embrace the diversity of community.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Deborah Shields, Esq., Executive Director

Welcome to our revamped and revitalized AIDS Project. As you will read elsewhere in these pages, we have added five new staff members since last winter who each bring a wealth of talent, compassion and creativity to TAP. These changes allow us to add new services, programs and support groups. One of these exciting new projects is the growth of our volunteer department which will now be overseen by our full-time Volunteer Coordinator Eve Cimmet. This position will allow us to expand the range of direct services that we can offer to clients - such as transporting clients to medical appointments, making meals, running errands and offering companionship. It will also increase our pool of volunteer educators and increase our hotline staff and clerical support. We hope that the entire community will use this opportunity to find their volunteer 'niche' at TAP.

We are currently in the midst of launching an in-depth client needs assessment which will enable us to fine tune our long range plan and give us the feedback we need in order to design programs that best meet the needs of people infected and affected by HIV. Upon completing this study, our Support Services Coordinators-Jane K. O'Rourke and Diana Carrigan-will add new support groups, workshops and programs that will hopefully reach more HIV+ people and their families and friends throughout our four-county area. We are also seeking feedback from clients on ways in which they might like to be involved in more of the administrative and planning aspects of TAP; whether through a consumer advisory group, as regular board members or in quarterly meetings. We hope that all people who receive these surveys take the time to fill

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

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them out and return them so that their voices are heard.

One of the programs that we will be offering again this winter will be the 'Estate Planning' law clinic for clients at the University of Maine Law School. Thanks to the support of Sumner Bernstein, Esq., we will be able to offer clients the opportunity to meet with student attorneys who will assist them in completing Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, etc. This program will begin in January and will continue until early May and attorneys will be able to see clients in their homes or in the hospital if necessary. Throughout the year, TAP also offers clients access to a large pool of volunteer attorneys who are willing to work on a pro bono basis and assist on a wide variety of legal problems including discrimination, housing problems, bankruptcy, divorces, custody issues, and estate planning. Clients need simply to tell their case managers of their legal problems in order to receive these services.

Our largest new service will be our rental assistance project known as HAVEN (Housing and Volunteer Enlistment Network). As you may know, we recently received a three year grant from HUD of HOPWA funds - 'Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS' to provide rental assistance to up to 20 HIV+ people a year and their families, friends and lovers. These funds will allow us to offer clients a continuum of housing services - from rent assistance in their own independent apartments to supported apartments overseen by the AIDS Lodging House to supported residential care at Peabody House. We will be working with the AIDS Lodging House who will oversee another five scattered site apartments, with Shalom

House who will assist in administration, with the Family Therapy Institute who will offer family therapy to people enrolled in the program, and with Peabody House who will manage an emergency, transitional two bedroom apartment, will operate a supported residential care facility for people in the end stages of AIDS and will provide volunteer services for clients involved in any aspect of the project. TAP will also offer case management services and volunteer assistance, including our usual range of support groups, workshops, and meal programs to clients living within the HAVEN homes. Unfortunately, HUD has not informed us of when we will actually receive the money, but we hope to be starting the project early this winter.

Our prevention education department is also evolving with the help of new staff members John Holverson - our Coordinator of Prevention Education/HIV Prevention Educator, Linda Pfaffinger, our new Community Educator, and the ongoing work of Willy Willette, better known as the "Condom Man." Their experiences and in-depth research studies have shown that the best methods for making long term changes in safe sex behaviors is to provide support groups that focus on the interpersonal skills and self esteem needed to consistently practice safer sex. We hope to be offering these skills-building support groups to women at risk for HIV, young people (especially young gay men), and to men who have sex with men. We will continue our community prevention education efforts in order to inform all members of our community of the ways in which HIV can be transmitted and the ways it can be prevented. After all, in this second decade of the disease, we are all affected by HIV.

News About Grants

Grants from independent foundations provide an important source of support for the on-going work of The AIDS Project. Such money is the result of separately prepared proposals for support of specific work which TAP is doing. Since the beginning of 1994, The AIDS Project prepared the following successful proposals for support of its programs.

The Thaxter Foundation — to purchase a FAX machine	\$950
Nine Wicket Foundation — to publish agency brochure	\$2,000
George F. Baker Trust — annual fund leadership challenge	\$10,000
Portland Rotary — VCR/TV for prevention education	\$400
National Library of Medicine (with Portland Public Library) — technology & training to access NEARNET information retrieval	\$25,000
Maine Women's Fund — Women's Resource Guide	\$2,500
HOPWA — over 3 years(prepared with Shalom House, Peabody House, AIDS Lodging House) - housing vouchers and housing coordinator	\$670,000
Matthew John Life Enhancement Fund -- to provide direct support to those living with HIV/AIDS	\$3,300
TOTAL	\$714,150

It is grants such as these, along with the gifts of many individuals, which provide the operating money necessary to maintain TAP client and prevention education programs.

For information about memorial giving, providing support to TAP through a bequest or other estate planning, or support through the annual giving program, please contact the Development Office at The AIDS Project (774-6877).

Writing Positive

WRITING POSITIVE, a writing group for people living with HIV/AIDS, will begin meeting in January, 1995. WRITING POSITIVE will be an opportunity for people with HIV to explore their hopes and fears in a safe, supportive and confidential atmosphere. We'll start with some easy exercises to loosen up the creative juices, and then move on to wherever our writing takes us. No prior writing experience is necessary -- only the urge to put words on paper call. The project will be led by Rita Kissen, a member of the USM faculty, active member of P-FLAG, and a volunteer at The AIDS Project. The AIDS Project, 774-6877, and ask for Eve Cimmet, to obtain further information.

THE LITTLEST FUNDRAISER

Back in March of 1994, TAP's Development Office received a phone call from eight year-old Robin Davis, a South Portland resident and Hamlin Elementary School student. Robin who had previously done fundraising for "Earth Club," an environmental group begun by his older brother, had developed a fundraising idea that he was interested in sharing. As a result of this initial phone conversation and subsequent meetings with TAP's Development staff, Robin embarked on a three-month long door-to-door fundraising drive to raise money for people living with HIV/AIDS. Entirely conceived and initiated by Robin himself, and with support from his family, he took to the streets of South Portland. Armed with TAP's "Who We Are — What We Do" agency statement and a pledge collection sheet, Robin went door-to-door requesting donations, explaining his mission and that of The AIDS Project.

Door-to-door fundraising is no easy task, as Robin soon learned. Despite a host of challenges, from the slamming of doors in his face to a lack of understanding about AIDS, Robin was determined to stick it out and spent many an afternoon on his bike and on foot, traversing the neighborhoods near his home. At the end of May, Robin presented TAP with the fruits of his efforts — pledges totalling \$47.37!

Robin's fundraising project touched everyone at TAP — volunteers, clients and staff alike — and many took the opportunity to meet the young fundraiser and congratulate him on his success. Susan Tremblay, TAP's Associate Development Coordinator, had the pleasure of

spending some time with Robin, learning a little bit more about him, his interests, and his charitable work.



When asked what interested him about The AIDS Project, Robin was frank "I wanted to help a good cause, and I had been hearing alot about AIDS at school. I picked up the phone book, looked under 'AIDS,' and found The AIDS Project. That was it!"

At Hamlin Elementary, Robin was recently involved in a read-a-thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "Students got pledges based on how many books they could read. And the students who raised the most money won prizes!" Additionally, Robin was involved in the 1st Annual Rainforest Yard Sale, organized by his brother's Earth Club and held at their home. The sale raised \$200 to benefit The Children's Rainforest, Inc. The sale was such a huge success that it has been held annually ever since! Robin's class has also held bake sales to benefit Rainforest preservation.

In addition to his fundraising projects, Robin loves soccer, football, playing the piano, and computer games. "One of my favorites is *Sim (Simulation) City*, where I am the mayor and I have to zone the city as residential, commercial or industrial, and build police stations, fire stations, libraries and schools."

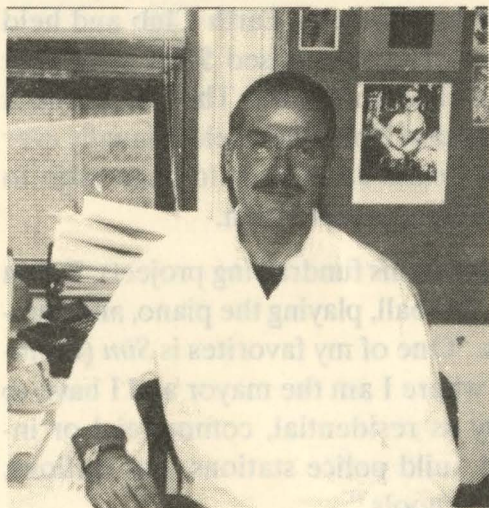
All of us at TAP are exceedingly proud of Robin and his achievements. People from all walks of life are making a difference in the fight against AIDS here in Maine, and Robin is one such special person. **THANKS ROBIN!**

Spotlight on Staff

by Amanda Coffin

With the creation of two new staff positions and one internship at TAP, and the filling of three vacancies, there are six new faces at the agency. Each of these exceptional people could easily be the subject of an engrossing ten-page article, but, given editorial limitations, we're focusing on two of them in this edition and we will profile the others in upcoming newsletters.

John Holverson is a conundrum -- he's a tall, somewhat physically imposing man with a thoughtful and heartening voice. Both his past work as Director of the Portland Museum of Art and his current position as Coordinator of Prevention Education/HIV Prevention Educator at TAP illustrates his dual capacities for dreaming and doing. At the museum, John planned and acquired collections as well as directing the construction of the Payson Building. At TAP, he not only provides direct educational services but is always envisioning ways to enhance his methods. John's position at TAP includes the supervision of the other two members of the Education department, writing grant proposals, completing quarterly reports and



other paperwork and, finally, running the Men Who Have Sex With Men outreach program. John describes the challenges of creating

trust with the men who've gathered for casual sex encounters as having to "become a part of the environment without ever altering it." Initially, he tries only to dispense condoms and information about safer sex practices, but his larger goal is to find a means to draw the men into discussions

about the spiritual and psychological aspects of their behavior, discussions of things such as intimacy, image and compulsion. When I asked John to tell me about his greatest frustration with his new job, I was certain he'd say that there's just too much to do. His answer was different: "There's just not enough time." It really is an entirely different answer.

Linda Pfaffinger shares an office with John. Like a terrier, Linda is small, and carries herself with feistiness and determination. Her bulletin board is covered with AIDS educational posters and photographs of her beautiful, 4 year old, Bay Morgan Horse. Linda began her work as the Community Educator on September 28, 1994. She commutes to Portland four days a week and maintains a small private coun-

selling practice in Brunswick. She started with a Bachelor's degree in Education, then tacked on a second Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology and later a Master's in Social Work, all of which sounds like the perfect academic preparation for her position at TAP. Describing her past work, Linda talks about working with "all sorts of major social problems -- domestic violence, rape, substance abuse ..."



Linda's job is two-fold: she must take education out to certain target groups and also respond to the organizations that call The AIDS Project to request educational speakers and programs. Talking about her outreach work, Linda explains that state grants often specify target groups for her efforts, such as teen-agers, Women and other minorities. She must then develop educational methods for each target group and determine how best to reach her audience. Linda speaks very expressively about the

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Spotlight on Staff

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challenges of providing educational programs in schools. As the mother of a teenaged son, Linda says she can empathize with parents who feel that they, not the schools, should provide sex education. Yet, as an educator, she clearly believes that ignorance is a dangerous thing.

We are very proud of our Education Department at The AIDS Project, all the more so with the addition of these fine new staff members. Watch for news of other TAP workers in upcoming issues of *Newsline*.

More Accessible Services in York County

The AIDS Project has a growing caseload of HIV+ clients in York County. There are over thirty "official" clients, not counting family members, significant others, and professional care-givers who have some connection with case management at TAP. The York County case managers, Diane Elze from 1988 to 1991, John Bean from 1991 on, have always been based at TAP's Portland office. This made some sense because of the administrative support available at TAP, and because Portland had many of the unique resources vital to people living with AIDS. In addition, these case managers typically carried another caseload in Cumberland County of thirty or more clients. For York County, they used their cars as offices, doing occasional home visits and meetings, but as a rule, contact over the phone, or having clients drop in at TAP, was necessary. This service-delivery system has been strained by the influx of new clients, by the more and more precarious balance between Portland-area and York County client needs.

In response to the growing need, a couple first steps have been recently been taken. A search for

More Accessible Services

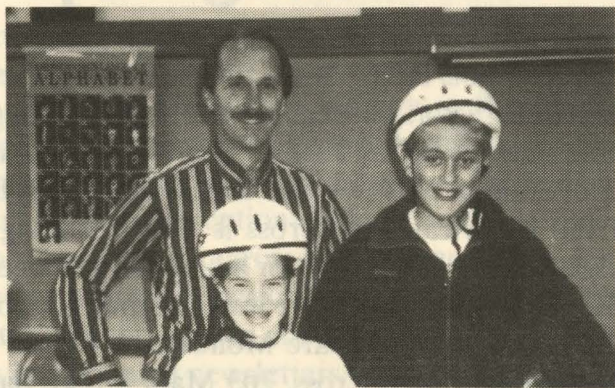
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inexpensive (donated and free) office space was conducted this fall by Paul Draper, TAP's Development Director. Through his efforts, and through some networking by Jane O'Rourke, Coordinator of Support Services, the York County Chapter of the American Red Cross is now providing a private office in Sanford for a half-day per week, with the possibility of more hours as time goes on. The new office hours are Mondays, 1-4 P.M., at the American Red Cross, 203 Main Street, Sanford, Maine. John Bean can be reached there at (207) 324-4071. The location has already proved convenient for some new clients, who didn't have to travel to (or park in!) Portland to connect with TAP. Another benefit of the new schedule is an easier collaboration with York County care providers, because being closer helps make meeting happen, and because a local phone number and regular hours tend to make TAP services more "real" and accessible for agencies who haven't had previous experience with TAP. As word spreads, we hope that our current clients, and potential clients, will get more help when they need it, where they need it.

The other new development is a support group for people living with HIV and those affected by HIV, meeting at Southern Maine Medical Center Monday evenings 5:30 -7:00, in the second floor classrooms opposite the cafeteria. It is attracting a diverse group of individuals (men, women, positive and not, family, significant other) who welcome new members. Because support groups in the Biddeford area have not always been well attended, this group is designed to be inclusive, to be open to all who have been touched by AIDS. To try to assure continuity and access to TAP resources, John Bean is facilitating the group. Newcomers can just drop in; the classroom schedule will have a room reserved for "T.A.P."

These are some of the ideas that have come up in The AIDS Project's long range planning process to better address the needs in York County. Please contact TAP if you have feedback or input.

TAP's Teen Team



The AIDS Project has been very lucky this fall to have linked up with several groups of young people, anxious to give their time and energy to our important cause. On October 22, 1994, 100 students from Wentworth Middle School in Scarborough participated in their ninth annual Bike-A-Thon, raising approximately \$4000 for The AIDS Project. Pictured above are students Michelle Beaulieu and Matt Morin, with their teacher (and event supervisor) Tom Griffen.

Meanwhile, from the north, students from Yarmouth High School have been putting in hours towards their community service requirement working in the TAP office. In the picture below, students Lisa Grant, Jenny Steel-Betts and Edna Mosher work on a project for TAP's Development Department.



In addition to these excellent efforts, we are happy to report that our most recent volunteer training program included three local teenagers as well -- Alison Cimmet, Jessica Hollander and Sara Wilson. We all are thrilled to have so many young people getting involved in our activities.

Maine AIDS Walk 1994

View from A Volunteer

by Chris Shields

Ever since I first heard of The AIDS Project, I wanted to do some volunteer work. So, when I read about the Walk, I decided to sign up. On October 2, I arrived at the designated time anxious with anticipation. When I walked into the Chevrus gym, I was surrounded by people who were hard at work, very helpful and very friendly. Everything was well organized and the room was already set up for walk registration, food, an AIDS quilt display, information, tee-shirts, ribbons etc. The diversity of the crowd was striking — ages from 9 to 90, men, women, gay, straight, married, single, African-American, Caucasian — all united for a single cause and all with a positive glow.

Then the walkers started arriving. And did they ever! Hundreds of people filled the gym. My only regret, as I worked at the registration table, is that I couldn't see everyone and everything, from walkers, to presentations, to entertainment. (If only there were three of me!) Once the walkers left and were out on the route, we all helped get ready for their return. An hour or so later, we greeted them again with cheers, more food, music and prizes donated by local businesses.

Portland's 5th annual AIDS Walk was an enormous success — we had twice as many participants as last year and raised \$36,500, a 64% increase over 1993. All of the money raised goes directly to five local groups: The PWA Coalition, The AIDS Project, The NAMES Project, Peabody House and the AIDS Lodging House. Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved. I can hardly wait until next year.

Support Groups

The AIDS Project is dedicated to people living with HIV/AIDS and those who love them. One of the ways we serve them is through support groups. These groups address a variety of constituencies. They include a group for men both gay and straight living with the virus, a similar group for women, and a living well group for those who have lived with the virus for a long time.

All of these groups are facilitated by experienced volunteers. The groups are open to new members and we welcome both active participation and quiet observation. Confidentiality is strictly observed. Many find that a support group is an excellent first step in helping the healing process, regardless of where the loss is on the HIV/AIDS continuum. Feel free to try groups that are appropriate for you. There is no commitment required. Groups are available as needed. The following list describes the groups we currently have at TAP. We are in the process of establishing additional support groups and are recruiting facilitators. Please feel free to call Jane O'Rourke at 774-6877 if you are interested in facilitating, have ideas for support groups, or need information about any of the existing groups in Portland.

PORTLAND

Mondays:

Providers of HIV/AIDS services support group, 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The AIDS Project.

Tuesdays:

People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, partners and caregivers, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at The AIDS Project.

Living Well, focusing on quality of life and empowerment, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at The AIDS Project.

Wednesdays:

Women living with HIV, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at First Parish Church, Small Chapel on the 2nd Floor.

Thursdays:

Men Living with HIV, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The AIDS Project

AUBURN

People living with HIV disease, Tuesdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Auburn Family Planning. Call Diana Carrigan, at 783-4301.

GARDINER

People Living with HIV, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Physicians building behind KVRHA Annex. Call Brian Allen at 725-4955.

BIDDEFORD

People affected or infected by HIV, Mondays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Southern Maine Medical Center in the classroom opposite the cafeteria on the 2nd Floor. Call John Bean at 774-6877.

PREVENTING HIV TRANSMISSION IN ADOLESCENTS IN MAINE

AN EDUCATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Linda Pfaffinger

Nationally, as of March 1992, 822 cases of AIDS were reported for ages 13-19, a 30% increase over 1990. In Maine, 24 cases, for ages 13-24, had been reported by July 1992. While, at first, these numbers might seem small, they are, in fact, alarming. There is no cure for AIDS. Many young people, in Maine and around the country, will die as a result of this epidemic. The number of teenagers with the virus is growing and many of the people infected are not even aware of their HIV status. As parents, teachers, and concerned citizens, how can we help to prevent this needless suffering and death?

This picture is, of course, broader than just HIV and AIDS. The rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases suggest that an alarmingly high percentage of teenagers are both sexually active and not practicing "safer sex." There may be many psycho-social reasons for this situation including low self-esteem, lack of knowledge, inaccessibility of condoms and other forms of birth control and disease protection, peer pressure, alcohol and drug use and abuse, non-consensual sex, feelings of immortality, and embarrassment about discussing sex.

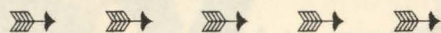
YOU AND I CAN HELP — both by talking to teens about sex and by being role models of appropriate behavior. We can insist on having sex education pro-

grams in the schools with sexuality curricula beginning at a primary grade level. We can encourage the use of condoms and other forms of birth control and protection assisting sexually active teens to obtain these items when appropriate. Most significantly, we can help our young people understand that they are worthwhile and appreciated people. We can teach them that their lives are more important than a few minutes of awkwardness putting on a condom. We must not judge these teenagers, but **listen** to them. By offering open communication and a caring heart, we give them the greatest gift of all - a feeling of self-worth.

Speak to -- and more importantly, listen to -- the teenagers in your life: your own children, nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors. Give them a safe environment to discuss their needs, concerns and fears. Volunteer to help with activities that your teens are involved in. Let them know you are there for them.

If this sounds too hard, or you feel like you would like some guidance, call the trained volunteers at the Maine AIDS Line (775-1267 or 1-800-851-2437) or request written materials from the National Clearing House (1-800-458-5231). **YOU** can make a difference.

Our Newest Volunteers



Over a period of two weekends last month, 20 new volunteers joined the ranks of compassionate and dedicated individuals who help to make all of The AIDS Project's activities successful. The goal of the training program was to prepare these men and women for jobs such as staffing the front desk and the AIDS line and offering direct service assistance to clients. Pictured above are experienced AIDS line workers Dennis McLaughlin and Jeanine Lefevre (seated) and new recruits Jim Stilphen, Michelle Pittman and Chris Cavanaugh.



The Matthew John Life Enhancement Fund

In April of 1994, Matthew John hosted a fashion show, a preview of spring and summer hairstyles and fashion, at the State Theater. The salon paid 100% of the expenses for the show, including the theater rent, and generously donated 100% of the proceeds to The AIDS Project. Matthew John, the salon owner, requested that the donation -- nearly \$3000 -- be given directly to people living with AIDS. "It's not that I don't want to help with administration; I know how important administration is," he said in a recent interview, "but since it's such a relatively small amount of money, I really wanted it to go directly to where the need is the greatest."

That is exactly what has happened. Funds recently went to seven individuals, six of whom the agency hadn't been able to help before. For example, the Life Enhancement Fund allowed one person to put down a security deposit on an apartment, another to purchase nutritional supplements to gain some desperately needed weight, and another make funeral arrangements that he could not have afforded otherwise.

Since then Matthew John has been replenishing the fund with ongoing raffles. For a \$10 donation, you get a chance to win \$500 in hair care services. A new winner is drawn every three or four months and all proceeds are given to The AIDS Project. Matthew John says that he is thankful that he is in a position to be able to help; we are all extremely grateful for his generosity.

Tenth Anniversary Sneak Preview

In just a few weeks, The AIDS Project will kickoff a year-long series of events to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its founding. The Tenth Anniversary Steering Committee, chaired by Michael Quint, Secretary of TAP's Board of Directors and Manager of Corporate Support Services for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine, is putting finishing touches on event plans and confirming dates.

The Steering Committee is preparing for a January Kick-Off reception. This will be followed by the 9th Annual *Spring for Life* Art Auction on March 18, and a Masquerade Ball in June. Two events are also being planned for the fall, and the year's activities will culminate on World AIDS Day 1995. Once plans and dates are confirmed, a complete and detailed schedule will be mailed to all TAP friends.

TAP is currently working to earn support from the business community. Already MacDonald/O'Meara Communications of Portland has agreed to donate public relations and advertising support to TAP's anniversary activities. We hope that the visible support which has been provided during past years by companies like Blue Cross and Blue Shield and UNUM will encourage wider business commitment to TAP's anniversary, fund-raising, and public relations efforts throughout 1995.

Perhaps most important, TAP anticipates that anniversary events will help the public become more aware that HIV/AIDS touches us all. It is not just a gay disease. It is not a minority disease. It is a disease that continues to affect us all, in one way or another. TAP's anniversary will give the community a chance to work in concert to support HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and care both by increasing the level of knowledge about the virus and participating in fund-raising events which will support the on-going caring and educational work of The AIDS Project as it enters the second decade.

Spring For Life Art Auction

Save This Date!

Saturday, March 18, 1995

The 9th Annual *Spring For Life* Art Auction will take place Saturday, March 18, 1995 at the Holiday Inn By-The-Bay in downtown Portland. This year's auction will be the biggest, the best and the most exciting auction in the event's nine-year history! So mark your calendars, press your tuxedos and stay tuned for more information regarding Maine's premiere charity art auction to benefit The AIDS Project.

In addition to the sale of stunning artwork donated by Maine artists and collectors, glorious food, entertainment and decorations await those lucky *Spring For Life* ticket holders! Chuck Neureuther and Michael Reed, of Cafe Brix fame, will make certain that guests are properly wine and dined at the Pre-Auction Gala Reception. Douglas Morris, local designer extraordinaire, will amaze and delight with his dramatic decorations, and Tom Satterly of Auction Properties, Ltd., will be our auctioneer.

Chair Roberta Wright and Vice Chair Lawrence Bliss have been meeting with the 1995 Auction Committee for several months, working out the myriad details that make this event truly special. Tickets will go on sale mid-February. For more information, please contact Susan Tremblay at TAP, 774-6877.

The AIDS Project

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Portland, ME 04101

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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