## Aliveline | EST

#### A Time of Giving!

#### MASQUERADE BALL —

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Masquerade Ball on October 26 at the Semple Mansion! I want to express my appreciation to our fundraising committee, to the companies and individuals who donated prizes and silent auction items, and to all the volunteers and participants who helped make it a fabulous evening!

#### **NEW AWNING** —

The photo below shows a lovely, new awning and updated lighting over our front door. Thanks to Randy Hornstine and his team of member volunteers for their work on this project and to *Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless* for providing a grant for this project and other building improvements!

Our newly renovated entrance with awning ▼



#### **HOLIDAY BASKETS** —

It's time once again for our annual Holiday Basket Program. This is the 20th year that The Aliveness Project has distributed gift baskets to individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their family members. Last year, we gave out 574 baskets with presents for 785 adults and 481 children. If you have applied for a basket, please check page 3 for a list of pick-up and delivery times.

These baskets mean so much to our members. Here are a few words that "Jim," one of last year's recipients, shared about the program:

"One of my favorite things about The Aliveness Project is the Holiday Basket Program. When I come in to get my basket, I see these brightly-colored boxes, painted by school kids and filled with items I really need..... It has been a very emotional experience knowing that someone cares and has taken the time to shop for me—to fill my season with hope that isn't always there."

Every year, I am amazed at the miracle of how hundreds of baskets are decorated and filled by our dedicated staff and caring volunteers. I encourage you to spread the word about our need for people to adopt baskets and volunteer in other ways (see pages 3-4).

## volunteer spotlight

Prian Myrland and Tom Storkamp have something in common: a passion for grocery bags: the tall kind, with handles. *Why?* They are Aliveness Project Food Shelf volunteers! They spend their time sorting, bagging, and tracking the 38 tons of food The Aliveness Project distributes each year.



I hope that you and your loved ones have a healthy and happy holiday season!

Joe Larson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



#### **Holiday Baskets 2007**

How YOU can help this season

5 "An Exciting Time"

The latest in HIV/AIDS meds from Dr. Keith Henry

Top Ten Reasons to volunteer at Aliveness

# The Aliveness

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#### Mark your '08 Calendars!



### THURSDAY, APRIL 24th

#### **Our Wish List**

- · Wrapping paper for Holiday Baskets
- "Space Planner" to help us define our needs in a new building

#### In Living Memory

Betty M. departed this life September 18, 2007

Toni B. departed this life September 30, 2007



The mission of The Aliveness Project is to encourage self-empowerment and provide direct services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The Aliveline is published bimonthly by The Aliveness Project

Submissions should be sent to:

The Aliveline

730 East 38th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55407

aliveness@aliveness.org www.aliveness.org

The Aliveline is a bi-monthly publication of The Aliveness Project, Inc. The Aliveness Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 1985 as a membership organization for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. This newsletter may report on experimental and other therapies; however, The Aliveness Project does not recommend any particular therapy. Please consult with your medical provider before trying any new treatment. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributing authors and are not necessarily those of The Aliveness Project.

#### **Holiday Baskets 2007**

here are oodles and oodles of ways to be involved! Just check the form on the next page or look online (www.aliveness.org) to see what might suit you. Otherwise, this might break it down for you:

#### Have a few hours for a one-time opportunity?

- Adopt one or more baskets, and shop for it with friends
- Schedule a time to come in and wrap gifts
- Have a cookie baking party with co-workers
- Deliver baskets on the morning of Monday, December 24
- Help us sort through donations
- Help out at a special event for World AIDS Day or during December (e.g., concerts or parties)
- · Assist in the kitchen or food shelf

#### Have 15 or more hours to share over the course of the season?

- Be "Santa's helper" and select gifts from our stock to fulfill wish lists
- Organize a toy, or hat and mitten drive
- Supervise volunteer groups that wrap presents
- Recruit others to adopt holiday baskets
- Recruit donations
- Help office staff keep their sanity!

All activities are underway, so please call or sign up with the form or online. (Send us your students when they are home on break. We'll keep them busy!) If your chess club, yoga class, church group, or other group would like a short presentation about our volunteer opportunities, please give Monica Travis a call at 612-822-7946, extension 206.

#### **Holiday Hours:**

**Thanksgiving:** Our office will be closed from Thursday, November 22 through Sunday, November 25. This year, our Thanksgiving Meal will be served from noon to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, November 21.

Christmas: Our office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25.

New Year's Day: Our office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

## Basket Pick-up & Delivery Times:

Hanukkah Baskets (pick-up and delivery): Friday, December 7

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### **Holiday Basket Pick-up:**

Wednesday - Friday December 19, 20, or 21 Noon - 7:00 PM

#### **Holiday Basket Delivery:**

Monday, December 24 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM



## How can I help?

#### Adopt a Basket

You shop for gifts for a specific individual or family basket. (Suggested budget is \$35 per person.) This is a wonderful holiday project for your family, faith group or co-workers!



ADOPTION is our greatest need!

#### **Sew Stockings**

Create homemade holiday stockings. Return by December 14.

#### **Bake Cookies**

Bake your favorite holiday cookies at your home. Bag by the dozen and return between December 14 and 18.

#### **Host a Drive**

Your school, faith community, or group can host a drive for new clothing, hats, mittens, gloves, nonperishable food and hygiene items for our baskets.

#### **Errand Drivers**

Pick up and transport donated goods and other items to our office, using your vehicle. Gas reimbursement is available.

#### **Deliver Baskets**

Deliver baskets to homes of recipients on Monday, December 24 (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM).

#### **Leadership Roles**

Volunteer as a "Captain" by supervising other volunteers, soliciting donations, organizing baskets, or coordinating specific activities (5-15 hours per week preferred).

## 20th Annual Holiday Basket Program Donor & Volunteer Form

We need your help with this year's Holiday Basket Program for people living with HIV/AIDS! Your care and commitment will help make a brighter holiday season for those in need.

ADOPTION is our greatest need!

Your	Name	(S):	
Orga	nizatio	on:	
Addr	ess:		
		Zip:	
Telep	hone (	(H): (W):	(Cell):
E-ma	ail:		
ADOPT		To determine <b>how many people you could adopt</b> (and buy presents amount you want to spend; then divide that total by \$35.00 (the amount individual). We will provide you with information for individuals or familiary.	for each person), first choose the total nt we suggest spending on each
DONATE		We need in-kind donations of <u>new</u> clothing, toys (for children & teenage scarves, quilts, hygiene items, CDs/DVDs, candy, nonperishable food, Enclosed is a donation for \$ Please make your check	ers), mittens/gloves, stocking caps, gift certificates, stuffed animals, etc.  a payable to "The Aliveness Project."  Expiration date:   Therapies  General Services
VOLUNTEER	*/-	Please contact me (us) about volunteering to help with:  Leadership role* (5-15 hrs/week) Sewing holiday stockings Wrapping presents Special events!** Phone calls or office help Soliciting in-kind donations Driving errands Sewing quilts / afghans / throws Baking cookies Organizing a drive for new clothing, toys or other gifts Organizing a food drive (for nonperishable food or hygiene items) Helping with on-site basket pick up days on: December 19 20 or 21 (circle date[s] available) Delivering 1-2 Hanukkah Baskets on Friday, Dec. 7, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (requires a vehicle) Delivering 2-3 Christmas Baskets on Monday, Dec. 24, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (requires a vehicle) Preferred Zip Code(s) for Deliveries: Type & Size of Vehicle:	IF YOU CAN HELP, Please send this form to: HOLIDAY BASKET PROGRAM The Aliveness Project 730 East 38th Street Minneapolis, MN 55407 TEL: 612-824-LIFE (5433) FAX: 612-822-9668 Online Registration AVAILABLE! www.aliveness.org

#### Volunteer Spotlight on Brian & Tom continued from pg. 1

rian Myrland has been volunteering at The Aliveness Project for five years. He was born in Wisconsin, but grew up in Red Wing, Minnesota. He stumbled upon The Aliveness Project by chance. "I was looking for a volunteer opportunity when I noticed an ad in Lavender's Yellow Pages. I called, and the rest is history," he says.

Brian's hero is Superman. He jokes, "I think it's the tights." His favorite memory while volunteering at The Aliveness Project is getting to know Food Shelf Coordinator Dan Capelli, Tom Storkamp, and all of The Aliveness Project people.

When he's not at the Project, Brian



enjoys taking classes at the University of Minnesota, hiking, reading, or cooking. He is close with family in the Twin Cities, including a 15-month-old niece, Isabella, who is "a blast to hang out with."

Brian enjoys knowing the hard work done in the Food Shelf makes a difference in people's lives. When asked what he would say to encourage others to volunteer at The Aliveness Project, Brian made a Top Ten List, below. Step aside, David Letterman, this guy has talent!

TOP 10 REASONS to Volunteer at Aliveness

by Brian Myrland

- 10. You'll feel needed
- 9. Hear "thank you" in several different languages and accents
- 8. Sean and Dan's finger-lickin' aourmet meals
- 7. Karma
- 6. Flexible hours
- 5. Resumé builder
- 4. Money is overrated
- 3. You may get to appear HERE
- 2. There's nothing good on TV anyway
- 1. Volunteers do GOOD!

om Storkamp has been volunteering with Brian in the Food Shelf for 15 months. When someone suggested The Aliveness Project as a great place to volunteer, he took them up on it. "I had some free time," he says.

Tom's hero is his oldest brother,

"a good brother," he asserts. His favorite Aliveness

Project memory is visiting with people in the community.

Outside of volunteering, he works, attends AA meetings, and

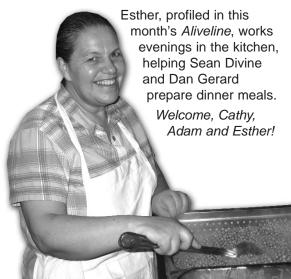
simply "hangs out." One thing is certain: those who receive their food and hygiene products from the Food Shelf each month definitely appreciate that he "hangs out" so much in The Aliveness Project Food Shelf!

Thank you, Brian and Tom, for all you have done and continue to do.

Above: Tom Storkamp and Food Shelf Coordinator Dan Capelli

#### **Project Staff Continues to Grow**

Recently, three new employees joined the Aliveness Project's staff: Cathy Van Valkenburgh in September, and Adam Fairbanks and Esther Mendez in October.



#### **Meet Esther!**

Where did you grow up? Mexico

What 3 words best describe your personality? Hard worker, friendly

What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally? Something new

What turns you off? Injustice

What is your favorite cereal? Cheerios

What sound or noise do you love? The ocean

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? Teacher

What profession would you not like to do? Secretary

How did you come to know the Aliveness Project? Searching for jobs in Yahoo!

What would you like to see happen at the Aliveness Project in 2008? Still open

#### "An Exciting Time"

#### THE LATEST IN HIV/AIDS MEDS WITH DR. KEITH HENRY

007 has been a banner year in antiretroviral therapy. Just in the ■ last six weeks, the FDA approved two new drugs from two new drug families. As Dr. Keith Henry of the HCMC HIV Program explains, traditionally, all HIV drugs belonged to three families: The "nukes", for which AZT was the prototype in 1986, the "non-nukes" for which Sustiva was the prototype, and the protease inhibitors, for which Kaletra was the prototype.

As antiretroviral therapy evolved in the years after the epidemic, it was found that the most effective treatment involved a cocktail of drugs from across the three families. Since HIV can mutate itself so easily, this is necessary to prevent resistance to one particular drug. However, time also told that these drugs were like members of our own families—not all siblings got along. Meaning, the drugs could only be mixed and matched in so many ways. This was not helpful in fending off HIV.

"A number of patients burned through all the families," said Dr. Henry. A relative newcomer is Fuzeon, a fusion inhibitor, which belongs to a class by

itself. However, its use has been hampered by awkward administration requirements (twice-a-day injections) and a lack of other new drugs aiming at new targets outside the traditional three families of HIV drugs.

But that was then. Today, there are two new drug families available: receptor inhibitors and integrase inhibitors.

Receptor inhibitors prevent the entry of HIV into the target T-cell by blocking activity of an R5 virus in the R5 receptor. (This drug will only work for you if you have an R5 virus.) The prototype is **Miraviroc**, a pill that goes down easily for most patients.

Integrase inhibitors prevent the integration of HIV DNA inside the cell, hence the name integrase. The prototype, **Isentress**, suppresses the virus faster than the potent "non-nuke" Sustiva, and is easy to take at one pill twice a day.

Having both Miraviroc and Isentress to offer patients in combination with drugs from other families is a huge breakthrough. "For the first time in the ten years of the modern treatment era,

we are finally ahead of resistance!" Dr. Henry exclaims. Since founding the first AIDS clinic in Minnesota in 1985the same year The Aliveness Project began—he has never been more optimistic.

"We used to get one family [of drugs] at a time, but now we have a bonanza. Fuzeon, receptor inhibitors, integrase inhibitors...everyone I've seen so far has responded when at least two of these drugs have been used in a new regimen." More importantly, "There is essentially no HIV circulating in the U.S. today that cannot be controlled by optimal use of these drugs."

But medication is only part of the HIV/AIDS equation. Dr. Henry comments, "We rely on communities like The Aliveness Project to round out the patient's health and living experience. Food, emotional support, massage—these are things that are important to the overall well-being of HIV+ persons."

Dr. Keith Henry's professional focus involves HIV-related clinical research and care. He spends 100% of his time at work on HIVrelated topics. He likes working at HCMC so he can see a wide diversity of patients and provide good care, even to uninsured patients.



There is essentially no HIV circulating in the U.S. today that cannot be controlled by optimal use of these drugs.

#### Food Flies Fast in the Food Shelf

ay that five times fast! The biggest news for The Aliveness Project Food Shelf in 2007 is that it has been hit hard! With more members using the food shelf and new members signing up every month, we have been very, very busy. The food goes out almost as fast as it comes in!

People see a lot of food coming in from a food drive and say, "Wow, that should hold you for a while." What they don't realize is that 2,000 lbs. of food is about a week and half's supply. In other words, we could use more food drives! If you hare having a holiday party, ask your guests to bring nonperishable food for the Aliveness Project.

We will be doing our last food drive of 2007 at the Wedge Natural Foods Co-op, at Lyndale and Franklin, on Saturday, November 3, and Sunday, November 4. There will be three shifts each day, three hours each, and 18 volunteers needed. We always have a lot of fun on food drives and meet such wonderful people, so if you want to help, call Monica Travis at 612-822-7946, extension 206.

As always, if you recycle your tall, paper handle grocery bags, please recycle them to the Project.



Three human resources departments from Wells Fargo hosted a food drive in September. Thank you, Brian Larson, Bonnie O'Shea & Jean Mchichi 3933 lbs. of food and \$416 were collected!

Food Shelf Coordinator Dan Capelli would like to thank everyone who has helped in the food shelf in the last year. "Without you we couldn't survive! Thanks to you all."

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

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Prime Timers -Minneapolis/St. Paul

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Theatre in the Round Trattoria da Vinci United Health Group

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Theresa C. Gaffney John Gairy

Michael Garret & Tony Scornavacco\*

Teresa Geraets Raymond L. Gooderl Carolyn Gregory

Eric Gustin Paul Hamm

David Hanson

Martha Hardy



to everyone who made financial & in-kind gifts between August 21 & October 24

#### Thanks, Donors!

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\* Denotes Friends of Aliveness Program donors, who pledge monthly

#### Moved recently?



New email address? Other updates?

Our database wants to know!

Contact Tim Marburger 612-822-7946, extension 204 events@aliveness.org

Pet People!

Ask for food for your critters when you make your food shelf appointment.

There is a GOOD supply at the moment!



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The Aliveline www.aliveness.org

#### **November/December 2007**

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