

Get Ready, Get Set...*Spring for Life!*

It began nine years ago as an outside event coordinated by a group called Visual AID, raising a respectable \$10,000 and capturing the attention of many local artists and patrons. Today it is the foremost charity art auction in the state, raising both public awareness and much-needed funds for Maine's largest provider of services to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. It is, of course, *Spring for Life*, The AIDS Project's grandest and most successful fundraising event of the year! This year's auction will be held Saturday, March 18 at the Holiday Inn By-The-Bay in downtown Portland and promises to surpass previous years with a dazzling selection of artwork and a gala artists' reception which, according to auction sources, will pull out all of the stops! Participating artists include Alfred "Chip" Chadbourn, David Cedrone, Dozier Bell Marguerite Lawler and Michael Waterman. This year's signature piece, (pictured here) which will be featured on all *Spring for Life* printed materials including the auction poster, invitation and catalogue, is an oil on canvas donated by prominent Maine artist Alfred Chadbourn. Entitled "Vic's Store - Stonington," it is a quintessential Chadbourn piece from one of his popular Stonington series.

This is a critical year for *Spring for Life* as it is the first in a series of fundraising events to mark the tenth anniversary of TAP's founders and founding. In its tenth year, TAP is extending an invitation to all members of the Maine community to participate in the

many events planned for this very special year. Says Roberta Wright, 1995 *Spring for Life* Chairperson, "The 1995 *Spring for Life* Committee is anticipating the most exciting and successful auction in the event's nine-year history. We are counting on our friends to show their support for this important AIDS fundraiser by helping us raise a significant amount of money. Together we can push this event over the top!"



Spring for Life has reached its current level of success with generous support from members of Maine's art community. Without them, *Spring for Life*, quite simply, could not be. In response to artists' needs and as a result of an artists' discussion which was held last summer, there will be two new and unique additions to this year's auction roster. In addition to traditional art entries, there will be a special "AIDS specific" entry where artists may con-

tribute pieces inspired by someone they have known, had a personal experience with, or illustrating an understanding of the impact of HIV/AIDS on our lives. Artists also have the option of creating a one-of-a-kind t-shirt to be sold at auction. Art Subcommittee Chairperson Lawrence Bliss is excited about the changes. "The very idea that artists want not only to donate art but create new art that ties them directly to the purpose of this event is indicative of the kind of spirit that defines this auction."

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The AIDS Project

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Paul Draper — Linda Pfaffinger

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The AIDS Project is a non-profit organization committed to a comprehensive and compassionate response to HIV/AIDS. We provide services, advocacy, and prevention education for men, women, and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS 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.

...Spring for Life!

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Another addition to this year's auction will be an exhibit of photographs which will define the auction space while illustrating the human drama of HIV/AIDS. Concepted by designer and *Spring for Life* committee person, Douglas Morris, photographs of TAP clients, staff and volunteers, accompanied by narratives, will illumine the walls as a quiet testament to the people affected by this disease.

This year patrons of the auction will have the opportunity to affirm the experience of many people whose lives have been touched and changed by HIV/AIDS by making a commemorative flag for someone they know who has been infected or affected. The commemorative flag project, which was introduced at the Tenth Year Kickoff in January at Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will travel from event to event in 1995. By year's end, the length of the strand of flags will serve as a visual symbol of the extent of the impact of the pandemic.

Watch your mail for a 1995 *Spring for Life* Art Auction invitation! If you are interested in *Spring for Life* volunteer opportunities or should you have questions, please call The AIDS Project at 774-6877.

CLARIFICATION and ACKNOWLEDGMENT

— Deborah Shields

In a previous issue, I wrote about our new grant from HUD, which allows us to provide rental assistance and support services to people with HIV as they progress through all the stages of the illness. Our partners in this project include the Peabody House, Shalom House, the Family Therapy Institute and the AIDS Lodging House. Our deepest thanks go to our friends at Peabody House for initiating the application process, inviting us to join with them, and for sharing with us their vision and dedication to service that makes this project possible. We thank all of our coalition partners for their hard work and humor as we labor to get this project off the ground.

From The Directors Desk

— Deborah Shields

As many of you know, this is TAP's ten year anniversary. We approach this year with ambivalence. It would be wonderful to think that there was no longer a reason for TAP to be in business, there was no HIV in any of our lives. But since there is a need, we thank everyone involved with TAP for helping us to continue as a vital and growing organization. From the person who volunteers to stuff envelopes, to our dedicated Board members past and present, to our talented and compassionate staffs through the years, to our auction supporters and our donors – large and small – each of you has made a difference. I also want to recognize the staffs of the Maine Bureau of Health and the Bureau of Child and Family Services for their early and continued support, especially during times of statewide financial crisis. It takes an entire community's support and hard work to keep TAP on target. And we hope that each of you will join us in a year full of commemorative events.



What would the world look like without the HIV pandemic? How would our lives be different? It is hard to imagine a life that did not require us to attend memorial services for our friends and lovers on an almost weekly basis. Hard to imagine the times before now when so many parents or grandparents outlive their children. Hard to remember the time when women worried more about pregnancy than about also contracting HIV if their partners refused to wear a condom. Hard to recall a time when intimate encounters didn't require layers of latex for every activity. Hard to remember that not all diseases carry such a stigma or risk of discrimination for those living with it. We must not get complacent. We must remember that there was a time when death and disease were not so mundane, almost casual. We must hold on to this vision so that we can continue our work to stop the spread of HIV and to demand a cure and effective treatments. Each person lost to HIV is one too many.



VIRUS CUTTING

virus cutting me short—

yet here I am with

some show tune in my head. So insistent

so splendid a lyric I can't

get back to sleep

This is a battle cry. I

put a Bach tape on the
bedside boombox, try to

calm this hero, this warrior

queen, this Long Island
movie usher My armor's
a chartreuse teeshirt, my

agenda: to live

They tell us repeatedly that the
deadly virus is invariably fatal

Yet every morning, drugged and
insomniac, queens filled with
toxicity and enchantment, fire
and fungus hear their own voices,
then broadcast our own news

Walta Borawski (1947–1994)

from *Lingering in a Silk Shirt* (1994) Fag Rag Books

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

— by Amanda Coffin

During the past year, The AIDS Project has welcomed a number of new staff members and student interns. We are happy to continue our series on these outstanding individuals with the following profiles of Eve H. Cimmet, Coordinator of Volunteer Programs, and Faye Mosher, a social work student assisting TAP's Case Management department.

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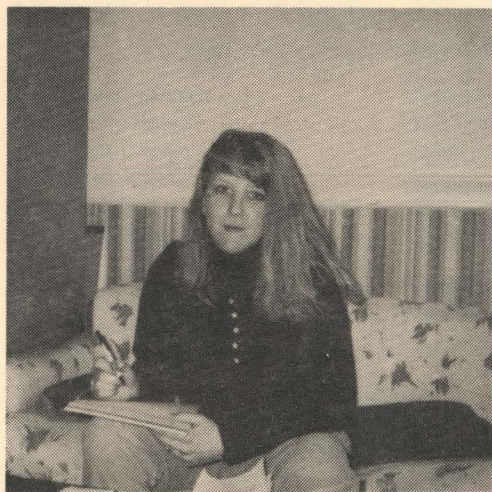
During its ten-year history, volunteers have always been an essential part of TAP's activities and one of the agency's greatest assets. However, until recently, they were a relatively small group, somewhat disconnected and without much organization. The AIDS Project sought to improve that situation when, last year, the position of Coordinator of Volunteer Programs was created. In August, that post was filled by Eve H. Cimmet, a woman of monumental energy and very diverse endeavors -- wife, mother, attorney, playwright, director, actress, Synagogue leader and newsletter editor. Prior to joining the TAP staff, Eve was a partner at the law firm Richardson and Troubh and worked one morning a week as a volunteer at TAP's front desk. Eve now says, that from that volunteer work developed a feeling that full-time AIDS work was what she wanted to do.

There are currently 200 volunteers involved in ongoing TAP activities -- staffing the front desk and hot line, monitoring Every Penny Counts jars, driving clients to appointments, assisting with cooking and cleaning, doing home visits, working as educational speakers, and providing specialized skills such as legal assistance and massage therapy. Another 200 volunteers work at special events like the annual auction and walk. Eve's job involves recruiting, training, placing and supervising all these people. With characteristic cheerfulness, Eve says "I loved being a lawyer and now I love doing this job."



Without appearing frenetic, Eve gracefully moves through a to-do list that would give many people hives. She speaks with purpose. Considering the frustrations of her new job: "I would like to be able to help everybody all the time," she reflects. "But I know I can't." Between wanting to help everybody at The AIDS Project and her myriad other activities, one might suspect that Eve would have difficulty finding and balancing priorities. "My primary career is and always has been that of **mother**," she says very definitely. "That has always come first." Her youngest daughter, Alison, is a senior in high school, acts in the plays her mother writes, and also volunteers at TAP. Her two older children, Brian and Stephanie, are away at college, and visits to them are Eve's favorite form of travel.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



Faye Mosher began her internship at TAP in October, working eighteen hours a week during the 94-95 academic year. A senior at USM's Bachelor of Social Work program, Faye initially had little interest in doing AIDS-related work -- she was focused on a career in gerontology. After meeting Jane O'Rourke at Maine Medical Center's

AIDS Consultation Services, however, Faye was inspired to follow Jane to TAP in the fall. Faye claims that she still wants to work with the elderly, but during her internship at TAP, she is discovering similarities between the two areas of social work, and she is also finding herself intrigued with parts of the agency that she'd never expected.

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SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

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Faye is looking forward to more case management and hotline work. "Listening to Louise [Tate] on the hotline is like a social work textbook," she says, adding that the classroom social work theory is not always effective. When asked about any apprehension she may have about the direct service work, Faye draws a distinction -- she doesn't fear death per se, but **loss**. Speaking of connections between AIDS work and gerontology, Faye adds that the incidence of HIV infection among elderly people is a growing nationwide trend.

What did Faye not expect on her trek from the classroom to The AIDS Project? First of all, the caseload -- she was astonished to find the case managers handling over fifty cases each. "Twenty or so would be ideal," she thinks. Faye began her internship working with Linda Pfaffinger in the Education department and was surprised to love it, since educational outreach was the area that had intrigued her the least. Now she truly enjoys speaking to groups about prevention. Finally Faye feels strongly that no one is adequately meeting the need of women with HIV. TAP recently received a grant to publish a newsletter for women with HIV, and Faye is co-editor.



CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD

--by Chris Shields

The administrative and policy-making structure of The AIDS Project had traditionally included the staff, the Board and the Advisory board. We are pleased and excited to announce that there is now a new group on board -- a Client Advisory Board. This group was created as a result of clients' desires for a forum to discuss their needs, hopes and expectations with regard to TAP and is designed to be a safe environment for clients to speak out on these issues. An initial meeting was held on February 16, with interested clients and TAP staff members Deborah Shields, John Holverson and Jane O'Rourke. Anyone seeking more information is encouraged to contact any of those individuals at 774-6877.

SPRING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS

On Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Community Educator Linda Pfaffinger will be leading a training session for volunteers interested in joining our "Speakers' Bureau" -- the team of people who make presentations about HIV and AIDS to various community groups. To join us on March 11, you must have attended a general TAP volunteer training program and preferably our hot-line training as well. If you want to come on March 11 -- or if you haven't done the preliminary trainings yet and would like to -- call Linda Pfaffinger to Eve Cimmet at 774-6877. For March 11, plan on bringing a lunch for yourself and a desert to share. In case of a bad snow storm that day, we will reschedule for March 18.



ATHENA: Women's War on HIV

The AIDS Project has yet another project in the works. Because there is a growing number of and lack of information about women with HIV, TAP has received funding from the Maine Women's Fund to start a newsletter. This newsletter, ATHENA, is an effort to reach women throughout the state of Maine to inform them on issues surrounding HIV. ATHENA is a collaborative effort by Lee Richards, Deborah Shields, Jane O'Rourke and Faye Mosher. If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, please contact Paul Draper at 774-6877. ATHENA will make its debut in early Spring.

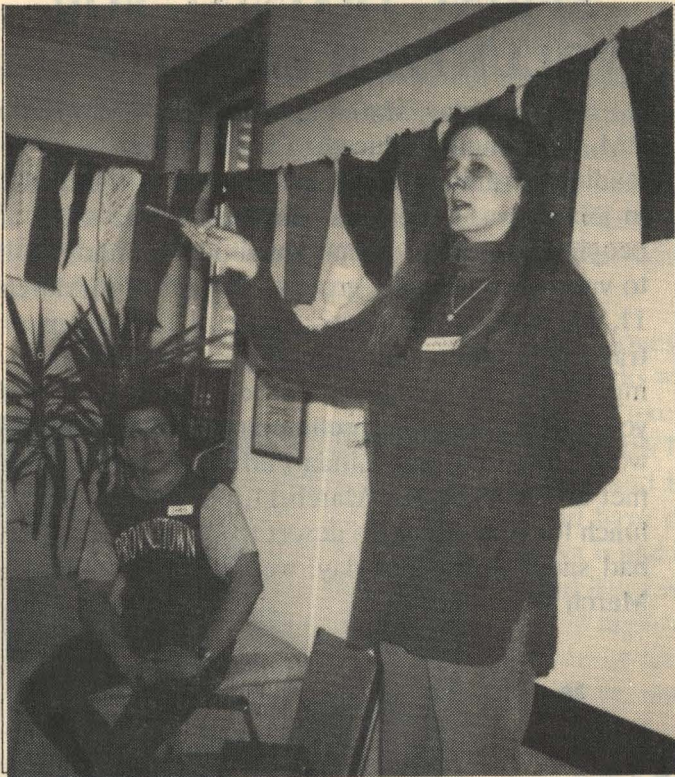
VOLUNTEERING AT THE AIDS PROJECT

Virtually every phase of activity at The AIDS Project is aided, improved or done by our wonderful volunteers. Since the beginning of 1995, volunteers have handled over 100 direct service requests — rides to appointments, preparation of meals, home visits — and have covered over 600 hours at the office front desk and on the AIDS Line. In the next few weeks, we will have between approximately 200 volunteers working on the *Spring For Life* Art Auction scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 1995.

Being a TAP volunteer is fun and rewarding, and if you think you might be interested we would love to talk to you about it. To work at the Auction, call Eve Cimmet at 774-6877 as soon as possible, and she will assign you to one of the volunteer teams for that event. If you are interest in more ongoing involvement, she can send you a volunteer application form. As soon as the form is completed and returned, you would be invited to participate in a weekend training program. Those sessions are held approximately every three months



Pictured below left, staff member Louise Tate leads the most recent training session, held (*notwithstanding a blizzard*) February 3-4. Pictured below right is guest speaker Linda Jipson with her dog Tucker.



WAYS OF GIVING TO THE AIDS PROJECT

Those interested in supporting the work of The AIDS Project financially can do so in several ways. Depending on the kind of gift chosen, there may be a variety of tax benefits available to the donor. For more specific information regarding gifts, please call the Development Office at TAP.

TAP in Androscoggin & Oxford Counties

A Message from Diana Carrigan, Coordinator of Support Services

It has been a year of growth and change for all of us in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties. That is one of the sure things about HIV; things will not stay the same. There have been many losses. We had to say good-bye to many very loved people.

Last January I moved with Family Planning and the STD clinic to a new suite of offices. And for those of you who have not seen my new office, but saw the old, it has been like moving from a closet to the penthouse. I'm pleased that we are handicapped accessible, the window is just the frosting.

People might be surprised to know that we actually have a decent referral list of physicians in the area. There have been a core of about 10 physicians who continue to take people with HIV whenever that are asked. I have also been able to develop a list of a few cooperating dentists and I have a growing list of therapists who have been working with people with HIV.

The area has seen the beginning of a few new support groups. The **HOPE** group which meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church (524-5966 or 743-9373); **ALAC** with a support group for family and friends (786-4697); and the support group I started for people with HIV which meets at Auburn Center (783-4301). The attendance at my support group has not been good, so I hope this may encourage a few new people to join us.

I continue to feel blessed to be able to do this work with all of you. Anyone interested in more information about TAP in Androscoggin and Oxford Counties can call me at 783-4301.

"NEWSLINE"

OR

?????

We're looking for a new title for TAP's quarterly newsletter. Any ideas? Call Eve Cimmet at 774-6877 with your suggestions. Thank you.

PAWS Wins Cameron Duncan Award

The Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance selected Charles Wynott and John Piefer co-founders of the Maine Chapter of PAWS, to be this year's recipients of the Cameron Duncan Award. **PAWS** ("PETS ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT") is a national organization that was started in San Francisco in 1987. Recognizing the medical and psychological benefits of animal companionship for both HIV+ people and everyone in general works to "do whatever it takes to keep clients and their pets together." All of us at TAP commend PAWS for its fine work and congratulate their leaders on this well-deserved honor.

TAP and Peabody House To Coordinate Volunteer Efforts

In order to serve the HIV/AIDS community in the best possible way, The AIDS Project and Peabody House are working on a coordination of volunteer efforts. Each agency attracts a substantial number of interest volunteers and it is our goal to match those volunteers with clients' needs. These issues were discussed at a recent meeting attended by TAP representatives Jane O'Rourke and Eve Cimmet and Peabody House representatives Gloria Vetro and Sandy Titus. It was decided that, with regard to providing direct services by volunteers, TAP will continue to offer transportation, home visits, meals, shopping, cleaning and/or moving assistance, etc. to clients who maintain independent living. Peabody House, on the other hand, will train volunteers regarding medical issues and the nursing arts who will then be able to assist with care-giving to those who are further along in the disease process. Clients and their case managers will make the determination of what level of service is needed in any particular instance. For further information, please contact Eve Cimmet at TAP at 774-6877 or Gloria Vetro at Peabody House at 774-6281.

Maine AIDS Walk 1995 Big News! New Date!

This year, the Maine AIDS Walk in Portland will take place in the Spring — Sunday, May 7, 1995. Save the date and watch your mail for more information. If you are already a TAP volunteer, you will be sent an invitation to work on the date of the event. If you are new, we'd love to have you get involved. Just call 774-6877 and ask for Eve Cimmet. And, of course, we're hoping every one of you plans to be a walker this year. 🍀

Law School Offers Free Estate Planning Clinic

— by Chris Shields

The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic is offering Estate Planning services through the University of Maine School of Law through April 28, 1995. The Clinic, which will serve clients who are unable to afford other legal assistance is located at 59 Exeter Street in Portland, just behind the Law School building (which is located at the corner of Brighton Avenue and Falmouth Street.)

The clinic is open to anyone who is HIV infected or who has other life-threatening conditions, as well as other eligible clients. Services include wills, living wills, medical powers of attorney, trusts, guardianship, powers of attorney, and other related matters of personal and estate planning. If a client cannot come to the clinic offices, arrangements can usually be made to go to the client.

If you have any questions, or would like to make an appointment, call the clinic at 780-4370, where you can reach clinic supervisor, Sumner T. Bernstein, Professor, Michael Mullane, Ms. Donna Jones, or Ms. Michelle Flagg. Other legal assistance can be obtained through The AIDS Project, which has volunteer attorneys and law students available to answer your questions and help with legal services. Clients can call their case manager at 774-6877.

New Housing Coordinator at The AIDS Project

We are pleased to announce the arrival of a new staff member at The AIDS Project. Paul Lavin, Esq. begin work on February 21 as the new Housing Coordinator. It will be his responsibility to administer the HOPWA grant recently received from HUD. Paul is pictured below with TAP Executive Director Deborah Shields and Assistant Development Coordinator Susan Tremblay.



Very special thanks to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine for hosting TAP's Tenth Anniversary Year. Additional heartfelt thanks to all of the generous business, volunteers and 400 individuals in attendance who cooperatively made the Kick-Off on January 21 such a tremendous success! It was a wonderful evening of history and memories for TAP friends, who were also treated to inspiring voices and music by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus and the USM String Quartet.

AIDS ON-LINE

— Amanda Coffin

It feels like the Information Superhighway is about to run through everyone's living room, and the mere term makes the computerphobe cringe. Realistically, however, connecting to myriad information services via computer puts vast amounts of current information at our disposal. For people who are seeking information about HIV with their own computers, Compuserve has a great range of offerings. Even more exciting is the fact that TAP will have an Internet connection established by March, giving clients, staff and volunteers access to HIV data around the world.

A grant from the National Library of Science is funding the hardware and software necessary to connect TAP to the Internet. The system should be on-line at the end of February and staff training will proceed throughout March. Doreen Merrill will be TAP's Internet coordinator, training users to find the data they need. She explains that the system will offer user-friendly software to search, among databases, the National Library of Medicine's database.

For people who have their own computers and modems, the Compuserve Information Service has over a dozen areas of interest to anyone researching HIV, from the very general to the highly technical. The forums include:

AIDS News Clips [GO AIDSNEWS]:

This forum contains articles from English news publications, not including specialized or medical journals.

CCML AIDS Articles [GO CCMLAIDS]:

From the forum description: "The Comprehensive Core Medical Library database contains current editions of major medical reference works and textbooks plus prominent general journals, including *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The time span for this database is 1982 to the present ... You can retrieve records by entering subject words, author name, title words, source publication, or article type as your search criteria."

Health Database Plus [GO HTLTDB]:

From the forum description: "Health Database Plus is a service that lets you retrieve articles from consumer and professional publications on health care...and journals such as *AIDS Weekly* from the Centers for Disease Control...Augmenting this coverage is a collection of technical and professional journals such as *JAMA*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*; *The Lancet*; and *The New England Journal of Medicine*; as well as a large number of very specialized titles. Articles generally do not include full text but do include an abstract specially written for nonprofessional readers and sometimes the author's abstract as well."

Holistic Health Forum [GO HOLISTIC]:

This forum has libraries covering topics such as nutritional therapy, homeopathy, Ayurveda, chiropractic, diet and exercise.

NORD Database [GO NORD]:

From the forum description: "The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is the federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare (orphan) diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them..." One of their libraries is exclusively devoted to AIDS updates.

These on line services are incomparable research tools, but the forums are also meeting places for computer users, who may exchange memos with each other, sharing their own experience, knowledge and wisdom.

The software to connect to Compuserve is readily available in store or by mail-order; it runs on DOS, Windows or the Macintosh operating systems. The charges to connect are minimal, and from Portland, there are no long-distance phone charges involved.



TENTH ANNIVERSARY

COMMEMORATION EVENTS



Saturday, January 21, 1995

Kickoff reception at Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Corporate Headquarters

Saturday, March 18, 1995

Spring for Life Art Auction at The Holiday-Inn-By-
The Bay

Sunday, May 7, 1995

Maine AIDS Walk/Portland

Friday, June 16, 1995

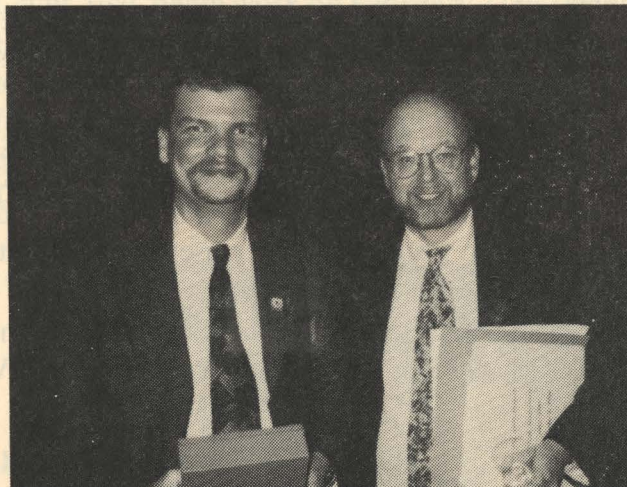
Masquerade Ball

October 12, 1995

Women's Leadership Luncheon

Thursday, November 30, 1995

Grand Finale Dinner



Michael Quint (left), Chair, Tenth Anniversary Commemoration Committee and Paul Draper, TAP's Development Coordinator, at the hugely successful Kickoff at Blue Cross and Blue Shield on January 21, 1995.

The AIDS Project

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