



# Volunteer Bulletin

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## Agency Plans for 2007

AV is looking forward during the coming months to consolidate and build on the impressive list of accomplishments of the past year. The major focus of our efforts will be to maintain the quality of all our programs and services with your support. Volunteers contribute immeasurably to the success and reach of our efforts to support persons living with as well as those affected by HIV.

Building on the foundation of our current strategic and communication plans we have begun the process of creating an agency 'signature', including a new logo, which will enable us to be consistent in the design and identity of all AV's publications and website. The website redesign will reflect a dynamic and creative image and enable us to communicate more clearly that image to the community.

In this quarter we will be relocating Gayway, Prevention and Volunteer Resources to 900 Helmcken Street. This new location will enable us to strengthen all of our prevention, care

and support programs into two sites, both within two blocks of each other.



The PARC Library is now linked to four other libraries across the country. It is offering a new service to help you stay current with HIV resources and news: the AIDS Vancouver Library Blog! For further information please see our Librarian's detailed report in this newsletter edition.

Following the enormous success of World AIDS Day 2006, planning is well underway to

expand both the Red Ribbon Campaign and Project Stitch for December 2007. We will launch the Red Ribbon Campaign in late September with our partner BC Fashion Week. As well, we will increase our efforts to link a major fund raising activity during this time.

AV will mark its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. Planning is currently underway to record and tell the story in both audio and visual formats. We are planning for a series of events over the course of the year to acknowledge and honor the individuals who have contributed to making AV a recognized and relevant AIDS Serving Organization.

This is a brief overview of some of the initiatives we will undertake in 2007. Of course, volunteers and staff, do much much more every day of the year.

William Booth, Executive Director



Sonia Marino (Support Program Coordinator), with latest graduates of Care Teams specialized training, from left to right Cyrus McEachern, Manju Sidhu, Raymond Yu, and Risako Ota.



Theatre Cares Donates \$10,000 to AIDS Vancouver. "AV was recently the recipient of a generous donation of \$10,000 by Theatre Cares and we are very grateful for Theatre Cares' on-going support." Miranda Compton, Director of Client Services

# Holiday Grocery 2006

This year's Holiday Grocery took place on December 12 and 13, 2006. Approximately 900 individuals and families accessed the service. Clients were given a variety of Holiday food items such as seasonal fruit and vegetables, canned ham and sweet treats. Thank you to all staff and volunteers who made this event so successful! We could not have done it without. Willow Lloyd, Grocery Coordinator



"Every year I look forward to the AV Holiday Grocery; the smile on clients' faces as well as the camaraderie between staff and volunteers makes for a wonderful holiday feeling!" Ian Benner, Coordinator of Helpline/ Reception Services



"As a Prevention Educator, I don't often get to work on the front line. Participating in the Holiday Grocery gives me the opportunity to chat with our many clients and to really get into the festive season. It's an opportunity to connect with people and wish them the best for the holiday season". Mandip Kharod, HIV Prevention and Awareness Educator



"The Holiday Grocery is my favorite AV event of the year. Seeing volunteers, staff and clients joining together in this festive event brings light and hope to a season that we know is often a difficult time. Miranda Compton, Director of Client Services



"I have been a Holiday Grocery volunteer for the last 6 years. For me, this experience always brings forward courage, humility, joy, resiliency, hope and gratitude." Parm Poonia, Manager of Volunteer Resources

## News from the PARC Library



**Launch of CONNECT: Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Gateway**  
CONNECT is an on-line catalogue. You can use this catalogue to search the library collections of the five largest HIV/AIDS libraries in Canada. This represents a combined collection of over 67, 000 books, videos, DVDs, journal articles and resources. It covers diverse topics such as, HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and legal/

ethical issues. Production of the website was made possible by a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

CONNECT includes the following community-based HIV/AIDS organizations:

- AIDS Committee of Toronto
- AIDS Vancouver
- Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange



# ED Report: Agency Highlights

## Administration:

This year's annual mail campaign focused on the Grocery Program and has been a great success.

## Prevention:

Gayway staff participated in the Gay Men's Health Summit. AIDS Vancouver supported the work of the Community Based Research Centre in producing the second gay men's health conference.

Education and Outreach: The Prevention Educators in collaboration with staff across the agency are developing the new agency training curriculum. This curriculum will be more in depth and comprehensive in responding to current learning and information needs regarding the agency, volunteerism at AV as well as HIV and related issues.

## Client Services:

### Case Management:

- The Case Management team welcomed several new staff:
- Lukas Maitland is our new Case Manager at Vancouver Native Health.
- Stephanie Smith is a Case Manager working on contract to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Stephanie came to us with extensive experience in legal advocacy and mental health, and has hit the ground running as an intensive case manager.
- Tomiye Ishida has joined the Case Management team and has worked with the Maximally Assisted Therapy program at the Downtown Community Health Centre, as well as with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

### Library/ Helpline/ Reception:

- After several years of planning, the Connect Project, linking the collections

of 5 HIV libraries across Canada finally came to fruition in early December.

### Grocery/ Nutrition Exchange:

- We had a very successful Holiday Grocery in December. Once again, we distributed over 900 festive bags of food to individuals and families to assist them throughout the holiday season.
- The Nutrition Exchange program received a \$5000 grant from the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation. This funding will enable us to continue this very successful project throughout 2007. A newly developed volunteer team of Nutritionists and Dieticians will be responsible for developing and delivering this service. Kelly Spec, the Nutrition Education Coordinator, will be presenting on the project at the upcoming Pacific AIDS Network Skills Building Conference in March.

### Events: World AIDS Day

William Booth, Executive Director, along with local students and community partners spoke in support of a resolution tabled by City Counselor Tim Stevens requesting City of Vancouver involvement for World AIDS Day. The Resolution was passed unanimously and World AIDS Day will now be included in the City's annual special events calendar.

The Red Ribbon Campaign was a great success raising awareness and support for World AIDS Day. The day was launched with a gala photo exhibition at City Hall and was opened by the Mayor and City Councillors.

Project Stitch was a huge success as a World AIDS Day event at the Croatian Cultural Centre and was attended by over 350 youth who produced quilt pieces for the Digital Quilt. This project received excellent media attention and increased partnership opportunities with new community

partners, agencies, schools and students. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE SIDE BAR.

Opera Appassionata offered a fundraising concert to benefit AIDS Vancouver and the Dr. Peter Centre and the memorable Joe Average Quilt was a central feature.

Carolyn Mount, Executive Assistant



Project Stitch:  
Connect Empower Change

A big **thank you** to all volunteers who helped make the first year of **Project Stitch** a success!

Project Stitch is an HIV/AIDS education and awareness project focused on youth to **connect** with each other, **empower** themselves and make **change**.

Over 350 youth participated in our World AIDS Day event on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Together we enjoyed an evening of drumming, slam poetry, hip hop, gumboot dancing, and great music while creating our own art pieces. These individual quilt pieces were digitally stitched together and unveiled for the first time that evening.

You can still contribute! Go to our website and create your own piece and add it to the Digital Quilt. Help raise awareness around the issues of HIV/AIDS. Check out [www.ProjectStitch.com](http://www.ProjectStitch.com) and get stitched! Lisa Stephenson, Coordinator of World AIDS Day 2006

- Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Centre
  - Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
- To find out more, visit us at <http://www.hivinfovoh.ca/>

### Check out the library blog!

You know that the library holds thousands of great resources, but you are too busy to visit us?

You want to use the library but you don't know where to start?

We can help! The library is pleased to offer a new service to help you stay current with HIV resources and news: the **AIDS Vancouver Library Blog!** Updated daily, this blog features new books and journal issues, websites of interest, HIV news and so much more. If you are only interested in

certain issues, check out the category listings to find exactly what you're looking for.

Bookmark this address: <http://aidsvanlibrary.blogspot.com>

Véronique Crozier, PARC Librarian



## The HIV/AIDS Nutrition Education Exchange program

The AIDS Vancouver Grocery program provides weekly, supplemental food to an average of 700 individuals and families living in poverty with HIV/AIDS. Last year, with help from the United Way, AV initiated a nutrition-related educational program in conjunction with the AV grocery. Although the AV Grocery program provides food to five different sites, the NEET (Nutrition Education Exchange Team) volunteers work with clients at only one site, the Seymour Street site in downtown Vancouver.

The HIV/AIDS Nutrition Education Exchange program is designed to develop and deliver nutrition education and skills building programming to AV Grocery clients. Patrons can spend up to 40 minutes waiting to access the Grocery, during which time NEET Volunteers (nutritionist students or dieticians) hand out education resources and food samples, answer questions, exchange recipes, and hold cooking demos and nutrition-themed games and contests.

Other NEET volunteers work quietly behind the scenes to develop the weekly Nutrition News, contests and educational materials,



Two NEET (nutrition education exchange team) volunteers Jill Wallace and Jessica handing out the Nutrition News to grocery client, Don Gaebel.

along with menu planning for the grocery. Plans are currently underway to take grocery clients out on a tour of their local grocery and to hold a nutritional seminar for AV Grocery patrons.

Client participation in NEET program activities during the pilot phase averaged 50% or better among the 500 weekly patrons that access the Grocery at AIDS Vancouver's Seymour site. In a recent survey of nearly 200 grocery patrons, over 2/3 of clients felt strongly that the program provided a place to freely discuss issues related to nutrition which, in turn, improved their nutrition knowledge and skills and allowed them to better address their nutritional concerns.

In December 2006, the Royal Bank of Canada Foundation generously donated \$5,000 to the Nutrition Education Exchange program. The RBC Foundation is committed to health and wellness, with an emphasis on supporting programs that improve community services and enhance quality of life. As proper nutrition is paramount in managing HIV illness progression, the RBC donation will be used to enhance existing and future nutritional educational activities.

Sonia Marino, Support Programs Coordinator

On behalf of all staff, management and board of directors we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful volunteers for the very generous donation of your time, energy and spirit in helping us assist people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

We would also like to take this moment to offer you the chance to make a financial donation in support of your favorite AIDS Vancouver Program. In making this donation you will be provided with a charitable income tax receipt and public donor recognition in our Annual Report. Donations can be made by cheque, credit card or automatic withdrawals.

Thank you for considering AIDS Vancouver as a beneficiary of your financial generosity.

To donate please contact Neena 604.893.2272 or [neenab@aidsvancouver.org](mailto:neenab@aidsvancouver.org).

Neena Bose, Donor Relations Assistant



Mithun Bhindi (Branch Manager, Royal Bank of Canada) presenting \$5000 cheque to Sonia, support programs coordinator and AV chair Jamie (on the right) to go towards the nutrition education exchange program.

**Editors Note:** Some readers expressed concern regarding the graffiti insert about the bathroom stall picture in the last Volunteer Bulletin. Due to technological difficulties we were unable to digitally modify the picture for legibility, resulting in the need to include a separate written insert. We extend our apologies.

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you or anyone you know are interested in volunteering with AIDS Vancouver, please visit our website [www.aidsvancouver.org](http://www.aidsvancouver.org) for a list of current volunteering opportunities, as well as our application process. If you don't have web access you can call our Information line at: **604-893-2266**

### Submission Deadline: April 10, 2007

**AIDS Vancouver Volunteer Resources Program Philosophy:** Volunteer Resources strives to build organizational commitment and competency by providing meaningful and relevant volunteer opportunities that support and enhance the mission of AIDS Vancouver. Paid and unpaid staff work together to alleviate vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS.

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