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## In This Issue

**Zulu Tattoo Calendar Event 12-3**

**Best In Drag Show 2008**

**Spa Day® Specials. Prize Drawing**

**World AIDS Day & Warrior Awards 12-1**

## William Morris Agency Gives AFA a Day of Volunteering

A volunteer crew from William Morris, including agents, assistants, managers and a vice president, hopped aboard an early morning bus at their Beverly Hills headquarters and headed out to volunteer for Aid For AIDS on Sept. 17, 2008. The entire company dedicates one full workday to give to back to the community as volunteers. Through a suggestion by longtime AFA supporter Patrick Rush, William Morris Agency reps contacted AFA and asked how they could provide volunteer assistance.

One of AFA's strategic partners, The Serra Project, was the fortunate recipient of the William Morris Agency volunteer services. The Serra Project's Casa Madonna group home for HIV/AIDS-affected women and children was badly in need of interior painting. (Since funding is carefully managed and tight, it goes toward client needs and services first, before house decor and upgrades.) The volunteers arrived ready to work on the 17th, and within a few hours, the group home had a freshly painted kitchen and living room.

## Zulu Tattoo AFA Fundraiser, Wednesday, Dec. 3rd

Zulu, a leading body artist and a 2008 underwriter of *Best In Drag Show*, launches the inaugural [Zulu Tattoo](#) Calendar to benefit Aid For AIDS at a red carpet event in Silver Lake/Los Angeles. The Calendar features 12 clients' tattoos and 12 local photographers who volunteered their time and resources in support of the project. The launch party will be held at the unique and elegant Goth-inspired [Medusa Lounge](#) (restaurant and bar) and is limited to 200 invited guests. Calendars and photographic art will be available for purchase. Medusa Lounge is open to the public after 10 PM with dancing. See our website for more details: [www.aidforaids.net](http://www.aidforaids.net). Following the event, the Calendars will be available through the Zulu Tattoo website.

## Best In Drag Show 2008 Crowns Winner & Raises \$350,000!



A remarkable group of talented volunteers showed Los Angeles, again, that extreme make-up, flying wigs, 10" heels and outrageously funny drag queens can pack the house and spur generous donations for AIDS assistance. *Best In Drag Show 2008* rocked the sold-out Orpheum Theatre on October 19, 2008, bringing in \$350,000 to Aid For AIDS. The production takes at least six months to plan and produce. Comedienne Kathy Griffin opened the show for the sixth year and told media on the red carpet, "I've been helping for years...this is my favorite charity of the year. These guys really turn it out." She was joined by celebrity judges Camryn Manheim, Charlie Sheen, Maria Menounos, Holland Taylor, John C. Reilly and Molly Shannon. They laughed all the way to their selection of Shelby Free, Miss West Virginia, as the 2008 winner, while donations were being tabulated. Along with the audience, many judges made generous donations during the show.

Competition was fierce this year among the seven contestants, and Patrick Rush, long-time Master of Ceremonies, had his hands full keeping control of 'the girls'. They included Holli Daye, Miss Alabama (Mark W. Smith); Cherry Blossom, Miss District of Columbia (Danny Bodenmiller); Coco Lopez, Miss Florida (Daniel Rivera); Phiddle-de Dee, Miss Kentucky (Victor Montoya); Tara Ligament, Miss Missouri (Brian Sharp); conjoined twins Karen & Sharon Livers, Miss Tennessee (Jim Crane, Patrick Marks); and Shelby Free, Miss West Virginia (Stacy Johnson). From a 'trailer trash' version of the song *Rebel Yell* and fighting twins who were joined at their liver to a professional cheerleader and a delusional white rapper from D.C., the contestants kept the audience roaring. Strong regional and ethnic accents colored their hilarious performances. Tom Pardoe, a show producer and returning director and choreographer, said, "I am so proud of this group. It was another amazing year."

Between the evening gown, swimsuit and 'talent' portions of the show, color commentators Lotta Slots (Jeffrey Drew) and Ida Dunham (Todd Sherry) dished on the contestants with political incorrectness as only drag queens can do. In a paragraph about the show, *Metrosource* LA magazine affectionately referred to Ida and Lotta as "being out on day passes from their respective sanitariums."

Many, many thanks go to the underwriters, volunteer cast and crew

Following the clean-up, some of the home's residents were encouraged to speak. The group of volunteers was deeply moved with the personal stories about how the services they receive enabled them to turn their lives around.

Many thanks go to the William Morris Agency for their community support and to the AFA volunteers. We enjoyed meeting and working with both groups at Casa Madonna. Their one day of painting brought beauty and a sense of rejuvenation and caring to the residents and staff that will have long-term, positive effects.

### Donate Effortlessly Through Ralph's: Sign-up Started After August 2008

Ralph's Rewards Cards were distributed over the last few 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](http://www.ralphs.com). As a confirmation point, everyone will see the organization contribution 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.

and so many related volunteers and supporters. Their talent, work and financial support will help so many in need over the next year. See [PHOTOS](#) and more on our website at [www.aidforaids.net](http://www.aidforaids.net).

### Spa Day® Specials and Prize Drawing by Official Mineral Makeup Sponsor *jane iredale* Still Open



Spa Day® is a unique, national, one-day pamper-yourself fundraising event benefiting men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS. This year on Thursday, November 20, 2008, spas and salons from coast to coast donated 20% or more of their day's receipts to Aid For AIDS. Donations from the participating spas are still coming in to AFA. Our Honorary Chair was Jennie Garth, the beautiful actress from the original and current television series "90210." [Spa Magazine](#), our Official Media Sponsor since the fundraiser's inception in 2003, brought national awareness and prestige to the event.

Returning Official Mineral Makeup Sponsor [jane iredale](#) brought smart incentives to Spa Day® with special offers and a major prize drawing. Both of these unique specials from jane iredale are still open for a couple of weeks, so check out details on the Spa Day website as soon as possible! Apply for discounts and the prize drawing here: [www.spaday.org](http://www.spaday.org).

### World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil & Warrior Awards Presentation on December 1st

AFA has been a long-term partner with the City of West Hollywood in providing service and assistance to those impoverished and disabled by HIV/AIDS. AFA proudly joins the City of West Hollywood on December 1st for World AIDS Day events. We will hold a candlelight vigil to remember those lost to the AIDS epidemic, to honor those who have provided support and progress and to remind everyone that the battle is not over. The remembrance calls for a gathering at 5:30 PM on Monday, December 1, 2008, at West Hollywood Park on San Vicente, where candles will be distributed. Following remarks and the vigil, the City will award their Paul Stake Warrior Awards inside the auditorium at the City Council meeting. The Warrior Awards are given to individuals who have made a great, positive impact in the West Hollywood HIV and AIDS service community.

Additionally, starting at Noon on World AIDS Day, AFA will place flowers along the West Hollywood Memorial Walk to honor those affected by HIV/AIDS. The Memorial Walk, consisting of bronze name plaques embedded in the sidewalk, extends along Santa Monica Boulevard from Fairfax Boulevard, past the inscribed keystone at Crescent Heights to Robertson Boulevard. Plaque locations are still available along this unique landmark for those moved to purchase one in memory of a loved one. Revenue from the plaques supports the work of AFA. See the Memorial Walk article for details on our homepage: [www.aidforaids.net](http://www.aidforaids.net)

### Volunteers Needed for World AIDS Day Flowers

If you would like to help us with placing the flowers along the West Hollywood Memorial Walk on December 1, 2008, please contact [Alex Strautman](#). We will be coordinating the flowers and announcement cards in the morning and placing them starting at Noon on Monday. Please leave a message at 323-656-1107 ext 2111. Thank you so much!