



WORLD*

*WOMEN ORGANIZED TO RESPOND TO LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES

June 2007
Number 153

by, for and about HIV positive women and their loved ones

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A Family Affair

by Patricia Kelly

In the rural town of Orangeburg, South Carolina there lives a woman with a huge heart and a dream to create change in her community. Patricia Kelly is a woman living with AIDS who has transformed her life and the lives of many others. This is her story and the story of A Family Affair.

Patricia's story began in 1976, in her senior year of college. She dropped out for love. This was not a healthy relationship and soon cocaine played a role, which progressed to IV drug use. Pat did return to college and graduated in 1984.

"I did a lot of crazy things in and after college and ended up incarcerated.

During my incarceration, I found out I had HIV. The doctor came in wearing a mask, covered in a gown and wearing gloves. His eyes were peering over the mask through his glasses and he told me that I was going to die and not to tell anybody. It's still very vivid. I didn't tell anybody. With every ache and pain I thought I was going to die. I thought I would never have a life, get married, have sex and all that stuff. I refused to believe the doctor and asked to be re-tested."

In 1994, Pat discovered that she was pregnant while in prison. She remained incarcerated during her pregnancy. At

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WORLD Salutes Sister Organizations Throughout U.S.

by Maura Riordan, Executive Director, WORLD

In this issue of the WORLD newsletter we are thrilled to profile some of our amazing sister organizations providing services by and for women living with HIV in the U.S. Twenty-five years into the HIV epidemic, the challenges these organizations face are formidable, yet they continue to inspire us by making a huge difference in the lives of the women they serve and their larger communities. They are creating HIV prevention efforts that are saving lives. They are serving as a training ground for HIV+ women who go on to start organizations or assume jobs and leadership positions

helping HIV+ people elsewhere. They are offering support services to HIV+ women based on a family approach that fits the lives of many women. They are fearless leaders sharing their stories as HIV+ women so that other women can be inspired and step out of the isolation that HIV stigma creates.

Where do women with HIV and the organizations founded, staffed and led by them and their allies stand in 2007? Phenomenal work is taking place within each of our organizations by women determined to fight for themselves and their sisters. This

fight happens when a peer advocate helps her fellow HIV+ woman find a competent, compassionate doctor. It happens when a woman sits at a table surrounded by men advocating for services, anti-stigma campaigns and testing initiatives that are developed by and for women. However, at this time in the epidemic it is still painfully true that if we do not do this work for ourselves, it will not be done. We find ourselves still struggling to secure basic resources for our work in the shadows of larger AIDS organizations. We find ourselves wondering why when African American women are becoming infected at rates comparable to some developing countries there is a resounding absence of a coordinated response to this travesty. We find ourselves wondering

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Sister Organizations continued from page 1

why when there are occasional forums or plenary sessions at conferences on women and HIV, HIV+ women are not asked to speak. We find ourselves wondering why 25 years later there is only now a clinical trial taking off that enrolls a majority of women in order to study unanswered questions about HIV treatment and women. We wonder why after so many years of HIV awareness campaigns, women still live in fear of disclosing their HIV status to loved

As we survey the national landscape of women living with HIV in the U.S. we see two things: absolutely amazing groups of strong women supporting one another with meager resources, and the reality that in some ways we have lost ground as the HIV epidemic grinds on.

ones and community members. We find ourselves wondering why there is no longer a national Women and AIDS Conference. As we survey the national landscape of women living with HIV in the U.S. we see two things: absolutely amazing groups of strong women supporting one another with meager resources, and the reality that in some ways we have lost ground as the HIV epidemic grinds on. We hope that this issue of our newsletter will serve to strengthen the ties of our sister organizations because we are stronger together, and what we need now more than ever is strength and resolve.

To The Women's Collective, Mujeres Unidas Contra El Sida, Kansas City HIV University and the BABES Network, we say to you, "A job well done!" And to the many other women's AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs), and individual HIV+ women advocates like Patricia Kelly, around the country and the world, we say to you, "Keep up the good work!" ♦

A Family Affair continued from page 1

seven months she was told that her baby was at risk for being severely retarded. Pat's daughter, Eartha Arthurine, was born Mother's Day weekend and Pat stayed with her in the hospital. Doctors told Pat that the baby wasn't able to digest any food and her heart was not fully developed. They didn't think the baby would survive and they needed Pat's permission to remove the IV and administer morphine. At the same time, the State of Connecticut issued papers saying that Pat was an unfit mother because she was denying nourishment to her child. Pat went to court to fight for the right to let her daughter die.

After her last day of court, the baby Arthurine died before Pat could visit her. She lived two weeks. She had named and christened her, had a funeral and cremated her and sent the urn to her (Pat's) father. "I gained my spirituality and got a lot of encouragement during that time, that was a really bad time, but I grew from it." Pat's case helped create legislation in the state of Connecticut and that set precedent for how other cases like hers are handled.

While she was incarcerated, Pat went to a drug rehab program and she was allowed to attend an HIV support group.

"They helped me deal with issues of self-worth. I decided I wanted to live. I went to a support group and felt all the love. I was surrounded by people who were just like me and my life took on a different meaning. The most important thing I got out of the group was how to disclose and what to do after you disclose. I had to tell the father of my deceased child. It was real scary, but in 2000 we got married."

In 2003, Pat returned to South Carolina to be with her family. She has since dedicated herself to her community, and is one of the founding members of A Family Affair.

After attending a conference, Pat and colleagues were inspired to start their own support group. At the time, there were few support services for people living with HIV in Orangeburg County. A local church, Victory Tabernacle, offered their support and A Family Affair was formed in January 2004. Thirty people both infected and affected came to the first group.



I went to a support group and felt all the love. I was surrounded by people who were just like me and my life took on a different meaning.

"The "A" in A Family Affair represents AIDS. Family Affair represents that if I am infected then you are affected and it becomes a family affair," said Pat.

Members started a phone buddy system. They also participate in community education and outreach, health fairs, art therapy. They have a speaker's bureau, HIV from Personal Perspectives.

Creativity and spirituality are woven into their work. The Afghan of Life is a beautiful quilt that Pat is crocheting. Each panel has a person's initials and date of diagnosis. The design is different for each panel to represent that every person is different. The group takes the afghan to health fairs, churches and school presentations.

"It's a way to break the stigma and tell our stories," said Pat.

The Serenity Garden, created by A Family Affair and community members, is the first living AIDS memorial garden in South Carolina. The garden is in the back of the church and bricks are inlaid in the pattern of a ribbon on the cement with flowers surrounding the ribbon. Names of people who have passed are engraved in each brick.

Pat Kelly is just one positive woman who is a leader in her community and an inspiration to other positive women around the world. ♦

The Women's Collective

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Patricia Nalls, founder of The Women's Collective (TWC) in Washington, DC had a particularly painful entry into the world of HIV/AIDS with the death of her husband in 1987, and 6 months later, her 3-year-old daughter. She received her HIV+ diagnosis at age 29. At that time she had an 8-year-old and a 4-year-old, and was told she had less than 2 years to live. She weighed 80 pounds. Pat had no hope and was panicked to get her business affairs in order as her children faced the death of their mother. She put off her own medical care until this was taken care of. She eventually went for her own medical care but never saw other women with HIV. She felt a deep isolation and asked her doctor if there were other women. Her doctor let her know that there were, but that she could not share more than that due to confidentiality.

Although Pat was struggling financially, going from two incomes to one fixed income, she had a secret phone line installed in her home. She posted flyers letting other HIV+ women know they could call to talk and get support. Women began calling and as they got more comfortable, they started a support group at Pat's house. Prior to this Pat had been to a support group offered by men and she knew they lived in a different world, one without the fears of a mother of small children who had been told she would die soon. This group of women cooked, cried, discussed who would keep their kids when they died, and grieved that they would not be there for their children. They realized that there were not services available for women and families and began to set up carpools to get each other and kids to medical appointments. They set up a system of food support for the entire family because models in existence did

not work: one box of food for the adult with HIV/AIDS did not go far enough. Women would not eat food if there were others who were hungry in the home. Women stepped forward to take care of each other's children if someone was hospitalized.

Pat Nalls and TWC have stepped forward with a family-centered model that welcomes women and their loved ones into a safe haven in the eye of the HIV storm.

Pat saw that the gap in services for HIV+ women in DC was huge. As she began to feel physically better due to medications, she took on a part-time consulting job and got active on the local Ryan White Planning Council. She became an advocate for HIV+ women and families in rooms filled with men. In 1995 The Women's Collective was incorporated. Pat sought local funding to open an office and hire one staff person to help. She hit a dead-end and was encouraged to work with existing ASOs to increase their role with women. She decided to take action and with a friend stayed up all night and completed a request for funding. This was a success and in 1997, TWC opened an office and hired a staff person.

Today TWC has a staff of 25 and offers an array of care and prevention services: case management, prevention with positives, support groups, educational forums, mental health therapy, massage and acupuncture, on-site and mobile HIV testing, HIV 101 and skills-building workshops. TWC is about to start its first national program and will soon be gathering HIV+ women nationally to do policy work on a significant issue impacting HIV prevention among women: microbicides. TWC advocates for more funds and research on microbicides and

also greater inclusion of HIV+ women in research. Pat asks, "Why are we excluded? We are having sex, living long lives, being beaten when asking our partners to use condoms just like other women. We have been left out of the microbicides story." She is also frustrated by the low priority that our society places on keeping women safe from HIV. "Why were we able to find resources to develop Viagra before microbicides? Women must be given a tool to use in saving their own lives!"

Pat sees big challenges for TWC and other women's groups today. Funds are decreasing and the first services that are lost are often those focused on women. The new push to emphasize

funding for core medical services through Ryan White is a threat to the support services that we know women need. TWC serves over 300 women and they come in because they are HIV+, but they are facing other critical issues that may come first: domestic violence, homelessness, hunger, sexual abuse, losing children to violence, mental health, substance use, and breast cancer. Women require help with these before they are in a place to get on a stable HIV treatment plan. Pat states, "If support services are cut, I guarantee you, women with HIV will die at an even more alarming rate than men." In addition to these competing issues, Pat sees that in reality many women do not have access to care in the U.S. Women who are poor and working poor cannot afford what can add up to \$500-\$600 month in co-pays when dealing with HIV, Hepatitis C, diabetes and other conditions. They will make the choice to feed their children before seeking expensive medical care.

Washington DC has the highest rate of HIV infection of any other city or state in the U.S.

In response to this, Pat Nalls and TWC have stepped forward with a family-centered model that welcomes women and their loved ones into a safe haven in the eye of the HIV storm. ♦



WORLD Retreat, May 2007

Funder Profile

Ms. Foundation's Women and AIDS Fund

by Maura Riordan,
Executive Director, WORLD

The Ms. Foundation's Women and AIDS Fund (WAF) has been a supporter of each of the groups profiled in this newsletter, as well as WORLD. WAF remains the only national fund that supports advocacy and self-determination by and for women living with HIV. Since 1996, WAF has provided grants, technical assistance and networking opportunities to groups led by and for women who are HIV infected and affected. In 2005, through the work of WAF, the National Women and AIDS Collective (NWAC) was created. This is a national network of HIV infected and affected women who strive to influence the ways in which policies are determined at a federal level. NWAC recently launched a campaign advocating for the revision of current CDC surveillance guidelines



WORLD Staff, June 2007

to expand the scope of testing that currently limits outreach and testing of women, resulting in faulty data. Outdated guidelines are contributing to an absence of HIV testing initiatives, awareness campaigns and resources focused on women.

For those of us who have been WAF grantees, it has provided an incredible opportunity to connect with our sister organizations nationally and to build

For a state-by-state listing of women's ASOs, including those highlighted in this issue, email or call WORLD for a copy.

Phone: 510-986-0340
Email: info@womenhiv.org
Web: www.womenhiv.org

our capacities to advocate effectively. We recognize and thank the Ms. Foundation for its clear commitment to women living with HIV. ♦

If you are interested in getting involved with the NWAC efforts, please email SCovert@Ms.Foundation.org

HIV University, Kansas City

Kansas City, Missouri

Phone: 816-853-8091

Email: micki56@juno.com

Web: www.accesskansas.org

Micki McCaffery and Angie Keyes started HIV University in Kansas City, Missouri in 1997. They were one of the first teams of women to be trained by WORLD's HIV U replication program. When Angie and Micki returned from the training, they made appointments with various agencies in the community.

"We went around and told them that we had this vision to start a program by, for and about positive women and we wanted support. We were looking for a fiscal sponsor (the organization that houses HIV U). Some of the agencies looked at us and kind of patted us on the back and said oh good idea, go run with that!"

Family Health Care, a local health clinic, offered to serve as the fiscal sponsor. HIV U has strived to make sure that the project remains independent, not owned by Family Health Care or any other agency. After Angie left for personal reasons, Lisa Casey held the coordinator position for the next eight years.

An HIV U course is held once a year. To encourage leadership amongst the group, the women vote for deans and assistant deans, including the Deans of Nutrition, Instruction and Students. They help structure the course, and plan the open house and graduation.

HIV U is a commitment. There are 8-10 classes in one course with five general education (GE) requirements and 3-5 electives. Participants have to take the GE classes, which include HIV 101, understanding medications, side effects and labs, resistance and adherence, and understanding and negotiating safer sex.

Women select the 3-5 elective classes based upon the needs of each group. A majority of the time, women choose topics such as disclosure. Volunteers,

including doctors, nurses, social workers, yoga teachers, and computer instructors conduct presentations. Classes are held in the evenings for two hours, which include dinner and a support group. A pre and post knowledge test is given before and after the course. Childcare is provided onsite by HIV U alumni. Transportation assistance is provided.

I think the unique thing about HIV U is that women often come for the knowledge, but they stay for the support. That's what really keeps the women coming back. I see women coming out of their shell and being empowered in knowing that they can live with this.

Women from Kansas and Missouri in urban and rural areas are invited to attend. There is a mix of African American, Caucasian and women from African countries who attend. More than 70 women have graduated from HIV U.

The women create the requirements for graduation. They include missing only two classes and one emergency class. If you miss more than three classes you cannot graduate or participate in the alumni classes, but participants receive a certificate of participation.

HIV U organizers strive to create a sacred safe space where women can share private information in a confidential environment. In the beginning of each course, ground rules are set and each participant signs a confidentiality form. Throughout the program, honoring confidentiality is stressed.

HIV U graduates do some of the outreach for the program. They speak with other women that they meet at their doctor or through their case manager. Graduates help women who are afraid to come out with their HIV status to get support.

Funding for HIV University comes from a host of foundations including the Ms. Foundation, grants from local foundations including Heart of America, Community AIDS Partnership, The Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City and Until There's a Cure.

What happens when women complete the HIV U course?

A yearly retreat is held for HIV U graduates. The retreats are a way to keep the alumni up to date and bring new graduates into the community. After the retreat, an eight-week support group called the Coffee House Therapeutic Support Program is held. This group is held on a drop in basis. Every March, HIV U collaborates with Family Health Care and the Black Church Week of Prayer to put on the women's retreat.

How does HIV U impact the lives of women?

Many HIV U participants have been isolated and HIV U can address some of these issues. Many women have gone on to public speaking, working in the community as peer counselors, or working as paid staff in the Kansas City area. Most of the women peer counselors in the Kansas City AIDS Service Organizations have graduated from HIV U!

"I think the unique thing about HIV U is that women often come for the knowledge, but they stay for the support," says Micki. "That's what really keeps the women coming back. I see women coming out of their shell and being empowered in knowing that they can live with this, learn how to manage it and not be so overwhelmed with the terminology and the alphabet soup of HIV and have a better understanding about this virus. Then they feel capable of doing other things." ♦

Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA

San Antonio, Texas

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Web: www.mujeresunidascontraelsida.org

Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA (Women United Against AIDS) was started in 1994 in San Antonio, Texas by Yolanda Rodríguez-Escobar. Yolanda had been a medical social worker for a county clinic. Many women brought their brothers, sons or partners to the clinic or came for their own HIV care. Yolanda noticed a lack of support groups for Latinas, so she began one. On the first night of the support group, four women came, two affected and two infected with HIV.

"Women were scared about coming, I knew it was going to be difficult to bring women together, because of stigma and fear. Especially back then, women's voices were not heard."

These women were struggling with similar issues of isolation, cultural barriers, and disclosure. It was critical for them to find someone that shared their situation.

The evolution of Mujeres Unidas is a mosaic of stories that reflect the power and strength of women uniting. Mujeres takes on a "Familia" approach, including men and women. The husband of one of the women was the impetus for including men, which led to the family support group. He would bring his wife to the group and wait for her until the group ended. He started to bake desserts as a way to become a part of the group. After much persuasion, the group agreed to have men come on one Thursday a month. From here, the family group evolved. Through Yolanda's work as a support group facilitator, gay men have become a part of Mujeres. Thus, women have become more progressive, making room for gay men.

"We are promoting tolerance and acceptance. It breaks down barriers. We talk more freely about homosexuality and other topics we may not have

addressed had it not been that we opened our arms to gay men. We are organically dealing with issues around stigma," said Yolanda.

From Support Group to Grant Writing

In 1998, Mujeres women attended the first women of color empowerment conference, sponsored by NMAC in Houston, Texas. A husband of one of

Lucia made other women living with HIV so much stronger. She was a pillar of strength. She told us, tell my story as often as you can, share my story with women and girls that want to hear.

the women was hesitant to let his wife travel. Yolanda had to ask permission. Initially he said yes, if she slept in the room with Yolanda. However, on the day of conference, he changed his mind and wouldn't let her go unless she took the baby. They gladly took her eight-month old baby with them!

The women went to the workshops together. They attended a grant writing workshop and were inspired. It was here that they heard about the Ms. Foundation.

"This was a symbolic trip! We came away energized and empowered and said we need to start our own organization."

They looked for a fiscal sponsor and received their first grant for three years from the Ms. Foundation. With this grant they were able to get an office space and hire a Project Coordinator. In 2001, they received nonprofit status and Yolanda was named Executive Director.

The name Mujeres

As with every part of Mujeres herstory, another testimony of courage tells the tale of where their name came from. Lucia was from Honduras and she was very sick. Her five-year old son was also HIV positive. She came to the group religiously. Lucia took all the steps to prepare for her death by making arrangements for her son to be in the custody of Catholic nuns who had just opened up a children's home, the Providence Home. Lucia had two children in Honduras and she wanted to return, but she became too sick to travel. After not seeing Lucia for several meetings, the women began to worry and think about how they could support her. They decided to raise some money to bring her family to San Antonio. In one hour the women organized a fundraiser. They sold enchiladas, rice and beans at \$3.50 a plate.

"We raised \$1,683.24. An amount I will never forget."

Four days later, Lucia's mother and her sisters come from Honduras. The last group session before Lucia died was held at her house and her mother and sister cooked for the group.

Lucia's passing was a pivotal point in the development of Mujeres, moving them from a support group to an organization.

"That's when we named our organization. It empowered us to such an extreme, to say, if we could do this in one day, what are the possibilities for us? It was that one human story of Lucia that had us all connect and bring that energy together to be able to move ourselves to the next level. Lucia made other women living with HIV so much stronger. She was a pillar of strength. She told us, tell my story as often as you can, share my story with women and girls that want to hear.

Today, Mujeres Unidas has several programs and continues to be a pillar of strength and hope for Latinas and their families in San Antonio. ♦

The BABES Network

Seattle, Washington

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Web: www.babesnetwork.org

This article is a mosaic of perspectives and stories from Pat Migliore, one of the founding members, Nicole Price, Peer Counselor/Event Coordinator and Sarah Benton, Program Manager.

I was a babe before AIDS, and I'm still a babe!

I tested positive in 1986, states Pat Migliore. At that time I couldn't find any resources specifically for women with HIV. So I started to put the word out through social workers, test counselors, and other providers in the area that I was looking for positive women to connect with.

In 1989, we had our first potluck dinner at somebody's home, attended by thirteen diverse women living with HIV. During a conversation about sex after HIV, a woman stood up at one of the dinners and said "You know, I was a babe before AIDS, and I'm still a babe!" We decided to reject the language of being "victims of AIDS". We're BWAs, BABES with AIDS!

In the early days, our biggest challenge was just being acknowledged by other AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and making it clear that women have unique needs that aren't being addressed by other ASOs. We've been a peer-based model from the beginning and continue to operate that way. BABES is a sisterhood of women facing HIV together.

Peer counselors living with HIV provide information and support to positive women from all over the country by phone. We have a support group for women as well as a co-ed heterosexual support group. We also do regular social events, like picnics, salsa dancing, craft-making, or museum visits. Some of our events are at BABES and others are in the community. Our one-day winter retreat is in February

and is focused on self-care. In the summer we do a four-day residential retreat on Marrowstone Island.

Another thing we started in 2005 is Theater for Development, an eight-week series of workshops in which a facilitator teaches performance techniques to non-actors, in this case BABES members. We talked about how to craft stories,

As organizations, we need to talk to each other. We need to share what's working in our communities, so we don't have to keep re-inventing the wheel.

material, and create a show. Then we performed for an audience of family members, friends, and the general public. The process really helped women find their voice. A woman who had never disclosed her HIV status to her family went home and disclosed to her children after participating in the project. Another woman started an AIDS orphanage in Tanzania, where she's from, called New Day for Children. Another woman, who hadn't been out at all, joined the local Planning Council. We'll be doing the Theater for Development project again in 2007, and performing in June at the Central Cinema in Seattle. We already have 19 women signed up to participate!

We recently launched the HOPE Program, which stands for HIV/AIDS Outreach and Prevention Education.

Prevention and outreach have always been part of the work BABES does in the community, but as we've seen HIV infection rates rising among women, we've decided to formalize the work we do in prevention by forming a Speakers' Bureau of people living with HIV. We currently train speakers to share a message to counter stigma against people living with HIV and to put a human face on the epidemic. One thing that helps us in working with young women is the fact that all our staff are ages 23 to 32, so younger women can relate to us

BABES is amazing in the amount of advocacy that the original members went on to do. Our first Executive Director became the head of the local Planning Council. And Pat was on the Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. We send women to Olympia to lobby our state legislators and to VOICES in D.C.

If an organization is serving women, they are relevant to us.

Our focus is working with women with HIV, and helping them not just survive, but thrive. That means life skills for positives and addressing other things that happen to HIV positive women, like relationships. As organizations, we need to talk to each other. We need to share what's working in our communities, so we don't have to keep re-inventing the wheel. NWAC (the National Women & AIDS Collective) is a great starting point for this. At our first NWAC convening in 2006, we shared resources and ideas: our retreat coordinator talks to WORLD's retreat coordinator. We need more community partnerships—not just with AIDS organizations. If an organization is serving women, they are relevant to us. The Girl Scouts, NARAL, we should all know what each other are doing and have a united voice politically.

We have a lot of work cut out for us in legislation and we'd like to have more women trained in political advocacy so some of the issues facing women are more upfront in people's minds. We need to stop fighting over a little piece of pie and get a bigger pie! ♦

National & International Calendar

June 27, 2007: National HIV Testing Day (U.S.)

July 4–7, 2007: International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS, Nairobi, Kenya. World YWCA Council. www.worldywca.org. (41 22) 929 6040.

July 15, 2007: AIDS Walk San Francisco. Join the WORLD team! Call 510.986.0340 ext 316 or visit: www.aidswalk.net/sanfran

July 25–27, 2007: NIMH Annual Int'l Research Conf on the Role of Families in Preventing & Adapting to HIV/AIDS. National Institute of Mental Health/UCSF. www.nimh.nih.gov/scientificmeetings/hivaids2007.cfm

July 27–Aug 4, 2007: Ghana International Youth Cultural Conference on AIDS. www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=ca13hx30

August 23–26: Staying Alive, Cleveland, OH. National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). (240) 247-0574. www.napwa.org.

September 8, 2007: East Bay AIDS Walk. 10am Lakeside Park, Oakland, CA.

October 15, 2007: National Latino/a HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (U.S.)

October 24–26: 15th Annual HIV/AIDS Update & Border Summit, South Padre Island, Texas

November 7–10, 2007: U.S. Conference on AIDS, Palm Springs, CA. National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). (202) 483-6622, www.nmac.org.

November 7–9, 2007: WORLD Retreat (for HIV-Positive Women only). Registration required: Rose Works, rworks@womenhiv.org or 510.986.0340.

Dec 1, 2007: World AIDS Day, internationally. The theme for this year is: Leadership.

Dec 2007: WORLD's Positive Women's Summit, date TBA. Oakland, CA. Call 510.986.0340 ext 316 for information.

WORLD's Mission

WORLD is a diverse community of women living with HIV/AIDS and their supporters working together to:

Provide support and information to women with HIV/AIDS and their friends, family and loved ones;

Educate and inspire women with HIV/AIDS to advocate for themselves, one another and their communities;

Promote public awareness of women's HIV/AIDS issues and a compassionate response for all people with HIV/AIDS.

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Maura Riordan, Executive Director
Rose Works, Editor

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June 2007

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