



preventing homelessness
& hunger since 1983

In This Issue

[Tupperware Cruise Jan. '09](#)

[Medicare Part D Assistance](#)

[LA Pride Parade 2008](#)

[Best In Drag Show](#)

[2008 Grants](#)

Phoenix-Lifestyle Credit
Card Gives AFA 5%



[Apply Here](#)

Phoenix Lifestyle, in partnership with Bank of America, has issued a card that also provides a give-back program to charities and foundations that benefit and support the LGBT community. They have designated AFA as the premier beneficiary in this region through January 1, 2009. They are giving to AFA 5% on all purchases made with the cards. If you wish to apply for this card, visit

<http://www.phoenix-lifestyle.com/credit-card>

(Consider putting your Tupperware Extravaganza January 2009 Cruise on the Phoenix-Lifestyle card - you will be doubly supporting those in need, while rebuilding your energy and community with three nights of laughter and relaxation.)

How You've Helped Us to Help Others

Last year, AFA assisted more than 2,000 households by providing support in times of crisis for those impoverished and fighting HIV/AIDS.

Greetings!

We are introducing a new format for the Aid For AIDS Connections Newsletter and hope it more effectively provides ideas, updates, encouragement and thanks to our many supporters. This month there is a wealth of riches - several fun and significant ways to connect in the community with events that support the important work of Aid For AIDS.

Rhoda's 2nd Annual Tupperware Cruise Extravaganza



This is a 3-night blast, and it benefits AFA. Set sail on Carnival Cruise Line's "Paradise" on Friday, January 9, 2009, and return on the 12th with the lowest prices of the year. Your \$100 deposit is due September 5, 2008 - so read quickly and call your posse tonight!

Relax in the sun or plunge into one of the swimming pools, try your luck in the casino, watch world class entertainment, or boogie with Rhoda at the disco. On Saturday, visit Ensenada, Mexico, called the "Cinderella of the Pacific." According to cruise experts, you can see "La Bufadora" (translation The Blowhole), visit a local winery, enjoy great bargain shopping, see the Fox Studios back lot where they filmed "Titanic" and many other Hollywood films, or hit one of the many appealing drinking or dining establishments! Also, internationally known Psychic Dave will be on the cruise and is offering a 20% discount on a reading.

AFA will receive \$5 for every paying passenger. In addition, groups of 15 or more friends or supporters can sign up for an additional perk: a free berth for every 15 paid passengers in one group - use it to discount your costs within your group, or auction it as an AFA donation, or make it a gift - be creative! The free space only has port and federal taxes, which are about \$60-\$100.

Special events can be scheduled during the cruise. For example, last year, a bingo event was held in Ensenada at a gay bar to support the cruise beneficiary. More than 65 people attended, and they raised about \$700. You can make this an awesome winter break and bring back great memories along with FUN(d)raising for AFA.

Trip details:

Jan. 9 - Leave Long Beach at 5:30 PM
Jan. 10 - Arrive Ensenada at 9 AM and depart 6 PM
Jan. 11 - FUN day at sea
Jan. 12 - Arrive Long Beach 8 AM

Rates:

Interior \$325; Ocean View \$365; Junior w/balcony \$665. Prices include all taxes and fees. They are per-person, double occupancy; cruise only and subject to availability at time of booking. Prices do not include airfare, travel insurance, alcoholic beverages, sodas, shore excursions, transfers, gratuities onboard (approx. \$30 pp) and other items of a personal nature. BONUS: price includes a \$50 shipboard credit per cabin.

For reservations and information, call or email David Geen, Villas and Vines: 1-800-593-6350; david@villasandvines.com; or visit the website: www.villasandvines.com

(Consider charging your cruise on the new Phoenix-Lifestyle card from Bank of America. See the related article and link in the green column on the left about their ongoing support of the LGBT community and their

Through a combination of programs, we help many remain in their homes and relocate to more affordable housing; acquire nutritional supplements, vitamins and some non-prescription medications for improved well-being; prevent hunger and poor nutrition with free home-delivered fresh foods directly from our food distributor, Albertsons; and provide mobility to doctor appointments with bus passes. This season, we began providing assistance for those falling in the coverage gap or "donut hole" left by the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

We continue to have cross-collaborations with many related organizations throughout Los Angeles County. The critical assistance provided by AFA is through the financial support of donors, grants, and fundraising events. Your value as an individual supporter is immense. You remain integral to Aid For AIDS' ability to make a vital difference in the lives of so many on that fragile edge created by HIV/AIDS and poverty.

**Donate Effortlessly
Through Ralph's
- You Must SIGN-UP
Again!**



New Ralph's Rewards Cards were just distributed over the last couple of months. Ralph's gives back to AFA a portion of every purchase made using the new Card. Unless you linked your prior card to the new Rewards Card, your new Card must be re-registered to support Aid For AIDS online at www.ralphs.com. As a confirmation point, everyone will see the organization contribution

financial support of AFA until January 1, 2009, as they give back 5% to AFA on all purchases made with the cards.)

New Medicare Part D Assistance for Those in the Gap

AFA has found that many clients are simply not taking necessary medications because they fall in the Medicare Part D coverage "gap". These clients are eligible for initial limited assistance, but then find they cannot pay the required \$4,000 out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications before they are eligible for additional Medicare Part D assistance. These emerging needs are being addressed as part of AFA's ongoing focus to keep its mission relevant in the changing HIV/AIDS landscape.

AFA's Medicare Part D Coverage Gap Assistance Program may provide financial support for out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses of up to \$3,600 incurred by the Medicare Part D drug coverage gap. Through an effective collaboration with AFA, participating pharmacies are providing services to eligible clients. This program only pays for prescriptions covered by the health insurance plan and does not pay for share of cost, deductibles or co-pays.

Los Angeles Pride Parade & AFA Float



What an amazing turn-out along Santa Monica Boulevard on June 8th for the Los Angeles Pride Parade! The brilliant California sunshine lit up an equally brilliant street pageant. Amidst trucks and floats of cheering volunteers, choral groups, performers, marchers and musicians, AFA was proud to present a Pride-Fabulous float. Our float featured Miss Minnesota, Bindi Dundat, the reigning Winner of "Best In Drag Show," along with Miss Connecticut and Miss Wisconsin in their sashes, the effervescent Jeffrey Drew as Lotta Slots, some of the "Show Dogs," and many spangled supporters and volunteers.

As the winner of Christopher Street West's (CSW) parade grant competition, AFA received a professional float and had one of the most spectacular entries in the two-hour parade. The prize was sponsored by CSW and the float company, AES/Festival Artists Worldwide, with major decorative support by Tom Pardoe (note the hot pink fire hydrants lining the float) and assistance from Tom Ford and Eric Yake.

Rodney Scott, CSW Board President, said, "Christopher Street West is committed to actively supporting the community we serve. Our Parade Grant Program provides an opportunity to give organizations like Aid For AIDS the remarkable visibility and awareness that can only come from a major parade presence. We are pleased to give our 2008 grand prize grant to Aid For AIDS."

"It's a huge honor," AFA Board President Brenda Goodman said. "Thank you for acknowledging our 25th year of providing assistance in the community - and, it's even more special because we are able to feature our wonderful supporters from 'Best In Drag Show'."

During the parade, volunteers walked alongside AFA's float and collected donations. In addition to having a smashing presence at the parade, AFA collected \$513! Euphoria Face & Body [spa] had a lemonade stand and raised \$150 for us. In another marching position

note at the bottom of their receipts.

When registering, you will need:

- 1) Aid for AIDS Non-Profit Number (NPO#) - 80767. It also can be found on Ralph's website.
- 2) Your Ralph's Card Number.
- 3) First and Last Name associated with the Card.
- 4) Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) associated with the Card.
- 5) Telephone Number associated with the Card.

Thank you so much!

Volunteer Voice

from Yesenia Navarro

Hello Volunteers!

I would like to sincerely thank you for the time and energy you have given to Aid For AIDS. Through your dedication and commitment as a volunteer, you have made it possible for us to continue providing the best-possible services to our clients and community. Most recently, volunteers helped to make a difference by showing support and collecting donations in the Los Angeles Pride Parade.

We have some volunteer opportunities coming up over the next few months including World AIDS Day and our annual "go eat" fundraiser at restaurants throughout Los Angeles. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact me at 323-656-1107, ext. 2119 or at y Navarro@aidforaids.net

along the parade route, Cheer LA cart-wheeled, did flips and cheered throughout the parade, collecting \$508 on behalf of AFA. We send a huge, colorful "thank you" to all who made our LA Pride Parade participation so special.

See more photos from [2008 LA Pride Parade here](#).

Best In Drag Show '08 Tickets Available Sept 10th



September is almost here, which means that we are busy gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year - the legendary "Best in Drag Show." The amazing volunteer crew is headed again by producer/director and choreographer Tom Pardoe, who was AFA's nominee and City of West Hollywood honoree for the 2007 Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Award. The show contestants, selected following very real auditions, are rehearsing

and getting costumes fitted - well, in some cases, the costumes are being built. In years past, ingenious engineering produced various evening gowns that turned into a steamboat and a suspension bridge, concealed a live chicken coop, and included other surprises!

This fierce but hilarious "beauty contest" is bigger than ever. The show is taking place on October 19th at The Orpheum Theater in Downtown Los Angeles. The move last year to this larger theater was successful and enabled so many more to attend. As always, Kathy Griffin, Hollywood's favorite "D-List Celebrity," is set to open the show. Long-time "Best In Drag Show" alumnus Patrick Rush, also an AFA Warrior Award honoree, returns to his usual, dangerous spot as emcee with to-be-announced celebrities judging their favorite contestants based on talent, bathing suit, evening wear, and Q&A categories.

Ticket order forms will be available on the Aid For AIDS website on September 10th at www.aidforaids.net. Remember that the best seats are scooped up quickly! And, that this remarkable event, produced by a talented band of volunteers and supported by underwriters and many giving businesses and individuals, enables Aid For AIDS to continue providing assistance for those struggling with HIV/AIDS below the poverty line throughout Los Angeles County.

Thank You to Our 2008 Grant Supporters

(Funding received January - August 2008)

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS - \$5,000
Entertainment AIDS Alliance - \$5,000
Kaiser Permanente - \$5,000
Northrop Grumman - \$5,000
Union Bank of California Foundation - \$3,000

Connections Newsletter is produced by the AFA Communications Office. Feedback from our readers is always appreciated. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy in the newsletter; however, omissions or errors may occur. When planning to attend or participate in an AFA function or related event, we request that you contact the specific event lines (email, phone, website) and the designated representatives to confirm all final details prior to the function/event. Connections is for awareness, entertainment and keeping in touch with our supporters. To get in touch with us regarding the newsletter, email Jeannette Bondurant, Editor at newsletter@aidforaids.net.