



AIDS Interfaith Network

The Source

20 Years of Community Service

love
time
hope

Inspire By Example

20 years ago, a small group of volunteers saw a task that needed to be done—something big and scary had life in its grip...They were not all sure that they were up to the task, or even if they were the ones who should be trying to do this thing. But finding courage in their faith, they pressed on; and within 2 years, the efforts of those volunteers became AIDS Interfaith Network (AIN).

They stepped out at a time when there was much to fear. No one really even knew how HIV was transmitted, and there was more wrong information than correct.

Special points of interest:

- Barbara Hunter receives award.
- AIN launches Rainbow Speed Dating
- Mary Marshall is recognized by The Leather Knights
- AIN a 2006 Black Tie Dinner benefit recipient
- National Volunteer Week

Each person in this group believed that God had called them to serve in this crisis. They each acted upon their call and began the work that is now the vision and mission of AIN. When we volunteer to help others, we do that because something inside of us moves us, motivates us, stirs us, pushes us...Call it a *call*; call it a *sense*; call it a *stirring*—whatever name we use, it is that internal thing that helps each of us recognize that *it is time to get involved*.

However each of you came to volunteer with AIN, you have done or are doing a good thing, a very good thing, with your time and with your life. And what you do as a volunteer is just as important now as what was being done 20 years ago. Yes, the faces of persons with HIV/AIDS have changed somewhat. But the world in which we live has not changed as much: HIV/AIDS will not touch my life. Our society still needs to be educated, to be more aware, and to have their conscious-

ness raised.

As we all know, AIDS is not just over here in the US, and HIV is devastating other large parts of our world. 25 years into this pandemic HIV/AIDS touches all our lives; and in a very real way, we are all living with HIV/AIDS. So it is still an act of bravery on your part to volunteer in HIV/AIDS just as it was for those folks 20 years ago. But it is also an act of love and of peacemaking, and the world in which we live needs to see what you do. By volunteering, you speak with your life—we say so much more with what we do than with what we say. Each of us has a sphere of influence around us, a circle in which we live our lives and interact with the people in our lives. Other people observe your actions, and whether you know it or not you are teaching them by what you do.

Mother Teresa said it this way, "There are many medicines and cures for all kinds of



sick people. But unless kind hands are given in service and generous hearts are given in love, then I do think there can ever be a cure for terrible sicknesses. It may happen in simple things like a mere smile, a short visit, the lighting of a lamp...something small, very small, may in fact be our love in action."

We were put on this earth to make a contribution, not just to consume resources—to eat, to breathe, and to take up space—we were created to add to life, not just to take from it. When we add to life, we serve life and through our service we make a difference in the world.

From the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu in his book *God Has A Dream*, "We are made in such a way that we need each other.

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DIFFA Jacket Becomes Daire Center Tradition

For the last three years, the artists and clients of the Daire Center have been privileged to work on jackets for the Annual DIFFA auction. Since its inception in 1984, DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) has granted over \$32 million to nearly one thousand AIDS agencies throughout the US. AIN has been an equally proud participant and a grateful recipient of DIFFA.

The Daire Center began participating by designing DIFFA jackets in 2003. We began with two jackets, which were theme titled "Enter the Dragon," which were male/female jackets. These were an instant success not only with DIFFA but also with the Daire Center clients who designed them. The entry for 2005-06 show cased a Native American theme, "White Buffalo Dancer." The 2006-07



design team of Daire is looking at several different themes for the next jacket...and lovin' it. The DIFFA jacket has become a welcome tradition at AIN.



Inspire By Example (continued from page 1)

In our African idiom we say, *A person is a person through other persons.* From other human being we learn how to think, to walk, or speak, or behave like human beings...We have not been made too self sufficient. We each have our own gifts, which make us unique, but I have gifts that you do not have and you have gifts that I do not have...

We are set in a delicate network of interdependence with our fellow human beings and with the rest of the world. In some African languages, recognition of our interdependence is called *ubuntu*...While it is difficult to translate into English, it is the essence of being human. It speaks of the fact that my

humanity is caught up and inextricably bound up in yours. It speaks about wholeness; about compassion...A person with *ubuntu* is welcoming, hospitable, warm, generous, and willing to share. Such people are open and available to others, willing to be vulnerable, affirming of others, and they know that we all belong to a greater whole"...

As volunteers, you are people with *ubuntu*, and as such you influence the world around you. Be being a volunteer you are step outside of yourself, outside of your own life and needs and do something for someone else: by doing that, you are making a difference in the world. Any time we help someone else we make a differ-

ence in our world—and that is the message that the world in which we live needs to hear and see.

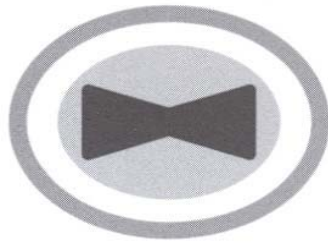
By volunteering we find our place of service in life. No matter how you serve, you develop a servant's heart when you are willing to do what needs to be done. In my faith I believe it this way: What you are is God's gift to you. What you do with yourself is your gift to God and to the world around you.

As the representative of everyone who makes up this agency, including over 1,700 men, women, children, teenagers who have HIV/AIDS, thanks for being people with *ubuntu*.

Steven Pace, Executive Director



"A person is a person through other persons"



"AIN has been chosen as Black Tie Dinner 2006 beneficiary"

Black Tie Dinner Awards AIN

Once again AIN has been chosen as a beneficiary of Black Tie Dinner 2006. Last December, AIN was awarded a check of \$27,209, an impressive amount. AIN also has been recognized for Outstanding Volunteer efforts 3 years in a role!

Lilly Tomlin, Key Note Speaker rocked the crowd with her unique political insight and wit while Sharon Stone, Eliza-

beth Birch Award Recipient, took over the live auction and helped raise funds and a few eye brows. All told, it was a wonderful success and a record breaking fund raising year.

This year Black Tie Dinner will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. All stops will be pulled out to make this event historic.

It AIN's goal this year to raise more dollars from this event,

but we need your help. In order to increase the award, we need folks to help with selling tickets to both the dinner and the raffle. One way to do this is by becoming a Table Captain.

Please call either Mary Marshall or Christopher Darwin at 214-943-4444 for more details on how you can help us make our goal. Or visit us on the web: aidsinterfaithnetwork.org

AIN Rainbow Speed Dating

AIN is introducing "**Rainbow Speed Dating**" first to the Gay and Lesbian community, with plans to expand this event into other venues. This exciting event is an opportunity for AIN to "play cupid" and help 20 lucky participants find their match.

The event consists of either 20 men and/or women over the age of 21 meeting, mixing, and mingling for four minutes at a time. Scorecards are provided so that each participant can

indicate confidentially whether or not they are interested in the man or woman they just met. When the four minutes are up, each man or woman will meet someone new. At the end of the evening, mutual matches will be tallied and the results will be e-mailed to participants the next day.

Not only is this event a great fun for the whole Gay and Lesbian community, it is also a wonderful opportunity to give back to AIN, an organization

that donates its time, assistance and services to so many. All proceeds from Rainbow Speed Dating will go directly to AIN and help fund ongoing HIV/AIDS education, prevention and outreach.

For more information on the next date, time, location and ticket purchase, check out "Events" at: aidsinterfaithnetwork.org



AIN Rainbow Speed Dating

Daire Center Poetry

A Mid-Day Dream

Through Air and Water
Past tall and short
Wading deep and shallow
Seeing far and beyond
Searching new and distant
Having thought that lie beyond
My realm of reality

Traveling trails, roads, brook
and stream; Over mountains so
distant and hills so near;
Oceans for far I dare to see the
Shore upon someone waits for
me; Rivers so narrow I cannot
float;

For those things I seem to think
the Most

They are misplaced in a sea of
green and blue foam; To me
they are last and cannot be
found; But only if I look close
still I refuse; To me they are last
and cannot be found

But only if I look close still I re-
fuse; To see the treasure that
seems; Far from my grasp; Like
crystal blue water is free for the
taking

By Daniel Muth

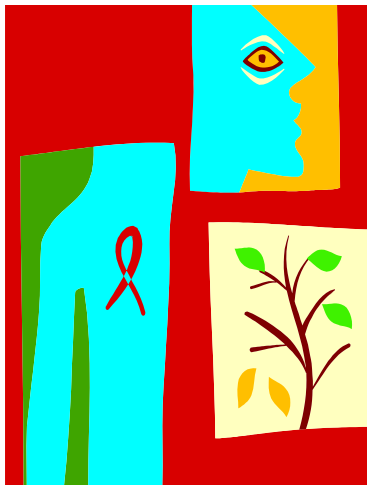
Barbara Hunter Awarded

Barbara Hunter, Outreach/
Educator with AIN African
American Health Coalition was
recently recognized by Dallas
County Health Department and
the La Sima Foundation with a
plaque and certificate for her
cooperative spirit and contribu-
tions to eliminating syphilis in
our community.

We applaud her for her dedi-
cation and commitment.



*We need your help: Contribute to AIN go to:
aidsinterfaithnetwork.org*



Mary Marshall Elected President DADV

The Dallas Association of
Directors of Volunteers elected
AIN's Mary Marshall as Presi-
dent. The two year term of ser-
vice will begin May 16, 2006.

The DADV was established in
1994 by a group of volunteer
leaders with a vision. The group
formed to enhance their profes-
sionalism and knowledge of the
industry, learn more creative
ways to use volunteers and give
all leaders of volunteers an op-
portunity to share experiences,
ideas and skills. To learn more
about DADV, www.dadv.org

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, April
23 thru 29, 2006 is a time when we
at AIN say *Thank You* to all our vol-
unteers. "Inspire By Example" is the
theme for 2006 because it truly re-
flects the power that volunteers
have to inspire the people they help
as well as to inspire others to serve!

On behalf of our clients, staff,
and board of directors please ac-
cept our most heartfelt thanks for
providing over 35,000 hours of vol-
unteer service!

To get involved as a volunteer,
call **214-943-4444** or visit us at
www.aidsinterfaithnetwork.org

Big D Classic Bowling

The Big D Classic Bowling Tour-
nament has been a long time sup-
porter of the mission and work of
AIN. Big D donated a check of
\$1,250 (which is the first of more to
come) to AIN—thank you. The big
tournament is in August 2006. To
find out how you can participate and
enjoy the fun of bowling visit their
web site: www.bigdclassic.com

TGRA Gift to AIN

AIN wishes to thank Texas Gay
Rodeo Association for their on-going
and continued support! TGRA re-
cently awarded AIN with a check of
\$1,572. For more information on
TGRA events and membership go to
their web site: www.tgra.org

Leather Knights Recognizes Mary Marshall

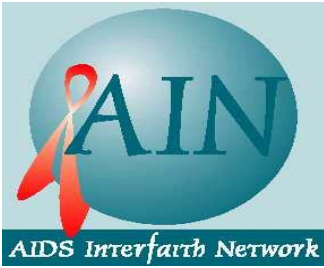
Mary Marshall, AIN's Direc-
tor of Volunteers, received spe-
cial recognition from the
Leather Knights on January 21,
2006 the John Leaphart Memo-
rial Award of Community Ser-
vice.

Mary has shown incredible
ability to assist community
based organizations, like the
Leather Knights, in their fund

raising efforts. AIN is the one
of their beneficiaries. For more
information see www.leatherknights.org.

Mary's dedication and assis-
tance has not only helped
these organizations, but also
has helped volunteers give
their time, energy and service
while bringing recognition and
financial support to AIN. Kudos





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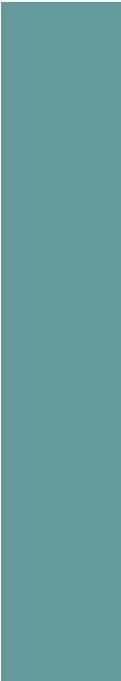
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Fax: 214-948-9988
www.aidsinterfaithnetwork.org

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Your source of Help and Hope

The vision of AIN is to offer **HOPE** and to **HELP** create a world without HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Interfaith Network is a multicultural, non-profit, faith-based HIV/AIDS organization that provides direct care services to meet practical, emotional and spiritual needs and prevention programs for individuals, groups and communities.



AIN Recognizing 20 Years of Community Service



AIN Pastoral Service Network – Outreach and Renewal

Our vision is a world without AIDS. As we enter the third decade of HIV, AIDS is still with us. Over the years we have learned that not only does AIDS fracture the body, but also the emotions, the heart and, in many cases, the spirit.

AIDS Interfaith Network established the Pastoral Services Network to perform a range of different faith-based program and services for clients, the faith community, and the larger Dallas community. We provide spiritual direction and pastoral care to clients; educate clergy

and lay leaders about HIV/AIDS; and offer education through churches to their congregation. All of this not only increases prevention outcome but also fosters a more compassionate response to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS

AIDS changed how we looked at the world. The wilderness of AIDS launched us into the search of a new way to be in the world. It redefined the meaning of thankfulness. We discovered some of our greatest insights came from the

most vulnerable. We learned that those who suffered so much at the hand of AIDS and those who witnessed their pain were held in the heart of God. We were reminded that love grows when given away. Contact Rev. Cheryl Jordan at cjordan@aidinterfaithnetwork.org

