

# Connections

Aid For AIDS Newsletter

November 2009



### MISSION:

To provide the basic necessities of life to men, women, children, and families living with HIV/AIDS through a safety net of essential housing and direct supportive services.

More than 25 years of continuous services. Founded: 1983

### IN THIS ISSUE - link here

Obama Extends Funding World AIDS Day Event Toy Box Collections Foundation Support Holiday Deliveries Mark Your Calendar Best In Drag Show 2009 AFA 2009 Assistance 25th Anniversary Event New AFA Scholarship

### Help Us Save Postage

Remembering AFA for your end-of-year charitable giving will truly help individuals and families during challenging times -- for them and for AFA. Your electronic donation is greatly appreciated and will help save AFA substantial postage costs. If you donate on the AFA website by Friday, November 20, 2009, we will remove you from our upcoming annual appeal mailing -- saving postage for AFA and giving you an opportunity to cross something off your holiday "to do" list. [Link here to donate.](#)

### Office Volunteers Needed ASAP

We are seeking in-office volunteers as soon as possible for the Development Department. We are coordinating a mailing and also have begun a change-over in computer programs. Our search is on for reliable volunteers who can help with mailing coordination or important data entry. If you can offer a couple of hours or more, your help will really make a difference for us at AFA. Please contact [Alex Strautman](#) at (323) 656-1107, ext. 2111, or [Jamie Ju](#) at (323) 656-1107, ext. 2116.

### Obama Extends Ryan White Funding

On October 30, 2009, President Obama signed the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009*, which extends federal support for "life-saving help for one-half million each year," as noted by the President during the televised signing. Locally, Aid For AIDS administers HOPWA assistance (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS), in Los Angeles County, a program that includes approximately \$1.8 million in Ryan White-supported funding.

President Obama spoke briefly about the origins of the Act, including the 1982 AIDS hearings held by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), ultimately leading to the passage of the original Ryan White legislation. The Edward Kennedy-Orin Hatch *CARE Act* (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act) was renamed for Ryan White in 1990, the year White died. He was an Indiana teenager who contracted AIDS through a tainted hemophilia treatment in 1984 and was expelled from school because of the disease. White became a well-known advocate for AIDS research and awareness following media coverage of his lengthy legal battle with the school system.

### World AIDS Day Dec. 1st Event

Join The City of West Hollywood and AFA for World AIDS Day at Gallery 825, 825 N. La Cienega Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069, from 6:30 to 8 PM. The event includes presentation of the Paul Starke Warrior Awards, special speakers, and dessert. This free event does not require an RSVP. For more information, contact [Corey Roskin](#) at 323-848-6403.

### Holiday Toy Box Collections

In December, new toys will be collected for children who are served by Aid For AIDS and The Serra Project. This annual holiday collection, which happens in several locations throughout Los Angeles, brings joy to many children and families affected by HIV/AIDS that have very limited or no financial resources for holiday celebrations. The collected toys are sorted and distributed from the AFA and Serra offices.

Drop-off locations: From December 1st to the 11th on weekdays between 10 AM and 4 PM, you may bring new, unwrapped toys to AFA, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 200, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, or The Serra Project, 1245 E. Walnut St., Suite 106, Pasadena, CA 91106, or watch for our announcement of the 2009 businesses hosting collections.

If you want to host a toy collection for us, please contact [Maribel Ulloa](#) at 323-656-1107, ext 2105, for more information.

### 2009 Foundation Support - Thank You!

AIDS Walk Long Beach/Long Beach AIDS Foundation, Inc.; Anthony & Edna Willmas Fund; Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; City of Long Beach; Eleven Twenty Seven Foundation; Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ARRA); Entertainment AIDS Alliance (EAA); Kaiser Permanente - Los Angeles and West Los Angeles Medical Centers; Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation; Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride Inc.; M.A.C. AIDS Fund; M.A.C. and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.; Nordstrom, Inc.; Northrop Grumman; S. Mark Taper Foundation; Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund; Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation.

### Special Holiday Delivery for Clients

Our Client Services Department is preparing holiday groceries, personal hygiene items, and other things for delivery to clients for the holiday season. We will be collecting items throughout the month of November. If you would like to donate, new articles can be dropped off at the AFA office. Contact [Maribel Ulloa](#) at 323-656-1107, ext. 2105, for more information.

### Mark Your Calendar! 'Go Eat' Fundraiser Expands in 2010

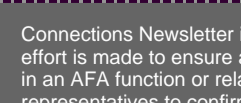
Now...Go Eat, Go Drink, Go Out L.A. Watch for exciting details and a new look. Simply by going out on **February 25th**, you and your friends could send funds to AFA. It truly is FUNdraising!

### Best In Drag Show

[See ET Online video from Best In Drag Show here.](#)

### Photo Link

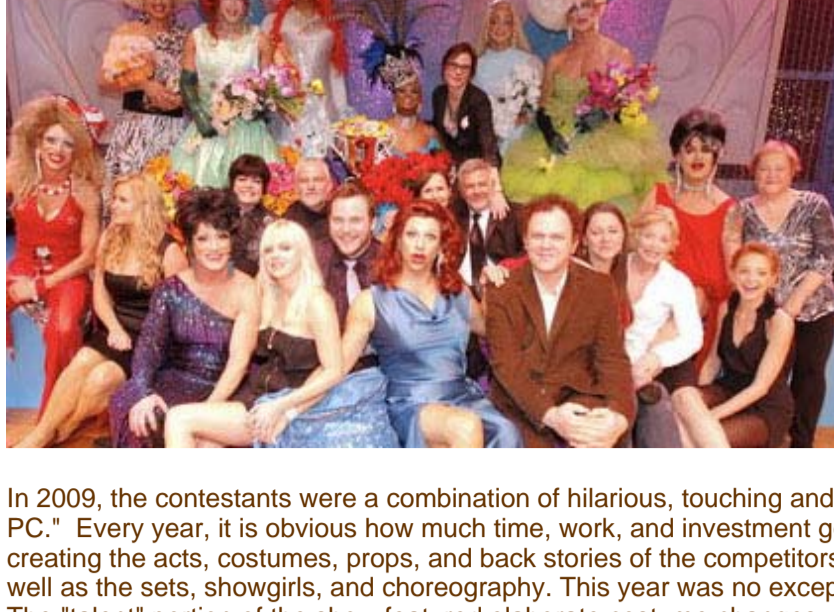
Show Photos: JPI Studios, Inc.



Patrick Rush, Molly Shannon

### Best In Drag Show 2009 Fundraiser Raises the Roof & More Than \$300,000 for AFA

Seven outrageous contestants joined Master of Ceremonies Patrick Rush and a bevy of "beautiful" showgirls at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday night, October 18, 2009, to compete for the title of Miss Best In Show. The extravaganza, a benefit to help raise funds for Aid For AIDS (AFA), was in its seventh year as *Best In Drag Show*. Begun 20 years ago, the fundraiser was originally known as *Battle for the Tiara*. The 2009 pageant played to a full house, and ten celebrity judges laughed all the way to the crowning of Miss Best In Show, Sybil Rights, Miss District of Columbia.



In 2009, the contestants were a combination of hilarious, touching and "non-PC." Every year, it is obvious how much time, work, and investment go into creating the acts, costumes, props, and back stories of the competitors, as well as the sets, showgirls, and choreography. This year was no exception. The "talent" portion of the show featured elaborate costume changes, entertaining multi-media productions, and singing, as well as crutches, knife-throwing, a portable yellow brick road, a mermaid competitor, and a condensed review of U.S. black history from slavery to the White House. The "blind" contestant actually took a tumble off the front of the stage, and for a moment, as the audience gasped, most thought it was not planned.



The contestants were Miss California - **Patrick Marks**, winning hearts as spunky and pouty Jan Brady; Miss D.C. - **Johnathan Wallace** as Sybil Rights, evolving from a slave to a Diana Ross look-alike; Miss Kansas - **Glen Ales** as sparkling Wendy Twister, syncing a two-faced duet compendium from "Wicked;" Miss Louisiana - **Bob Burnett** as socially-conscious and gorgeous mermaid, Ariel Vieux; Miss Nebraska - **Jim Crane** as disturbingly-haired Braille Setters, a blind sketch artist; Miss Nevada - **Marcos Bellet** as Ivana Poker, the glam Vegas act gone very bad; and Miss Ohio - **John Paschal** as disabled, gravel-voiced Marsha Dimes, going from walker to top hat and heels. Although all contestants were widely appreciated by the audience, Miss D.C., Sybil Rights, was crowned before a house that clearly agreed with the judges' choice. Her stage set transformed from slave quarters to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue during a performance set to Japanese singer Chiemi Eri's version of "Come On-a My House."



2009 Judges included **Jennifer Coolidge**, **Anna Faris**, **Camryn Manheim**, **Jayma Mays**, **Mary-Louise Parker**, **Chris Pratt**, **John C. Reilly**, **Molly Shannon**, **Holland Taylor**, and **Jo Anne Worley**. Following a red carpet entrance with press and media coverage, the judges were introduced individually at their seats to thunderous applause. Molly Shannon walked onstage to read a message about the essential work done by Aid For AIDS. **Kathy Griffin**, long-time opening host, was unable to appear in person and sent a video greeting and a generous check. Other substantial donations announced from current and past judges were from **John C. Reilly**, **Mary-Louise Parker**, **Kathy Kinney**, and **Holland Taylor**.

Between segments, the show's color commentators, **Jeffrey Drew** as Lotta Slots and **Todd Sherry** as Ida Dunham, ripped apart the contestants as only two divas can do -- leaving the audience laughing and wincing with some outrageous remarks.



This year also featured a tribute to Master of Ceremonies **Patrick Rush**, a long-time producer and show co-founder. After performing as emcee for 18 years, he is stepping down.



Many thanks go to the show's volunteer contestants, crew, Irish Setters (showgirls), the event underwriters, celebrity judges, supporters, and sponsors, additional show-night volunteers, the Orpheum Theatre, donors at the show, and everyone who bought tickets. With their support, more than \$300,000 was raised for Aid For AIDS and our client programs and services.

Link at the bottom of the newsletter for photos and a video clip.

**Photos:** courtesy of JPI Studios, Inc. **Captions:** 1 - (top) Contestants, Judges, Color Commentators, MC, and Director; (L to R) 2 - **Jennifer Coolidge**, 2009 Winner, **John C. Reilly**; 3 - **Kathy Kinney**, **Patrick Rush**, **Holland Taylor**; 4 - **Mary-Louise Parker**; 5 - **AFA Executive Director Terry Goddard II**, Show Director **Tom Pardoe**, MC **Patrick Rush**.

### Our Mission: A World in Which Hope is Restored & Lives are Saved Through Homes, Help, & Healing

Since the beginning of this year, Aid For AIDS (AFA) has provided a safety net of services and assistance for more than 1,000 impoverished households affected by HIV/AIDS.

AFA, with the tagline, "preventing homelessness and hunger since 1983," established need-based programs that have remained relevant since their inception. The housing and utility program has been running continuously for more than 25 years. Study after study has shown that housing is healthcare. Many of our clients come to us facing daunting monthly decisions -- such as whether to pay the rent or eat adequately. Often, these challenges make adherence to medical treatment programs and regimens exceedingly difficult or financially impossible. Once a downward spiral of homelessness begins, its devastation can be permanent. We seek to prevent the loss of hope and vitality, to encourage stability, and to enhance independent living for those struggling with HIV/AIDS.

Client assistance from all administered programs in 2009, through the first week of November, 2009:

1,011 households received grants for rent, mortgage, and utility bill assistance to help them remain in their current homes.

595 households received grants to allow them to move into affordable housing.

95 households (480 vouchers) received support for pharmacy over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and nutritional supplements -- 6-month renewable program.

111 households (1,417 monthly deliveries or vouchers) received fresh food and groceries -- 6- and 12-month food programs.

471 bus passes were provided to help clients reach stores, doctor offices, or just to get out of the house.

We are grateful to our supporters and are pleased to state that 90% or more of our budget funds client programs.

### AFA Silver Anniversary Reception & Awards

On November 5, 2009, Aid For AIDS celebrated 25 years of service at a reception and awards presentation at the beautiful SLS Hotel on the edge of Beverly Hills. The VIP reception was attended by major supporters, board members, and community leaders. Photos from AFA's long history were featured in a program book that also included a timeline of events from the start of the AIDS epidemic and AFA's formation in 1983 to the present. The celebration of the Silver Anniversary this year was in recognition of 25 years since AFA became a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. AFA was founded within a couple of years of the first AIDS patient diagnosis and the year before the City of West Hollywood was incorporated, creating a related evolution to help with growing regional needs.



AFA Angel Awards were presented to significant and long-term supporters of AFA and leaders in the HIV/AIDS service community by Executive Director Terry Goddard II, who has 19 years with AFA and The Serra Project, and Board President Brenda Goodman, an AFA board member since 1997.

**Photos:** (above) Four honorees - Kathy Griffin chats with Jack Larson; Tom Gregory and David Bohnett look on; (below, L to R) Honorees and presenters - James "Jake" Broderick, Esq., Brian Schield, Esq., Kathy Griffin, Patrick Fields, Esq., Dorrit Ragsine, Tom Pardoe, Stephen Simon, Brenda Goodman, Barbara Brandlin Hines, Jack Larson, Patrick Rush, David Bohnett, Terry Goddard II, Tom Gregory, J. Alexander Strautman, Jeffrey Drew as "Lotta Slots."



AFA Angel Awards were presented in several categories.

**Foundation Honoree:** The David Bohnett Foundation, Tom Gregory and David Bohnett; Bridges-Larson Foundation, Jack Larson; Entertainment AIDS Alliance (accepted by EAA Board Member Dorrit Ragsine); QueensCare and its President and CEO, Barbara Brandlin Hines.

**Event Honoree:** John Bowab; Alexis Pittman, posthumously, and the Founders and Producers of *Battle for the Tiara* and *Best In Drag Show* (accepted by Jeffrey Drew, Tom Pardoe, and Patrick Rush).

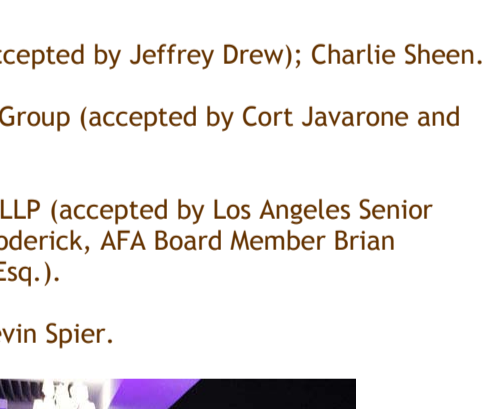
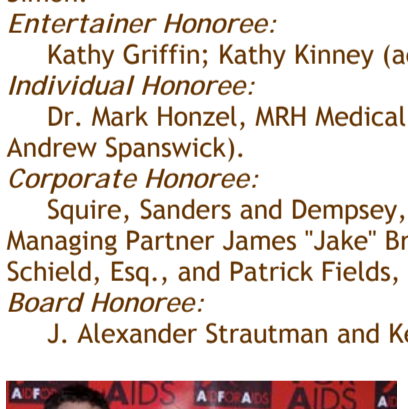
**Community Honoree:** City of West Hollywood (accepted by Mayor Abbe Land); Stephen Simon.

**Entertainer Honoree:** Kathy Griffin; Kathy Kinney (accepted by Jeffrey Drew); Charlie Sheen.

**Individual Honoree:** Dr. Mark Honzel, MRH Medical Group (accepted by Javarone and Andrew Spanskel).

**Corporate Honoree:** Squire, Sanders and Dempsey, LLP (accepted by Los Angeles Senior Managing Partner James "Jake" Broderick, AFA Board Member Brian Schield, Esq., and Patrick Fields, Esq.).

**Board Honoree:** J. Alexander Strautman and Kevin Spier.

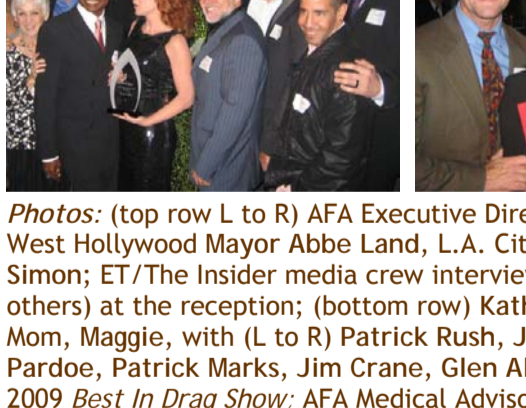


**Photos:** (top row L to R) AFA Executive Director Terry Goddard II, City of West Hollywood Mayor Abbe Land, L.A. City AIDS Coordinator Stephen Simon; ET/The Insider media crew interviews Jeffrey Drew (and others) at the reception; (bottom row) Kathy Griffin and her Mom, Maggie, with (L to R) Patrick Rush, Johnathan Wallace, Tom Pardoe, Patrick Marks, Jim Crane, Glen Ales, and Bob Burnett - all from 2009 *Best In Drag Show*; AFA Medical Advisory Council Member Dr. David Hardy, Board President Brenda Goodman, and Board Member Tim Sullivan.

For interviews from the Silver Anniversary Reception, [link here to The Insider online.](#)

### The Princess Ball, 1998

Aid For AIDS and the Diane, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund hosted a major fundraiser in 1998, with two charities raffling more than \$1 million from the benefit dinner and auction of the "Heart of the Ocean" necklace owned by Agony & Ecstasy. The event attracted many Hollywood celebrities, including Angela Lansbury, Bob Stewart, Les Brisco, Henry Winkler, Gary Oldman, Christine Baranski, and others. John Travolta and Kelly Preston were honorary award co-hosts.



If you would like to purchase a copy of the program book from the AFA Silver Anniversary, which looks back at the agency's 25 years of events and fundraising, send a check for \$10.00 to AFA, Attn: Development Dept., 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 200, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

**Photo collage:** a page from the AFA Silver Anniversary program book.

### The Patrick R. Scholarship from AFA

The new *Patrick R. Scholarship* will provide an annual education and/or training award to a person living with HIV/AIDS who is recovering from a substance abuse addiction; the scholarship will aid the recipient as a step toward rebuilding his or her life through vocational education. This award will assist with tuition and education material costs of up to \$5,000.

**Patrick J. Rush**, for whom the scholarship is named, is best known for his incredible work over the years with the *Best In Drag Show* and *Battle for the Tiara* fundraisers. He has been integral to the show production and has served as Master of Ceremonies for more than 15 years. His hard work and dedication to service have helped raise more than \$1.8 million for Aid For AIDS. Announcement of the scholarship was made at the 2009 *Best In Drag Show* on Sunday, October 18, 2009, during a tribute segment to Patrick, who is stepping down as emcee.

Watch our homepage ([at www.aidforaids.net](#)) for eligibility, application details, and deadline information in the coming weeks.

[Forward email](#)

[SafeUnsubscribe®](#)  
This email was sent to [jbondurant@aidforaids.net](#) by [jbondurant@aidforaids.net](#).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Email Marketing by

