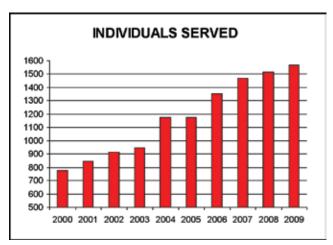
Aliveline

Serving Our HIV/AIDS Community Since 1985 March/April 2010 Vol. 20, Issue 2

INCREASE IN NEW HIV CASES

The Minnesota Department of Health recently reported a 13 percent increase in new cases of HIV infection last year—the highest increase in 17 years!

This increase is reflected in the growing number of people who use our services. In 2009, we served 1,572 individuals, which is one out of four Minnesotans living with HIV/AIDS. This was four percent more than the previous year and twice as many people as ten years ago (see table below.)



MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MONTH

Did you know that last year our Food Shelf distributed over **43 TONS of food?** March is Minnesota

- 3 Heartfelt Thank You From Holiday Basket recipients
 - 7 March is Food Drive Month
 Find out how to run a successful food drive
 - Planning for 2010 Dining Out For Life
 Volunteer to be an Ambassador today!

FoodShare Month. So, please help support our Food Shelf by planning a food drive, donating nonperishable food items or making a financial donation during March.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our capital campaign is officially underway to raise funds to renovate a building we purchased last year. Our future home's address is 3808 Nicollet Avenue S. and we hope to move sometime this fall. We have a wonderful Capital Campaign Committee which has been working on requesting support from a variety of foundations, corporations and individuals in our community. We will need lots of involvement from people like you to accomplish this exciting project!



continued on page 2...





DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Dining Out for Life will take place on **Thursday**, **April 29**. We have over 135 restaurants this year—many that participated last year and several new ones, too!

Last year, DOL raised \$128,000—and our goal this year is \$130,000, which is 14 percent of our annual

budget. Given the current economic situation, we especially need everyone's support of this event.

A complete list of participating restaurants and sponsors will be posted our website at **www. aliveness.org**, as well as on the International Dining Out for Life website: **www.diningoutforlife.com**. This website lets you do searches by types of restaurants, locations, and meals.

We still need volunteers to serve as Ambassadors at the restaurants. Last year, Ambassadors helped collect close to \$35,000 at the restaurants! Please sign up to help at **www.aliveness.org** and invite your friends, co-workers, family members and neighbors to join you at your restaurant! Help us make this another successful Dining Out for Life!

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The Aliveline

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Holiday Basket THANK YOU

Each year after Holiday Baskets, we hear from many members of The Aliveness Project who are so appreciative of the extraordinary kindness of the adoptors, the caring spirit of the volunteers who deliver their baskets, the sweet paintings on their baskets and the act of being remembered where many have no one around to acknowledge them. From the many letters we received, we have compiled some of them below for your enjoyment. Please know that each of you made a HUGE difference!

"I would like to thank whoever adopted us. I know you put a lot of hard work and effort into everything. Thank you so much for the DVD, the scarfs and gloves; I will use all of them. You made my Christmas complete."

"Thank you for making my Holiday a little brighter this year! There was a light that lit the darkness, for a brief moment — and I'm so very thankful for that."

"I'M A SINGLE MOM OF A BEAUTIFUL 5 YEAR OLD GIRL. I AM A FREELANCE ARTIST/ACTOR AND WE STRUGGLE FINANCIALLY. I HAD TAKEN MY ENERGY BILL PAYMENT TO BUY A FEW THINGS FOR MY DAUGHTER AT THE DOLLAR STORE WITH TEARS IN MY EYES... WHILE I WAS THERE MY PHONE RANG AND IT WAS SOMEONE WITH A CHRISTMAS PACKAGE FROM THE ALIVENESS PROJECT TO DELIVER TO ME. MY DOORBELL WASN'T WORKING, SO I BEGGED HER TO WAIT, WHILE I RAN HOME. SHE DID, THANK GOODNESS! I WAS SO GRATEFUL AND TOUCHED AND IT WAS THE BRIGHT SPOT IN OUR HOLIDAYS."

"I wanted to thank the family who sponsored our gift basket. It was very nice and thoughtful of you. We loved everything. I think my youngest was the happiest about the blender, as she has made a lot of fruit smoothies already."

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I wish you well for the New Year. You have very kind hearts and if not for you, I wouldn't have smiled at all this holiday. Thank you so very Much.....xoxo"

"Thank you for an unforget table Christmas. I am grateful for people like you who make me smile and feel like someone cares."

"There really is a Santa Claus! I've recently developed arthritis in my hands and now it's progressing. The food chopper will save my hands from a painful workout. The Deluxe Massaging Foot Spa is a dream come true. My cats are fighting over the kitty bed and the catnip spray is making them crazy. I really want to thank all of the people at The Aliveness Project for all their hard work and anyone else who was involved, especially those who adopted me."

"MY DOORBELL RANG AND I OPENED MY DOOR AND ALL I SAW WAS A GREAT BIG BOX FULL OF PRESENTS. I COULD NOT SEE WHO WAS CARRYING THEM. I FELT LIKE A KID AGAIN. I WANTED TO THANK EVERYONE FOR OUR WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS. EVERYTHING WE GOT WAS LIKE WE PICKED IT OUT OURSELVES. ALSO, THANKS TO RANDI AND JULIE (THE PEOPLE WHO DELIVERED). I KNOW HOW MUCH WORK IT TAKES TO PUT THIS TOGETHER."

"Wow...the box of gifts came at just the right time. I was not feeling so good - what a blessing it was to get my holiday basket from The Aliveness Project. I think it was the nicest basket ever! I got a craft kit whisch I LOVE!...the best was the handmade lap blanket."

"Thank you is not ever enough to say for what you gave to me. Your gift made this Christmas the best of my life. There is no way to explain how your wonderful gifts made me feel the love of the season. I hope the people that made this possible realize what a miracle this was for me..."



Dine Out, Fight AIDS

April 2010 S M W Th S 3 4 5 9 10 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 26 27 28 30

Dining Out For Life

-Tim Marburger, Director of Fundraising & Special Events

Again!?!!?? I hear that question a lot when I begin talking about Dining Out for Life each year. Well, 2010 will be our 16th year to hold this fun event and my eighth time coordinating it. There are times when I don't even feel like it's done, when we start again. It is fun, not only for me, but I see the smiles and hear people saying that they dine out each year. They have their favorite restaurants or like to try new ones (which we have each year). This is a great time to start planning where you will have breakfast, lunch and dinner! Watch for where Sven will be. We have also been blessed with you voting Dining Out for Life "The Top Local Fundraiser" in Lavender Magazine, not once but three times.

We are fortunate to have KARE 11 and Minnesota Monthly on board as sponsors this year. Many of the "old" restaurants will be there, plus many new places. To see a current list of participating restaurants for 2010 visit **www.diningoutforlife.com**. Our restaurant numbers will increase this year to well over 135.

With this expansion of restaurants, we will be in need of over 400 ambassadors. Haven't you always wanted to be an ambassador to Joe's Garage or Afton House Inn? Ambassadors are The Aliveness Project's representatives at each restaurant for each meal. Last year, of the \$127,000 Dining Out for Life raised for the work of The Aliveness Project, ambassadors brought in \$35,000 of that. They invite, welcome and visit with all guests at their restaurant. You may ask, "Tim, what are the qualifications for this here ambassador position?"

I would say:

- 1. Have hundreds of friends to invite to the restaurant.

 (You may also include people whom you may not like too much.)
- 2. Talk glowingly about The Aliveness Project.
- 3. Attend a MANDATORY 1.25 hour training at The Aliveness Project (unless you've been an ambassador in the past 3 years).
- 4. Be able to talk to strangers, if all your friends don't show up.
- 5. Be able to smile for 3 4 hours.
- 6. Wear comfortable shoes.
- 7. Enjoy life and have FUN!!





The Vets Are Coming, The Vets Are Coming!

The vets are returning to do another Pet Clinic on Saturday, March 27. The appointments will run from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. There will be three doctors here that day, Dr. Heidi Mittelsteadt, Dr. Heidi Hammel and Dr. Scott Hammel. This means that there will be 21 appointments. Each member that books an appointment can bring up to two pets. We will pull the pets' charts to check if they are due for shots or not. If they are not due for shots, we will cancel the appointment and give it to someone else. Appointments will be available for scheduling as of **Monday, March 15**. Please do not call to book an appointment before that date.

We have openings for medical case management here at The Aliveness Project. If you do not already have a case manager and you are in need of assistance with accessing services, call Walter Gies (ext. 203) or Johnny Herda-Anzaldo (ext. 202) to set up an appointment for an intake. Case managers assist people with filling out applications for medical insurance or finding an HIV doctor. They can help with accessing financial assistance, applying for food stamps and General Assistance. They can help with getting a Rule 25 assessment for chemical dependency or finding a treatment center to fit your needs. They can help you qualify for affordable discounted transportation, find a mental health professional for therapy or medication, apply for social security, access legal assistance or apply for subsidized housing.

It is our job to help people to be able to get their needs met. If you need a case manager, please give us a call at 612-822-7946.

- Johnny Herda-Anzaldo LSW

Volunteer Notes

A hearty thank you to all of our volunteers from this past year! Many volunteers joined in our Annual Volunteer Recognition Movie night February 25 at the Heights Theatre to enjoy award-winning Julie & Julia starring the legendary Meryl Streep. We feasted on a fantastic cake from our wonderful kitchen staff and enjoyed our food theme with door prizes of fun kitchen gadgets and copies of Served with Love, a collection of favorite recipes of The Aliveness Project's members, volunteers, staff & our own kitchen. Are you a volunteer who missed the event and therefore did not receive a copy? Let Monica know soon that you would like one. Thanks to all who participated. We are already looking forward to next year!

A special thanks to Ten Thousand Things Theater Company for performing *Stones in His Pockets* here in The Aliveness Project's big conference room on January 28th. Two Equity actors, Steven Epp & Jim Lichtscheidl, each played six roles, thoroughly entertaining our audience. Thanks to the rest of the crew including Michelle Hensley, Director, and Nancy Waldoch, Production Manager, for bringing their production to us once again!

Ambassador qualifications: be able to smile as big as Scott & Greg!

- Monica Travis



Scott and Greg



Food Shelf News

Had enough snow yet? Personally I am waiting for an early spring! Lots of stuff happening In March! I'll start with the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. For 28 years, Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the largest food and fund drive in the state. This will be the 10th year that The Aliveness Project has been involved with the campaign. Last year, we collected 2,185 pounds of food and \$2,206 in cash. Our goal for 2010 is \$3,500 cash and 3,500 pounds. If you want to help, you can organize a food drive at your school, civic group, business, corporation and/or faith community.

To order posters, balloons, signs and more, just go to mnfoodshare.gmcc.org/marchpromote.php. All you have to do is set up a large box; decorate it if you like. You can also go to your favorite hang out (coffee shop, grocery, etc), and ask if you can set up a box for The Aliveness Project (and check it often to see if it needs to emptied). Always leave a little food in the box so it looks like we are doing well. With the economy the way it is, the demand for food shelf services is stronger than ever, so please help us help others. You can find the main site at mnfoodshare.gmcc.org. Just have fun with it and know you are helping many people to have access to food they desperately need to survive.

In addition, The Feinstein Foundation is offering matching grants up to \$1 million to participating nonprofits. We count dollars and pounds (each food item is counted as \$1), and can be reported March 1st - April 30th. Keep that food and money coming!

The Aliveness Project will be doing a Food Drive on March 20 and 21 and our host again will be the Wedge Community Co-op (2105 Lyndale Avenue S).

We will be there both days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. That's two 3 hour shifts and one 2 hour shift each day. We will need many volunteers to fill the shifts, so call Monica to sign up (612-822-7946, extension 206). We always have fun at these Food Drives. The Wedge has been very generous to us in the past, so go do some shopping there and drop off the non-perishable food at our table right out front. **BE THERE, DO GOOD, and HAVE FUN.**

Just a quick thank you to all the folks who have been donating their tall handle paper bags to our food shelf. You are making a difference!

Thanks for all you do,

– Dan Capelli, Food
Shelf Director



March is Food Drive Month in Minnesota

It is time for the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign! More than 20 years ago, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches joined forces to try and solve hunger in Minnesota. Their efforts gave birth to the March Campaign, Minnesota's largest drive for the hungry. Since most food shelves run out of holiday stocks by March, the month was chosen wisely. This March, we ask you to hold a food drive at church, work, school or other community group. Results are tracked by weight and the most weight wins. Try to gather as many non-perishable food items as you can, and remember to have fun with it! Below are tips to run a successful food drive and below is a list of items we use in our food shelf. If organizing a food drive is not in your future, we also accept checks (please write "food shelf" on the memo line).

Food Shelf Grocery List

Bre	eakfast	Lunches/Dinners		
	Fruit juices (not frozen)	☐ Hearty (chunky) soups		
	Hot & dry cereals	☐ Canned beef,		
	Powdered or canned milk	poultry, etc. Peanut butter, jelly		
	Coffee, tea, hot chocolate	Canned fruit Boxed main dishes		
Sta	crackers Crackers Sugar, flour Salt, spices Pancake/biscuit mixes	☐ Canned vegetables ☐ Macaroni & cheese ☐ Pasta, spaghetti sauces ☐ Potato buds		
Spe	ecial Treats	Hygiene Items		
	Cake mixes Muffin mixes Pudding Gelatin Cookies Granola bars	☐ Toilet paper, facial tissue ☐ Hand lotion ☐ Shampoo, conditioner ☐ Bath soap ☐ Feminine products ☐ Deodorant		

Tips for Running a Successful Food Drive

Thinking about having a food drive for our Food Shelf Program? Listed below are some ideas* for running a successful food drive at your workplace, school or community organization:

- Educate everyone about the impact of hunger in our community. If people understand the importance of food drives, they will be more willing to give.
- Set a goal If this is the first time you have held a food drive, pick a goal that is both challenging and achievable.
 If you have sponsored food drives previously, consider increasing your goal this year. Post information about the food drive in a prominent location and make regular reports about your progress in reaching your goal.
- Pick a theme or catchy slogan. A local company used the theme "Empty carts mean empty stomachs — Fill 'er up." They developed a simple logo with a grocery cart to use on their posters and materials. Some food drives focus on special needs (e.g., items for babies, nutritional supplements).
- Use creative techniques to get everyone involved. One workplace provided everyone with a grocery bag and lists of food to bring. The bags were distributed each morning and evening at employee entrances.
- Thank donors. Communicate final results and express thanks to participants, perhaps in your employee newsletter or on your intranet or website.
- Provide incentives. Friendly competitions can be arranged between different departments at your organization. Offer prizes (such as coupons for free lunches or a vacation day) to the team that brings in the most donations.

*Based on material from The Pillsbury Company and Second Harvest Heartland.

Thanks, Donors

Thanks to everyone who gave financial and in-kind gifts between December 16, 2009 and February 12, 2010.

ORGANIZATIONS

All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church

Apple Valley Medical Center

Beckman Coulter, Assay Technical Support Department

BioScrip Pharmacy

Calvary Lutheran Church

The Chair Salon

Coldwell Banker Burnet

Communications Systems, Inc.

Communications Workers of America, Local 7250, AFL

Community United Methodist Church

Cretin-Derham Hall

DailyMed Pharmacy

De LaSalle High School

District 202

The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation

Edward Jones

First Christian Church

First Equity Mortgage

Friendly Hills Middle School

GiveMN

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Reconciling Committee

Hennepin County Medical Center/ HIV Program/Positive Care Center

Hiawatha Church

Homecare Assist

IBM Employee Services Center Improve Group, The

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Community of Twin
Cities

Minneapolis South Rotary Club

Minnesota Department of Human Services, HIV/AIDS

Minnesota International Center, International Visitor Leadership Program

New Spirit United Church of Christ

Nordstrom

Open Your Heart to The Hungry and Homeless

Phresh Spa Salon

Regions Hospital, Radiology Department

Shir Tikvah, 7th Grade Sunday School class

Smith Partners PLLP Spirit of the Lakes

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church of Brooklyn Center, MN

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, Confirmation Families

Target Financial Services, TFS Target Volunteer Council Target Store - Chaska

TRUST Youth Group Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Walk to End Hunger

Wells Fargo Insurance ASC

West Side Community Health Services, Clinic 7 Team

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continued on page 10...

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continued from page 9...

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*Denotes Friends of **Aliveness Program** donors, who pledge monthly gifts.



Thursday, April 29 Dine out. Do good.



To our fantastic volunteers:

Many of you have served as volunteer Ambassadors for our annual fundraiser, Dining Out for Life. Thank you! Now is the time for you to sign up both yourself and a friend to be an Ambassador.

This is your sign-up form, or you may fill out the form on **www.aliveness.org**. Please share this form with a sociable friend who would like to join you inviting friends and family to dine out on April 29 for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Over 300 Ambassadors are needed for various meal times, especially lunch and dinner. Tasks include inviting, welcoming and thanking diners, answering questions and encouraging donations. Training is provided with times listed below. If you have served as an Ambassador two or more times in the last four years, you need not attend training, but you will need to arrange to pick up materials. Please sign up now!

Thanks! Monica & Tim

Dine out at one of over 135 restaurants across the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester on April 29 and a portion of what you spend will be donated to The Aliveness Project, a local nonprofit agency that provides meals, food shelf, case management, holiday baskets and other services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

For more info, visit diningoutforlife.com or call 612-824-LIFE (5433).

DON'T JUST EAT, VOLUNTEER!

Yes, I want to be a Volunteer Ambassador for Dining Out for Life. Sign up here or online at **www.aliveness.org**.

www.alivelless.ol	g.			
Your Name (please print):				
Address:				
City:		State:	Zip Code:	
Phone:	(h,w, or cell?) E	-mail:		
I will be a volunteer Amba	ssador for:BreakfastL	unchDinner		
Geographic Location or R	estaurant Type: (i.e. Downtown,	St. Paul, western suburbs	, really dressy, casual,	late night, etc.)
1)	2)	Ambassado	r before for 2+ years?	Yes or No?
Suggestion of friend to be Name	Co-Ambassador ?: Phone()	Email		- Easy one-time opportunity!
Ambassador training date	time (circle one): 1) Mon. 3/29	0/10 6:30 PM 2) Wed. 3/3	1/10 12 Noon	- Need not have

Returning Ambassador materials pick-up: Tues. 3/30/10 4:00- 6:00 PM, or Fri. 4/9/10 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM

3) Thurs. 4/8/10 6:30 PM **4)** Sat. 4/10/10 10 AM **5)** Tues. 4/13/10 4:00 PM **6)** Fri. 4/16/10 12 Noon

Please return to Monica Travis (Fax: 612-822-9668) or send to: The Aliveness Project, 730 East, 38th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 Questions? Please call 612-824-LIFE, ext. 206 or Email volunteer@alivness.org

- Need not have volunteered before!
- Simple, 1.25 hour training provided!
- Work in pairs!
- Make it a party for family & friends!

March/April 2010

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