

It's All About You...

...It really is!



Appreciation 2005



**Volunteer
Bulletin**

JULY 2005

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.

AIDS Vancouver
1107 Seymour Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5S8
Canada

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Submission Deadline:
October 1st, 2005

Volunteer Opportunities

- ? Gayway
- ? Grocery
- ? Helpline

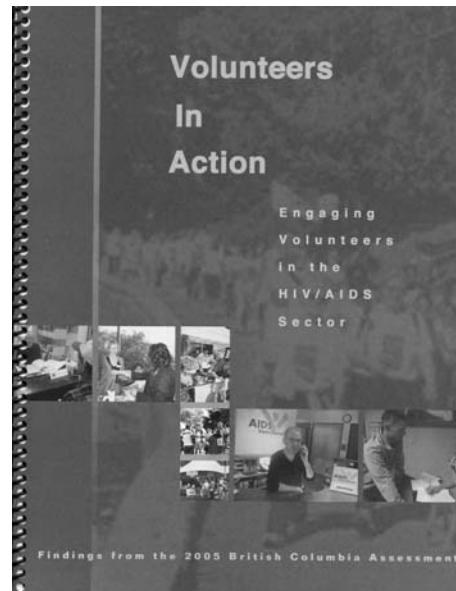
If interested please call our Information line at:
604-893-2266

The Research is In!

AIDS Vancouver in collaboration with several community partners recently conducted a provincial assessment of volunteerism in the HIV/AIDS sector. The assessment, "Volunteers In Action – Engaging Volunteers in the HIV/AIDS Sector", was designed to increase our collective knowledge of how

best to manage and promote volunteerism within the HIV/AIDS community.

The goal of the Volunteers In Action project was to increase the capacity and knowledge of Managers of Volunteers in the HIV/AIDS Sector of BC. Through a provincial survey and regional focus groups with volunteers and Managers of Volunteers we were able to develop an important understanding about issues related to the management and support of volunteers in HIV/AIDS organizations. This increased understanding and knowledge can enhance the capacity of organizations to provide more



effective management of volunteers in the areas of program planning and implementation, development of meaningful volunteer opportunities, service delivery, evaluation and best practices.

It also recognizes the dedication and vital contribution of volunteers in this sector. Volunteers are a vital and vibrant resource for HIV/AIDS community. We invite you to review and utilize the findings from the Volunteers In Action Assessment. It is our hope that the findings and recommendations will help individuals and organizations to further acknowledge, promote and integrate volunteerism within our communities. The report will soon be available on AIDS Vancouver's website at www.aidsvancouver.org or contact Volunteer Resources for a copy.

By Parm Poonia

Appreciation 2005

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AV Volunteers Support 'Creative Giving'

By Nancy Armitage

When creative and caring people put their heads together, there's no telling what might happen.

It began when Berm McCandless started a course in self-expression in January of this year. Before this Berm never dreamed he'd end up producing and acting in Howard Korder's 1988 Pulitzer Prize nominated play called **Boys' Life**. Michelle Leclair, an extraordinary AIDS Vancouver volunteer, a friend of Berm's, and the Producer/Co-Director of **Boys' Life**, suggested that the proceeds from the play go to a local, community based organization like the AIDS Vancouver Grocery Program. Thus "Creative Giving" was conceived. An amazing ensemble of cast and crew were brought together to donate their considerable talents to produce this truly remarkable stage play.

A call went out to our dedicated volunteers to help with the production and David Rebelo, Nanda Mallan, Jennifer Ford, and Ashley Turk all stepped forward to help with ticket sales, props and sets. "The AIDS Vancouver Volunteers were amazing. It could not have been done without them", said Leclair.

The play was a big success. Our volunteers had a great time, the play entertained over 150 people and the AIDS Vancouver Grocery program received a generous donation of \$1,200 from the proceeds. Thank you Berm, Michelle, cast and crew, and thank you AV volunteers for making a difference!



Michelle Leclair, an extraordinary AIDS Vancouver volunteer, and the Producer/Co-Director of **Boys' Life**,

Celebrating 60 Years and Making a Difference

Over a decade ago, on his 50th birthday Larry had just moved to Vancouver from Toronto and hardly knew anyone. So he decided throw a party for himself back in Toronto. He invited 150 people. Larry had lost 5 very good friends to AIDS in the 90's. He decided to ask people to make a donation to a local AIDS service organization in memory of those who couldn't be present. They party raised over \$1,000.00 for a Toronto AIDS organization.

On his 60th birthday he decide a "fabulous and outrageous celebration" was in order. He booked a cruise boat, gathered 40 of his closest friends and family and had a party to remember. This time he asked that his friends and family to make a donation to AIDS Vancouver. His goal was to double the donations of his 50th birthday.

People came from far and wide to be with Larry on his big day – an ex-boyfriend brought his mother from Jacksonville, Florida and a sister from Santa Cruz. Family and friends came from Eastern Canada. In the spirit of a truly memorable celebration everyone came wearing something fabulous and outrageous.



Photo from L. to R: Larry's sister Carran, brother Ted, Larry Taylor, and Larry's former wife.

The colorful company that left the Bayshore Hotel to float around Burrard Inlet for an evening also included Larry's former wife, his sister and brother, three cousins, gay and straight friends alike including a couple of drag Queens, all dressed to the hilt.

It was indeed a party to remember. Not only did the festivities honor Larry on his 60th, while remembering those who could not be present, but it raised \$2,000 for AIDS Vancouver. Many thanks to Larry and his friends and family for their outstanding generosity.



Gayway communiqué:

Information for Gayway volunteers

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The Gayway Condom Clean-up

- The condom clean-up was a big success! Lots of “debris” was scooped up from the Lees Trail area of Stanley Park. Thank you to everyone who turned out to help us clean up.

Meditation Host Needed

- The Monday night **meditation group needs a host for every other Monday**. It's a great opportunity for someone who also wants to participate in the meditation.

Press Corps

- We need volunteers for Gayway's street outreach program, the Press Corps. **Most urgently, we are in need of one volunteer for this Saturday, June 18**. Come participate and help us spread the gay way of healthy vitality. Call or email gayway@gayway.ca if you'd like to be part of this exciting opportunity.

Pride Committee - Join the Gayway Pride Committee and stop traffic with us! We are looking for artistic, creative men to help us **convey our vision of flourishing communities**. We need handy people, performers, musicians, costumers, designers, set builders, carpenters, stylists, artists and all sorts of creative people to envision and build a lush, extravagant float and march in **the parade on Sunday, July 31**. It isn't necessary to come to all the meetings – you can commit to a couple of hours or as much time as you are able to contribute.

We need to contribute 30 person-hours to build five life size puppets. **We have hired the Public Dreams Society to instruct us in the art of building the float and the puppets!** The committee will meet July 7, 14, 21 & 28: 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

GAB Youth Services Queer Prom - Help out with the **Queer Youth Prom that GAB is organizing for July 8**. 'It's' an opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth to attend a function where they can fully express themselves and connect with fellow youth. We are looking for volunteers to help them out and fulfill some youth outreach as representatives of Gayway. Miss your high school prom? Come to the queer prom!

THANK YOU to all of you – we are so grateful for the hard work and support of all our volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Gayway –

T:604.682.3900
F:604.682.3988



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