

# Hello AV Volunteers,



Parm Poonia,  
Manager Volunteer Resources

On behalf of AIDS Vancouver board and staff I would like to personally express my gratitude to past and recent volunteers of Gayway. Your contribution to the success of Gayway was significant. Under the guidance and leadership of our new Executive Director, AIDS Vancouver will continue to develop and deliver services to gay men and men who have sex with men. As AIDS Vancouver grows and evolves, I invite you to renew your involvement in the communities we serve.

Parm Poonia,  
Manager Volunteer Resources

## Library News



Just wanted to let you know that the library will be closed on Fridays for the Summer.

Veronique

AIDS Vancouver's westside office has moved downtown. Our email addresses and main reception phone number have remained the same but all staff phone numbers have changed, including Seymour site staff. All staff phone numbers can be found on our website. Our second downtown location is:  
900 Helmcken Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1B3

We are also happy to announce that YouthCO AIDS Society has moved to the first floor of the Helmcken site. This is an exciting opportunity to further community partnership and collaboration between our organizations. Welcome to our new neighbours!

Website news from Rachel and Veronique

## AIDS Vancouver has a new Website

Launched April 1st, our new redesigned website brings you current and reliable information on HIV/AIDS.

Learn more about AIDS Vancouver and its services, ask a question to the helpline, check out new volunteer opportunities, search the library collection, browse the FAQs and directory of resources, make a donation to AIDS Vancouver, anywhere, anytime...

Check it out! <http://www.aidsvancouver.org>



Cliff



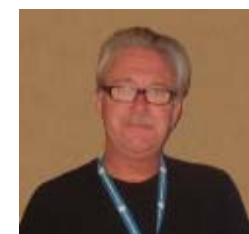
Daniel



Heather C.



Heather H.



Ian



Jose

## 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: **604-696-4626**

This year AIDS Vancouver celebrated National Volunteer Week - April 27 to May 3, 2008 which was titled, "Volunteers from Compassion to Action".



Parm



Kasandra

**From all of us at AIDS Vancouver, we thank all of our volunteers. We hope those who attended the Appreciation Event at Seymour enjoyed themselves. We also hope that those not able to attend can join us at appreciation events in the future .**



Sonia



Veronique

*When you give to others, you speak a silent but audible thank you. Appreciation for others and ourselves is life and spirit for each and every one of us.*  
by Kara "Cherry" Whitaker



Lucas



Neena



Selena



Sheila



Tomiye



Vicki

## Submission Deadline: October 3, 2008

### 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.

Production of this resource has been made possible through a financial contribution from the AIDS Community Action Program, the Public Health Agency of Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official policies of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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

# Transitions at AIDS Vancouver

As many of you are aware there have been some recent changes at AIDS Vancouver.

In May an agreement was developed by the Boards' of AIDS Vancouver and the Health Initiative for Men (HIM), and supported by our funder (Vancouver Coastal Health), to transition the primary responsibility of gay men's health programming (including the services offered by Gayway) from AIDS Vancouver to HIM.

HIV is a complex disease and developing prevention programming that addresses and acknowledges these complexities is critical. 25 years into the epidemic AIDS Vancouver was faced with a challenge to meet the ever changing needs of gay men, and other men who have sex with men, from a health promotion and prevention perspective. Addressing HIV prevention for gay men means not only addressing prevention and treatment of HIV, but addressing all aspects of gay men's health, a more holistic approach to health promotion, one that is inclusive and comprehensive.

Gayway, a project of AIDS Vancouver, was developed as a gay men's resource exchange and was designed to encourage gay men to share their knowledge, experience and resources and was a significant step forward in addressing the overall health needs of gay men in Vancouver.

The agreement to transition the primary responsibility of gay men's health programming, including the services offered by Gayway, from AIDS Vancouver to the Health

Initiative for Men, represents another important step forward in this evolution.

AIDS Vancouver will continue to provide prevention services for at-risk populations where they connect with other service providers and their environments such as non-profit housing providers, treatment centers, settlement services among many more. As well, AV will continue to reach populations that are particularly vulnerable to HIV including, people who inject drugs, Aboriginal people - with special emphasis on Aboriginal women - incarcerated populations, street involved youth, survival sex trade workers and gay men. AV will collaborate and cooperate with HIM, as well as other relevant community partners, when it's appropriate in order to best access those at-risk populations. The recently developed *HIV/AIDS Education Handbook* will play a prominent role in our new prevention programming.

The primary focus of our revised prevention education department will be testing for HIV. Testing will be used as the entry point to initiate a range of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention strategies.

Other services at AIDS Vancouver, such as support services and our acclaimed case management program, the Helpline and the PARC Library, including AV's new website, will continue to be provided by the agency.

Ruthann Tucker  
Interim Executive Director

The work of Gayway at AIDS Vancouver ended in May of this year. During the last few weeks, I had the bittersweet responsibility for "wrapping things up". As I packed and sorted through files, I had the opportunity to reflect on the crucial role that volunteers played on Gayway's success.



Gayway volunteers took to heart a vision of "flourishing communities for all". With this vision, Gayway volunteers created thousands of opportunities for gay men to connect with each other. Along with staff, volunteers developed innovative communication and outreach campaigns, provided support, offered workshops, celebrated together in memorable events. Gayway flourished into a thriving community hub. On behalf staff of Gayway and AIDS Vancouver, we would like to convey a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Gayway volunteers who made all of this possible.

For more than 25 years, AIDS Vancouver has made a profound impact on the lives of gay men in Vancouver and beyond. With the newly created Health Initiatives for Men (HIM), gay men can develop a broad range of health programmes. I encourage you to continue to volunteer and support these agencies. As an engaged citizen, you help to improve our communities.

Sincerely,

Omar Dominguez  
Community Engagement and Outreach Coordinator  
Gayway  
Gay is good!

## New Executive Director at AV

June 17, 2008

The Board of Directors of AIDS Vancouver is very pleased to announce the appointment of David Swan to the position of Executive Director. David will be starting in his role as Executive Director of AIDS Vancouver effective Monday July 14, 2008.

David has been involved in the AIDS movement since his early 20s, first volunteering and then working in Support Services at AIDS Vancouver Island. After testing positive for HIV, he worked for almost 7 years in community-based care particularly palliative care. His

graduate degree in sociology focused on the impact of community-based research and he has been published in the *Community Development Journal*. In addition, David has presented at the International AIDS Conference, Geneva in 1998.

David has been the Chair of the Board of Directors of AIDS Vancouver Island, and currently sits on the Board of the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) as the Pacific Representative.



David has honed his skills and experience at the senior management level including appointments in policy and monitoring at the BC Ministry of Health, and most recently as the Director of Health Promotion and Strategic Partnerships for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, BC/Yukon Region.

The Board of AIDS Vancouver is thrilled that David has joined the AIDS Vancouver team and brings his passion, dedication and commitment to this new role.