



# POSITIVE IMPACT

WINTER 2005 • A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA AIDS PROJECT

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983

## Global Epidemic Hits Home In Minnesota



Dori Makundi

Since the late 1970s Minnesota has seen waves of international immigration beginning with refugees from Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe with the fall of the Soviet Union and most recently from African countries hard hit by civil war and famine. Many of Minnesota's new African-born residents come from east African countries.

Somalia, Ethiopia, and Oromo are probably the countries most well known, but African-born immigrants in Minnesota hail from nearly every country in Africa. AIDS in Africa is decimating the continent, and our new African-born residents are also struggling to fight HIV here in Minnesota.

*In 2002 and 2003 African-born Minnesotans represented 21 percent of the total new HIV cases.*

In 2001, the Minnesota Department of Health began to make a distinction in their data collection to separate African immigrant Minnesotans from African American residents in recording the race and ethnicity of those newly identified with HIV. That year 45 African-born residents were newly diagnosed with HIV

representing 16 percent of the 288 cases reported. In 2002 and 2003 African-born Minnesotans represented 21 percent of the total new HIV cases. These numbers are alarming because African-born immigrants represent less than one percent of the overall population in Minnesota.

Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) introduced its African Services Initiative to serve Africans with HIV and to develop prevention messages and materials to stop HIV in this community. Dori Makundi, MAP systems advocate, is leading our efforts. As a Tanzanian, Dori is acutely aware of how gender, faith, poverty, and stigma impact African communities. That combined with her education in public health, experience as MAP case manager, and ability to speak some of the languages makes her uniquely suited to coordinate MAP's African Services Initiative.

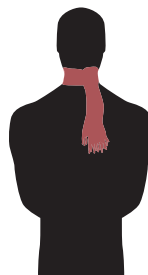
The initiative is important because the HIV epidemic looks different in the African communities than other at-risk communities. In general, in the United States, HIV is transmitted through unprotected anal sex and injection drug use and affects men, particularly men who have sex with men in far greater numbers than women. However, among African-born residents, HIV is largely transmitted through heterosexual sex, and African-born women in Minnesota with HIV outnumber African-born men. In fact, in 2003, women of color represented 88 percent of new HIV infections among women in Minnesota.

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Minnesota AIDS Project is a  
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 well-being of those affected.

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# New Year: Opportunity for new Beginnings

*The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. ~G.K. Chesterton*

As the New Year begins the world is stunned by the sudden and tragic devastation of a tsunami killing nearly 200,000. The pictures show the results of total devastation in a large area of the globe. Countless families had their lives forever turned upside down and are now immersed in an ongoing daily struggle to survive. The global community bonded together immediately to provide aid setting aside politics, religion, borders and other unimportant factors that normally keep us apart.

Imagine if the world had responded so quickly to the AIDS epidemic. right now 8,500 citizens of the world die from HIV. Every day of every year, the toll continues unchecked. And yet we still have not been able, even after more than 20 years, to convince our leaders around the globe that this needn't happen. We couldn't stop the natural disaster in Asia, but we can stop the HIV epidemic.

HIV is simply put, a public health crisis. It demands that we use every tool at our disposal to stop new infections and care for those already infected. In 2005 we have those tools. We have medications that can prolong lives. We have prevention techniques that have been well researched and proven to work. And yet our governments largely remain soulless and unwilling to do what's necessary. There is no more time for excuses.

It is incumbent on those in leadership positions who have reached across the globe to help those suffering from an unexpected natural disaster to also reach out to aid those who have been fighting the HIV epidemic for more than 20 years. Bring life-saving generic drugs to those who cannot afford the over-inflated cost of multinational pharmaceutical companies. Bring life-saving education, safer sex supplies and clean needles to those desperately asking for such aid. Once we have done this work together, we will know that 2005 was the year in which we discovered our soul.

# all over the **MAP**

## At MAP

The final community forum in the 2004-2005 series will be held Tuesday, January 25 from 7 – 8:30 pm at Macalester College Student Center. The forum, "Ensuring Survival: The Case for New Approaches to HIV Health Care" will feature David Holtgrave, Director of Emory Center for AIDS Research at Emory University. With state HIV and drug assistance programs facing financial collapse, look for Dr. Holtgrave to lead a lively discussion about rethinking our commitment to providing health care for persons living with HIV, and for us all. Visit [www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org) for more information about the community forum.



Often overlooked in the lives of those living with HIV is the safety of food and water and the importance of good nutrition. Positive Link, MAP's peer-based education and social program will be holding a community forum on Thursday, January 27. The "HIV, Nutrition and Cooking" forum will feature chef Todd Konkol of Todd Konkol Fine Foods. He will demonstrate safe food handling techniques and offer suggestions for nutritious, easy to prepare meals. This forum will be held at Park House. Please RSVP by calling 651-634-2280. For more information about this forum or Positive Link, call 612-373-2426.



The future of state funding for health care for persons living with HIV, sex education in the schools and the swirling impact of state budget cuts and the politics of gay marriage were in the air during the January 13 broadcast of **Fresh Fruit** on KFai Radio. Bob Tracy, MAP director of development and former MAP director of community affairs and education joins **Fresh Fruit** program host Leigh Combs on the second Thursday of each month for conversation about what's in the news about HIV. KFai is broadcast in the Twin Cities on 90.3 FM in Minneapolis and 106.7 in Saint Paul. **Fresh Fruit** airs on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. Recent broadcasts can be found at [www.kfai.org](http://www.kfai.org).

## Around the Nation

Two new publications are now available for public health and HIV service providers.

**The American Public Health Association (APHA) has recently updated and released "Public Health Law Manual."** The updated version of the manual -- which primarily targets public health professionals -- provides an expanded discussion of the law and policy surrounding HIV issues, as well as enhanced material on the legal aspects of recent abortion and euthanasia rulings. The manual is available through the APHA Web site at [apha.org/media](http://apha.org/media).

**The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild and San Francisco AIDS Foundation have recently published "HIV/AIDS and Immigrants: A Manual for HIV/AIDS Service Providers."** The updated manual is a free resource that aims to help HIV service providers and their clients understand the legal rights of HIV-positive immigrants and seek to facilitate open discussion about the legal and health care needs of immigrants. The manual is available online at [nationalimmigrationproject.org/HIV/HIV.htm](http://nationalimmigrationproject.org/HIV/HIV.htm).



San Francisco public health officials recently issued a warning about a rare and "potentially debilitating" sexually transmitted disease -- called lymphogranuloma venereum, or LGV -- that has appeared in the city in four men who

have unprotected sex with men. About 90 men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Netherlands have been diagnosed with LGV, and officials have reported other cases in Belgium, France, Sweden and Britain. The infection is caused by a strain of the bacteria that causes chlamydia and can be cured with antibiotics. LGV is associated with genital ulcers and flu-like symptoms and can cause severe gastrointestinal distress. Officials from the Centers of Disease Control warned doctors in November that LGV had been spreading among men who have unprotected sex with men in Europe and could appear among such men in the United States. LGV usually is seen in developing countries -- such as those in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America -- and most often is diagnosed among heterosexuals, in whom it causes genital lesions and swelling in the lymph glands in the groin. Men who experience rectal symptoms -- including bleeding of the rectum and colon -- most likely contract LGV through unprotected anal intercourse. Health professionals are concerned because the rectal inflammation and ulceration sometimes caused by LGV could increase the risk of transmitting or contracting HIV and other blood-borne diseases. Dr. Sam Mitchell, an epidemiologist from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, reports that some of the four men are HIV-positive, but HIV-positive individuals are not thought to be at a higher risk of LGV complications. (Story excerpted from **San Francisco Chronicle**)

## WE ASKED AND YOU ANSWERED

You will notice that this issue of Positive Impact has a different look and feel. That is thanks to the many of you that responded to our recent readership survey. Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think about the information you receive from Minnesota AIDS Project. Your input told us that MAP needed to reduce the size of the newsletter. You also told us to include more information about legislative and policy issues, personal stories, volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved with MAP and the fight against HIV. We have implemented the design changes and will continue to add stories and content in the areas you requested. This issue and all issues of Positive Impact are also available on our web site at [www.mnaidsproject.org/about/publications.htm](http://www.mnaidsproject.org/about/publications.htm). If you have additional comments or questions about Positive Impact, please contact Amy Weiss, director of communications, [aweiss@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:aweiss@mnaidsproject.org) or 612-373-9164.



# PrideAlive Stops AIDS One Volunteer at a Time

## PrideAlive Tuesday Night Volunteers WISH LIST

There are lots of ways you can get involved with PrideAlive's Tuesday Nites including making an in-kind donation. If you are interested helping us with any of these items, please contact Bob Tracy, [btracy@mnmaidsproject.org](mailto:btracy@mnmaidsproject.org) or 612-373-2459.

**A Big, BIG Screen TV** - It's getting hard for all 30 of us to see things on that 27-incher.

**Coffee Tables** - We need work-spaces for stuffing those safer sex kits.

**Food** - We welcome restaurants and caterers who would like to deliver chow on a Tuesday.

**Beverages** - Help us stock our soda shelves and keep the coffee flowing.

**DVDs and Books** - We're filling our library shelves with movies and books that support queer health and culture.

**Furniture** - QueerSpace only gets better with nice comfy couches and chairs and the right light to set the mood.

**AIDS Prevention Paraphernalia** - We learn from our history. What great prevention materials have you collected?

**You!** - Join us at 7 pm on Tuesdays. Want to know more? Contact us at 612-373-9165 or [pridealive@mnmaidsproject.org](mailto:pridealive@mnmaidsproject.org)



Charles Sexton

Charles Sexton showed up for his first Tuesday Volunteer Nite last summer. Charles is a pretty busy guy with his job and other things going on in his life. But, now he volunteers for anywhere from four to six outreach shifts a month for PrideAlive in addition to attending outreach team meetings and participating in other PrideAlive activities. Why does he do it? "It's fun, but part of the enjoyment is knowing that something I'm doing is actually making a difference," he says. "Also, on a personal level, being involved in PrideAlive has made me take a second look at the things my friends and I need to keep doing or change in terms of risk."

Charles found his way to PrideAlive after seeing the staff outreach guys one weekend at Trixx Bar in Saint Paul. It seemed like these guys were having fun, so Charles pulled aside Michael Lee, one of MAP's PrideAlive health education coordinators, and asked how to get involved with PrideAlive. Michael invited Charles to one of the regular Tuesday Volunteer Nite and then to make sure Charles actually showed up, he called him with a reminder the following Monday. Charles was there the next night.

When he showed up the TV was on and food was being set out on the table for the expected dinner crowd of two-dozen or so. Several hundred condoms, tubes of lube, breath mints and information inserts were spread out in front of the couches in preparation for the evening's main event. It was just another typical Tuesday Volunteer Nite at PrideAlive's QueerSpace. Volunteers are gathering for a few hours of conversation, food, planning and the stuffing of enough safer sex kits to get through the coming week of outreach.

In 2004, PrideAlive volunteers distributed 24,000 safer sex kits through outreach at Twin Cities bars and other places where they could reach men who have sex with men and they had plenty of safer sex kits and useful information to put in everyone's hands.

Charles had a good time that first night. It was a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Even though sitting around watching DVDs, eating pizza and just jabbering didn't seem like HIV prevention, he began to see the end goal. And, based on that first experience, Charles came back the next Tuesday, the next Tuesday, and the next Tuesday. Then he started going out with the outreach guys on Tuesday nights after they had finished stuffing condoms into safer sex kits. The PrideAlive Tuesday Nites have become regulars for bingo at the Brass Rail and they show up with a freshly-packed supply of safer sex kits and a buzz of conversation about PrideAlive, safer sex tips and whatever else got talked about that night back at MAP.

As Charles got to feel more like a Tuesday Nite regular, he started to check out some of the other PrideAlive events, such as the Cafe Chats, movie night and book club. He joined the group of two-dozen guys who went on a camping weekend together. By then, he realized he had really broadened his knowledge about HIV. He didn't realize it when it was happening, but every single time he got together to have fun with his PrideAlive friends and peers, he was learning something new about HIV. In hindsight, he realized staff and some of the more "seasoned" members always found ways to weave talk about HIV and queer health into the conversations.

So, Charles finally stepped forward to ask how he could get involved with the outreach team. That wasn't a problem -- he was given a PrideAlive outreach T-shirt, a nifty PrideAlive outreach bag, and pulled into the outreach van for a night out at the bars. He wasn't alone. MAP PrideAlive staff worked closely with him through the night to provide pointers about how to do the work. He also started attending regular PrideAlive outreach team meetings where he got more outreach skill training and more information about HIV, STDs and queer health. And, oh yeah, where he had fun getting to know the other guys on the team!



# Untying Our Hands

*Excerpted from Congresswoman McCollum's World AIDS Day speech.*

This forum is entitled "Untying our Hands: A Different Direction for Fighting the Global Epidemic." The title begs the question, in the face of the most destructive and deadly force attacking man on the planet today, why are our hands tied?

Why would our government not be doing everything possible to liberate and empower scientists and public health experts and educators to join with the rest of the world in confronting HIV and AIDS –utilizing every scientifically sound measure available and with the necessary financial and human resources needed to save lives – millions of lives?

## The answer:

The U.S. global leadership in fighting HIV and AIDS is being hampered and too often gagged by a partisan agenda that prioritizes domestic political ideology over common sense solutions.

The use of religious ideology over sound science, and a desire to subsidize drug company profits over access to affordable lifesaving drugs is limiting our nation's effectiveness in battling AIDS around the world.

"Untying our hands," for me, means untying and unleashing the political, economic, scientific and humanitarian leadership of the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. America must engage the world community – rich and poor – in a partnership that can save millions of our brothers and sisters around the world from misery, despair and death.

The fight against AIDS around the world is a calling and, in my estimation as a political leader, a moral obligation of the highest calling.

(To read the entire speech, please visit [www.mnaidsproject.org/publicpolicy](http://www.mnaidsproject.org/publicpolicy))

## Congresswoman McCollum Featured Speaker on World AIDS Day



Congresswoman Betty McCollum

On December 1, World AIDS Day, MAP was honored to have Congresswoman Betty McCollum speak on "Untying Our Hands: A Different Direction for Fighting the Global Epidemic" at Macalester College. While Congresswoman McCollum criticized the U.S. for not doing enough inside and outside of the U.S. to address the challenge of AIDS, she also urged improvement of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Chief among her criticism of the President's plan is its reliance on brand name vs. generic drugs, its emphasis on abstinence-only prevention education, and its lack of attention to training local health care workers.

"Our collective goal must not be to reject PEPFAR because it has failings," she declared, but instead to insist that government oversight ensures "that every dollar invested is actually yielding results that are improving and saving lives." (Please see the sidebar for an excerpt of Congresswoman McCollum's speech).

In the question and answer session following, Lorraine Teel, MAP executive director and Dori Makundi, MAP systems advocate, joined Congresswoman McCollum in answering thoughtful questions from the audience. As the focus of World AIDS Day was on women and girls, Dori was able to talk about her experience with African-born Minnesotan women and explain that African-born Minnesotan women face additional stigmatization because in Africa, the lack of access to drugs means AIDS is seen as an immediate death sentence; because sex is rarely talked about; and because women are expected to take care of their children first, and often delay seeking treatment because of inability to pay for drugs.

Thanks to Congresswoman McCollum for her dedication to stopping HIV, in the U.S. and globally.

## Health Care Access for ALL or Health Care Access for SOME?

**Do you believe health care should be available to all Minnesotans?**

If you do, you're not alone. Separate polls administered by citizens groups and unions tell us over 90 percent of Minnesotans believe health care should be available for all citizens, regardless of income or employment.

So what can you do about it?

MAP has joined with a coalition of unions and non-profit agencies who want access to affordable health care to be the right of every Minnesotan. MAP supports legislation introduced in 2004 [Senate File 2305] and likely to be revived in the coming biennial session that would make health care a basic right through an

amendment to the Minnesota constitution. The Minnesota constitution already guarantees Minnesotans the right to an education and the right to hunt and fish. Isn't access to health care just as basic?

MAP is collecting individual and group support for this effort. If you'd like to show your support for this or need more information, please visit [www.mnaidsproject.org/publicpolicy](http://www.mnaidsproject.org/publicpolicy).

Visit the public policy page on MAP's Web site to read about MAP's Legislative Action Plan for 2005. You can also keep current on what your elected leaders are doing in St. Paul to create smart and fair responses to HIV in Minnesota.

# Hollywood 2005



Oscar Night on Ice: The Oldest and The Coldest

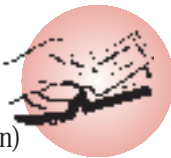


## Want the Best Seat in the House for Hollywood 2005?

Be the superstar you know you are... be sure to purchase VIP tickets to the oldest and the coldest Oscar Night® America party in the country. This year's package includes a special seating area, a spectacular private reception by Zeno Café, exclusive early viewing and bidding on silent auction items, free cocktails courtesy of Finlandia Vodka, an official Academy Awards® program – just like the stars in Hollywood will be holding that evening, and many other special surprises. Our vigilant volunteers will even keep the paparazzi out.

Purchase your VIP Tickets online or by calling MAP at 612-373-2407. Hurry, seating in our VIP area goes faster than most acceptance speeches!

## Purchase tickets:



- [www.hollywoodevent.org](http://www.hollywoodevent.org) (VIP and General Admission)
- District 202 (VIP & General Admission)
- Minnesota AIDS Project, 612-373-2407 (VIP and General Admission)
- Ribnick Fur and Leather (VIP only)
- Schmidt's (VIP & General Admission)
- State Theatre box office (General Admission)
- Ticketmaster at 612-989-5151 (General Admission)
- Urban Retreat (VIP & General Admission)
- Wilde Roast (VIP & General Admission)

**When:** Sunday, February 27, 2005  
**What:** Watch the Academy Awards® in style & party like a movie star!  
**Where:** State Theatre, LaSalle Plaza, Downtown Mpls  
**Who:** The 'A list'  
**Why:** Raise funds and awareness for HIV by purchasing General Admission or VIP tickets, bidding on silent auction items and buying raffles tickets.

Our top prizes include a **\$1500** shopping spree at Banana Republic, **\$1000** towards a leather or shearling coat at Ribnick Fur & Leather or two tickets on Sun Country Airlines.



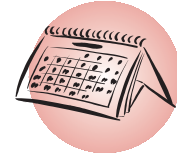
## Be a Star! Volunteer for Hollywood 2005!

Be a part of the magic of Hollywood by volunteering. There are many ways to help out throughout the afternoon and evening, including Ushers and Wristbanders, VIP Ushers and Event Attendants, Popcorn Poppers, Raffle Ticket Sellers, Silent Auction and Dessert Court Assistants, Decoration and Strike Crews.

All volunteers are required to attend a brief training held at MAP.  
 Training dates: (select one)  
 10 am, Saturday, February 19  
 6:30 pm, Monday, February 21  
 6:30 pm, Wednesday, February 23

Contact Jessica at 612-373-9160 or email [volunteer@mnaidproject.org](mailto:volunteer@mnaidproject.org) to sign up for a volunteer shift and short training.

The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 18. Due to the popularity of this event, volunteers will be placed on a first come, first served basis.



## Silent Auction has Something for Everyone:

The ultimate experience, what would your weekly agenda look like?

**Monday:** Win best neighbor award by clearing your neighbor's driveway with your brand new Toro snowblower (model CCR3650)

**Tuesday:** Take part in a spirited, engaging conversation over dinner with Patty and Jerry Wetterling

**Wednesday:** Broaden your horizons with a beginner dance class at Jawaahir Dance Company & The Cassandra School (the start of your ten-week session)

**Thursday:** Take pleasure in dinner and a show at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, the Cadillac of dinner theatres.

**Friday:** Relax on your one night stay in a historic suite including breakfast for two at Courtyard at The Depot.

**Saturday:** Brag to your friends about your personal tour of Leinenkugel's brewery, led by Jake Leinenkugel. While you're there, pick up an autographed Leinie's canoe paddle.

**Sunday:** Invite all your friends to a bowling party for up to 60 people that includes shoes and bowling at The Park Tavern.

What's up for next week? Two-night, three-day stay at a beautiful reclusive 3-bedroom home nestled between a small lake and creek. Only two hours from the Twin Cities. Golf course, biking, hiking, and cross-country trail nearby.

If you want your schedule to look like this, you need to be at Hollywood 2005. Join us and bid on these and other exceptional items at the Hollywood 2005 Silent Auction.



## Still Not Sure You Want to Come to Hollywood?

Have you heard about the infamous dessert extravaganza?



Forget your New Year's resolution! These desserts are too good to be true. Remember last year when your eyes widened and your mouth watered? You can expect all that and more this year. Never been to Hollywood? Give your taste buds a whirl with chocolate tortes, mini éclairs, key lime tart, mango mousse, cannolis, and cappuccino brownies all from your favorite Twin Cities bakeries, restaurants and catering companies including Zeno Café and Wine Bar, French Meadow Bakery, Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Prom Catering, Palomino and more.

Not tempted yet? Ever enjoyed desserts at Wilde Roast, The Capital Grille, Bobino Café & Wine Bar, Louis XIII or Fhimas? Each will have scrumptious sweet treats for all Hollywood attendees to enjoy.

Be sure to stop by these generous businesses, grab a bite to eat, stay for dessert and thank them for supporting Hollywood and the Minnesota AIDS Project. Visit [www.hollywoodevent.org](http://www.hollywoodevent.org) for continuous updates, photos and more information about the silent auction and dessert extravaganza.

## SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO THE HOLLYWOOD STEERING COMMITTEE

In the movie business, it seems the stars get all the recognition. Not many people can name the Color Timer or Property Master from their favorite film, but without these people, the stars would have green skin and nothing to sit on. In this spirit, we'd like to recognize the driving force behind the Hollywood event: The Hollywood 2005 Steering Committee. This group of volunteers started meeting in September and assists with everything from decorations to desserts. Hollywood 2005 would not be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of:

### Richard Carper, Logistics

Nick Dehnert, Co-Chair

Suzanne Farrell, Desserts

Louann Hilst, Decorations

Tom Kane, Decorations

Melissa Kell, VIP

Adam Krueger, Silent Auction

Michael Lee, GLBT Involvement

Alicia Leifheit, Dessert Diva

Dave McWilliams, Program Ad Sales

Aaron Miller, VIP

Jennifer Newman, Decorations

Rachel Orman, Silent Auction

Linda Raines, Desserts

Ty Richardson, Entertainment

Darin Rowles, Program Ad Sales

Tom Ryan, Silent Auction

Rosa Smith, Decorations/Entertainment

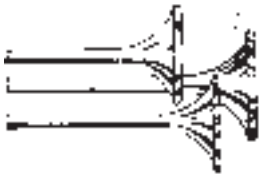
Lynne Thompson, Co-Chair

Bob Tracy, VIP



Oscar Statuete® A.M.P.A.S.





# Spotlight on Volunteers: Linda Raines



Linda Raines

At the heart of what we do at MAP is a committed and passionate base of volunteers. One such volunteer is Linda Raines.

When asked what keeps her volunteering at MAP, Linda Raines replies: "I love the energy that I feel whenever I come to MAP and when I work the various events with the staff and volunteers. It's incredible to me to see the devotion and determination

that everyone puts into their work, whether it's putting together an event like Hollywood or putting together safer sex kits. Everyone feels that their efforts are making a difference, and that those efforts are equally appreciated; it's what keeps me coming back again and again. Also, I truly enjoy the camaraderie of the people that I've met—their enthusiasm, humor and friendship make it all worthwhile and make Tuesday Niters something that I look forward to very much."

Linda first became involved with MAP when she volunteered for the Minnesota AIDS Walk. She really liked all the volunteers and walkers she met, and decided to become more involved. Her next step was to join the Tuesday Niters program, and she has been a regular attendee for over two years. Linda also continues to be a faithful special events volunteer, and has helped out with many events: the Minnesota AIDS

Walk, The Big Hair Ball, Minnesota State Fair, Twin Cities Pride Festival and Parade, and Hollywood. In addition, Linda serves on the Hollywood Steering Committee, helping us procure delicious treats for our dessert court. Linda is also a familiar face around the MAP office, helping with administrative projects all over the building.

Even before she moved to the Twin Cities, Linda had been looking for a way to get involved in the fight against HIV. She can pinpoint the moment when she knew that this was a cause she needed to be part of. One of Linda's good friends was dealing with the loss her best friend. This man had been living with HIV in a small town and was shunned and abused. The ignorance and intolerance eventually led to his death in a suspicious "accident." On the second anniversary of his death, Linda's friend wrote a tribute to him and it was while reading this tribute that Linda knew she wanted to do something to help eliminate the stigma and misunderstanding around HIV. In Linda's words, "Because of the love and devotion that she had for her friend, I became even more aware of the need for more people to become involved in fighting this disease—not only to find a cure for it, but also to help make sure that the stigma surrounding it is dispelled so that things like what happened to him don't happen again. Every little bit helps, and every single person can make a difference."

When she is not volunteering at MAP, Linda is very busy with six basenjis, a breed of barkless African hunting hound that she raises and shows. She also enjoys reading, writing, going to movies and working on the computer.

For information about volunteering at MAP, email Jessica at [volunteer@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:volunteer@mnaidsproject.org) or call 612-373-9160.

## Volunteer Wish List

There are many different ways to get involved as a volunteer. We invite you to think creatively about your connection to MAP, and how you may be able to share your talents with us. We welcome your ideas and expertise in these or other areas:

**Mechanic** (helping to keep the MAP vans used to transport individuals to medical appointments healthy)

**Gardening** (making the area around our building beautiful)

**Small Engine Repair** (updating our State Fair education quiz boards)

**Leading MAP staff in trainings, such as:** conflict resolution, software programs, self-defense & public speaking

To discuss these or other options, email [volunteer@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:volunteer@mnaidsproject.org) or call 612-373-9160.

## Winter & Spring Tuesday Niters Dates

Please join us at Tuesday Niters! These drop-in volunteer nights are a great way to meet people while helping with projects such as making safer sex kits, constructing red ribbons and assembling mailings. They are held at MAP and run from 4:30 – 7 pm, but feel free to come when you can and leave when you need to. Dinner, compliments of Chipotle, is provided as well. Upcoming Tuesday Niters dates are:

**February 8 & 22, March 15 & 29, April 5 & 19, May 3, 10 & 31**

For more information on Tuesday Niters or other volunteer opportunities, email [volunteer@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:volunteer@mnaidsproject.org) or call 612-373-9160.

# What's Your Plan to Create Hope in 2005?

In each of the past two years, one-fifth of the new HIV infections reported in Minnesota have been among African-born residents. The global HIV epidemic is Minnesota's epidemic, but the dollars to respond effectively have yet to be found in the State's budget. In Minnesota, HIV continues to be primarily a sexually transmitted infection and still significantly affects men who have sex with men, but government restrictions are making it harder to do the essential work to stop new infections. And long term, we



Minnesota in 2003, with men comprising nearly 60 percent of

those infections. MAP Street Outreach rolls its "green van" to street corners in north and south Minneapolis to help men whose drug and alcohol use is putting them at risk for HIV, STDs and hepatitis C. The offer of information, advice, condoms, clean syringes or an HIV test are all part of a process leading to reduced infections and access to health care and substance abuse treatment.

## Creating Hope by Changing Communities

Gay and bisexual men comprise nearly two-thirds of those living with HIV in Minnesota and nearly half of the new infections reported in 2003. PrideAlive empowers gay men to share the work of HIV prevention and health education. Gay men who are living with HIV come together through Positive Link to support each other and share information about how to manage their health. PrideAlive and Positive Link are each creating communities of men who are taking responsibility for

creating healthier futures for themselves and the gay community.

## Creating Hope by Changing Minds

Seven percent of the State's STD cases are reported among young people between 15 and 25. One-fourth of the new HIV infections are among adolescents and young people in their teens and twenties. MAP is a leader in advancing policies and funding initiatives to ensure comprehensive sexual health education in Minnesota's schools and stopping efforts to replace what works to prevent HIV and STDs with ineffective, discriminatory abstinence-only-until-marriage curriculum. MAP initiated the push in 2004 and will do so again in the coming year, to get Minnesota's elected leaders to recognize the need to expand investment in HIV prevention so we can effectively address the global epidemic in our own backyard among our African-born neighbors.



need to look at educating young people as part of our long-term vision of a world free of HIV.

There are many reasons to hope for something better in our fight against HIV, but to create hope we need to create change. We need to change lives, we need to change communities, and we need to change minds.

## Creating Hope by Changing Lives

African Americans accounted for 20 percent of the new HIV infections in

## 2005 MAP ANNUAL GIVING OPTIONS

Annual contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations support MAP's basic education, social services and advocacy work. You can plan now for how you want to ensure that valuable HIV services are available through the coming year.

- ▶ **Make your annual gift now**
  - Visit us at [www.mn aidsproject.org](http://www.mn aidsproject.org) and make your gift on-line.
  - Mail your contribution to MAP using the response envelope included in this issue of Positive Impact.
- ▶ **Plan your annual gift now; pay through the year**
  - Arrange for monthly or quarterly charges to your credit card account.
  - Arrange for monthly or quarterly withdrawals from your checking or savings account.

Contact us at 612-373-2407 or 800-243-7321 or [donate@mn aidsproject.org](mailto:donate@mn aidsproject.org) for assistance.

- ▶ **Plan to remember MAP during the fall United Way appeal**
  - MAP receives United Way funding to support its Positive Link service and other volunteer activities.
  - MAP is eligible to receive designated gifts through the United Way appeal.
- ▶ **Participate in the Minnesota AIDS Walk, May 15, 2005**

# Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...



Thanks to Dan and Heidi Niziolek for throwing a pumpkin carving party benefit in memory of their friend Patrick Meyers. Their event brought in \$730.

Thanks to Linden Bowman for donating the \$1,083 in proceeds raised at his birthday party to the Minnesota AIDS Project. Happy Birthday, Linden!



## Your Car Still Makes a Difference

Did you know that your car could help stop HIV? Funds raised through MAP's car donation program help fund HIV prevention and education efforts. There are a few new rules about donating your car, but please remember your car can still make a difference.

As of January 1, 2005, new governmental regulations have been applied to charitable car donation programs. Under the new rules, the tax deduction on cars worth more than \$500 has been limited to the amount that charities receive once the car has been resold. Minnesota AIDS Project is required to send the donor a letter informing them of the resale and the value that can be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. Basically, what that means is donors claiming \$500 or more are no longer be able to use their own estimates based on Kelly Blue Book, but are instead required to claim the resale price of the vehicle. The Minnesota AIDS Project will no longer be able to send the official tax receipt immediately after the donation, but will instead need to wait until after the car has been resold, which ranges anywhere from a few weeks to a few months after the donation has been made. Please contact Scott at 612-373-2407 or at cars@mnaidproject.org if you have any questions.

### In Memory Of

Chris  
*Linda and Jeffrey Raines*

Paul  
*Marjorie Carlson*

Mark  
*Richard and Georgiann Lynachan*

Bobby Ahlcrona  
*Arthur and Darlene Anderson  
Kathy and James Barnett*

All the young people who have  
died of AIDS  
*Helen Kron*

James Bailey  
*Roberta Carlson  
Craig Daniels  
Recelle Ellis and Marjorie Daniels  
Lorinda Parks and Bradley Harper*

Steve Beauchemin  
*Paula Leahy*

Dan Bialobrzewski  
*Steven Eberly and Marilla Klein  
James and Joan Wilkins*

Marie Burkhart  
*Karen Feit*

Michael T. Dolan  
*E. Vincent and Nancy Dolan*

Kenneth R. Field  
*Estate of Kenneth R. Field*

Brent Goodert  
*Janet Ungs*

Jason Gould  
*John and Jan Hagerman*

John Greavu  
*Melissa Palank*

William Harren  
*Diane Knust and Douglas Pipan*

Richard Hatcher  
*David Feinberg*

Berton E. Henningson, Jr.  
*Ailya Henningson  
Bruce Jensen  
Margaret and Ervin Jensen*

Carlton Hogan  
*James and Linda Neaton*

Karl Andrew Johnson  
*Jo Louise and Charles Johnson*

James Richard Johnson  
*Janet Johnson*

Kevin Jorgensen and Jerry Early  
*Maribeth and William Vos*

Jim Krumrei  
*Paul and Dorothy Krumrei*

Junita Langness  
*Emily and David Braun*

Patrick Lippert  
*Antoinette and Robert Lippert  
Elizabeth McCambridge*

Thomas J. Mader  
*Linda Bruemmer*

Patrick Meyers  
*Kay Anderson  
Neil Barrett  
Robyn and Peyton Cook  
Leslie and Timothy Foreman  
Mary Lois Hall and Anja Curiskis  
Lynne Larsen  
David Mc Intosh  
Hannah Mitchell  
Dan and Heidi Niziolek  
Daniel Prince and Laura Johanson  
Jeffrey Reed  
Karla Rehberg and John Dietrich  
Thomas Rosen  
N. J. Schlemmer  
Joseph and Terre Schmidt  
Keith and Nancy Sjoquist  
J. R. and L. P. Steman  
Gary and Andrea Thaden*

Kevin Mielke  
*David and Marjorie Dobosenski*

Steven Munzenrider  
*Robert and Judy Munzenrider*

Norm Nicolais  
*Joseph Portanova*

William Olander and  
Chris Cox  
*Robert and Mary Ann Olander*

Tom Olds, Jr.  
*Dorothy Olds*

Chris Owen  
*Colleen Carey and  
Pamela Endean*

P. David Ring  
*Jean Ring*

Fritz Schissel  
*Dorothy and Toby Markowitz*

John Schultz  
*Barbara Woodruff*

John Severns  
*Thornton Yancey*

Timothy J. Smykalski  
*Jodi and Terence Smykalski*

Jay Stangvilla  
*Scott and Sarah Johnson*

Donald Taylor  
*John and Juliette Greisen*

Dr. Rick Tjaden  
*Amy and Curtis Gutoske*

Brad Undahl  
*Pamela and Scott Sorensen*

Michael Voss  
*Adele Reagan  
Mary Winkel  
Sheldon and Martha Anderson  
Robert and Barbara Danielson  
Teryl and Thomas Etienne  
Sharon Fischtrom  
Karen Houge  
R. and M. Kolling  
Tim McClernon  
Mary Ann and James  
McDonald  
Vernon and Paula Michel  
Vernon Schaefer  
Danny and Nancy Scraback  
Susan Stendel*

*Janell Thome and  
Caryl Dressler  
Frederick and Janice Ulrich  
Thomas Wagner*

Frank Winkels  
*Leslie Bendtsen*

Gary Wolfe  
*Douglas and Susan Williams*

Gary Wright  
*William and Ruth Wright*

**In Honor Of:**

Sean & Mark  
*Claire Thoen-Levin*

Andrew Ansell  
*Stephen and Deborah Ansell  
Nancy and Darwin Clark*

Andy Ansell and  
Steve Wolgram  
*Duane Bandel and  
Robert Lawser*

Duane Bandel  
*Cynthia Brockway*

Linden Bowman's birthday  
*Abitare Design Studio  
Steven Anderson  
Michael Bratholdt  
Douglas Bredeson  
Karl Breibarth and Richard Nye  
Lee Christiansen  
David and Charlotte Colwell  
Shawn Fusco  
John Piscopo  
George Hartson  
Cory Johnson  
William Kirchner  
Christopher Kraus  
Robert Lord  
Todd Pinzuti  
John Sheehan  
Jon Steidel  
Mark Velez*

Sylvia Scott and Elijah  
Cardinal  
*Maria Lopez*

M. Dekreif  
*Saba Habte*

Individuals facing the  
challenge of HIV/AIDS  
*Norma Cross*

Suzanne Farrell  
*White Ash*

Les Hohenstein  
*Delphin and Carol  
Hohenstein*

Dominick J. Luccarelli  
*Dolores Luccarelli*

Joel Nevarrez  
*Michelle and Timothy Burt*

Christopher Postel  
*Kimberly Elumba*

Jason Potasnik  
*Shirley and Gary Potasnik*

R. R. R.  
*Lori McGinn*

Thomas Rud  
*Joyce and Rodney Rud*

Scott Showalter  
*Lucille Coleman*

Karen Starry  
*Ruth Cronje*

Bob Tracy  
*Douglas Bellrichard  
and Ian Ritchie*

Gary Van Den Heuvel  
*Karolyn Zimmerman*

Kristopher Van Kampen  
*Karolyn Zimmerman*

World AIDS Day  
*Robert Webster*

*continued from page 1*

Dori points out that there are a number of issues unique to African immigrants in managing HIV. There is a tremendous stigma associated with HIV. For many who have seen the devastation of AIDS in their home countries, coming to the United States means that they escaped the disease. "AIDS is death sentence in Africa", Dori adds, "and because there is not the kind of access to medications and services we have in this country no one wants to talk about it". That silence is also fueled by fear of immigration authorities and fears that medical providers will notify immigration officials if their patient is not here legally.

For that reason, one of the first steps in helping Africans access care is to address their immigration status. MAP's legal program conducts monthly immigration clinics to assist Africans living with HIV with immigration questions and issues and to identify what services are available based on their immigration status. Another obstacle is that the concept of social services is new to many Africans. It is hard to seek out services you don't know exist.

"If you grew up without access to basic medical care, the idea of going to the doctor to get a physical is something unheard of," says Dori. "Consequently, we need to help Africans learn about preventative medicine, health and social service systems, and what it means to have a confidential relationship with your doctor."

Confidentiality is a key because of the overwhelming stigma. Dori reports, "we have clients with HIV who can not tell their family members out of fear of being shunned and isolated from their families, or worse, being forced out of their home." Trying to manage medications and medical appointments can be nearly impossible if you are trying to keep your diagnosis hidden.

While the issues of HIV and how it impacts African-born Minnesotans are different, many of the prevention and care models developed over the years in the United States offer effective strategies and approaches. Peer outreach that offers education and training for African service organizations, role-model stories told by African-born Minnesotans with HIV, print materials with those stories combined with prevention and services information, and prevention education and discussion on African-focused cable access TV will help normalize HIV as a disease that can be talked about and treated.

Dori's expertise and passion are invaluable in shaping MAP's response. Her outreach efforts, her experience directly providing services and working with clients to access them, as well as her participation in a research project working to assess the barriers that prevent a high percentage of Africans with HIV from seeking or staying in medical care, will help MAP develop effective and culturally sensitive approaches to addressing HIV in African immigrants. For more information about MAP's African Services Initiative, contact Dori Makundi at [dmakundi@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:dmakundi@mnaidsproject.org) or 612-373-9175.

# Big Hair Ball 2004



Save the date: November 5, 2005 at International Market Square



Correction: The last issue of *Positive Impact* did not recognize Cloud Nine Salon and Spa as a sponsor for The Big Hair Ball. We apologize for the omission and add special thanks for your strong commitment to The Big Hair Ball and Minnesota AIDS Project.



photos by Sophia Hantzes



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[www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org)

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