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& hunger since 1983

# Connections

Aid For AIDS Community E-Newsletter

February 2007

www.aidforaids.net

## Aid for AIDS Honors Our Best & Brightest

What better way to start off the beginning of a new year than with a big Thank You to all of AFA's wonderful volunteers, sponsors, and major donors? This year's annual Best and Brightest party was held on January 18th, in Westwood, at the home of **Paul Verdon** and **Michael Haight**, who generously donated the use of their beautiful house for the evening. The cocktails were provided by Smirnoff, and the catering from **Jimmy Smith Catering** was partially covered by **Mike Waskom** of Auxilium Pharmaceuticals, Testim 1%.

The party was thrown to show how much everyone's efforts truly are appreciated. Although everyone in attendance was extremely valuable in helping Aid for AIDS throughout the past year, there were a select few who went above and beyond in their generosity and loyalty to the organization. These individuals were recognized with awards — presented by staff members **Danny Levy**, Development Manager, **Vikki Krekler**, Special Events Coordinator and Board President, **Brenda Goodman**. Awards were presented to **Michael Niemeyer**, "Best Supporter," owner of Mickey's in West Hollywood; **Leslie Barclay**, "Best Sponsor" from Smirnoff; graphic designer **Ken Williams Jr.**, "Best Professional and Artisans Council Member," **Van King** and **Jim Crane**, "Best Volunteers;" and **Tom Pardoe**, representing Best in Show, "Best Event and Aid For AIDS' largest fundraiser." Without the help and support of the individuals and businesses who donated their time, money, and skills to the organization, Aid For AIDS service to the community would not be possible. Pictures can be seen

## Successful Spa Day® 2006 - In Cities Around U.S.

In November, Aid for AIDS hosted its fourth annual Spa Day® event. Sixty-two spas and salons, located throughout five different regions across the United States, donated 20% or more of their proceeds from services and gift certificate purchases to Aid for AIDS and other nonprofit organizations with similar programs. Most of the spas had appointments booked for the entire day, allowing customers to pamper themselves while supporting efforts in homelessness and hunger prevention for those affected by AIDS. This was one day of the year when patrons treated themselves like royalty knowing they were helping others.

The event was launched with the Spa Day® Media Kickoff Party at the beautiful garden of **Thomas Schoos Design** in West Hollywood, which was generously donated for the evening by **Thomas Schoos** and **Michael Berman**. In attendance were some of the many corporate and media partners, Aid For AIDS supporters and participating local spas and salons. The evening gave guests a chance to socialize with one another, drink cocktails provided by our wonderful beverage sponsor, **Smirnoff**, snack on hors d'oeuvres provided by West Hollywood eatery **O-Bar**, and wander through the serene tropical garden, complete with waterfall fountains, ancient Asian statues and an exotic rainforest, which seemed to be straight out of the Pacific Islands.

Those attending the Spa Day® Kickoff Party received giftbags filled with items provided by **Spa Magazine**, **Angeleno Magazine**, **Jane Iredale Cosmetics**, **Function Drinks**, and **Splendor.com**.

Aid For AIDS wants to especially thank our sponsors and the spas and salons that participated in the event this year. Spa Day® just keeps getting bigger and bigger! Pictures can be seen [here](#).



## Larry Kramer's Just Say No to Benefit AFA Feb.17

AIDS activist and playwright **Larry Kramer's** *Just Say No* will be making it's West Coast premiere this month, and on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm, Aid for AIDS will be benefiting from a special charity performance of the show. One part sex comedy and one part social exposé, the play addresses the controversial response to HIV/AIDS in the 1980s – still relevant to society today. Tickets can be purchased [here](#), and it will be performed at Theatre of Note, 1517 Cahuenga Blvd, Los Angeles.

## Aid For AIDS Lights the Night on World AIDS Day



Since 1988, December 1<sup>st</sup> has been declared as World AIDS Day, and over the years it has become one of the most successful campaigns in raising awareness about the disease. Locally, Aid for AIDS continues to play an important role on this day.

As done in past years, citizens of Los Angeles gathered at West Hollywood's City Hall for an evening of remembrance of those lost throughout the local community. Aid for AIDS partnered with the City of West Hollywood for the World AIDS Day events; **Brenda Goodman**, Aid For AIDS Board President, opened the evening, reminding attendees that the fight against the disease is not over; speeches followed from Councilmembers **Jeffrey Prang** and **John Duran**, one

ganization, Aid For AIDS service to the community would not be possible. Pictures can be seen [here](#).



Keep your eyes peeled during the upcoming months for more information on Dine Out Los Angeles. Mark your calendar for April 19, 2007 for our thirteenth annual dine out event. Participating restaurants throughout Los Angeles County will donate 20% or more of their proceeds from April 19<sup>th</sup> to Aid for AIDS.

**Curtis Stone**, TLC's "Take Home Chef," will join us as our Honorary Chef. We hope to have close to 100 restaurants participating this year. Please let us know if you have a favorite location that we should invite! Also, check our new website for up-to-date restaurant additions and announcement of the fabulous grand prize – [www.dineoutla.org](http://www.dineoutla.org).

### Hollywood Party Benefits Aid For AIDS

This fall, *Scene*, a party hosted by **Tony Abraham** and Six Shooter Productions, was held at Open Wide Furniture in Hollywood, showcasing a variety of musical acts, art, fashion, and film, with all proceeds benefiting Aid for AIDS.

The November party included powerful performances by **Erin Boheme** – up and coming Los Angeles-based singer, **Brenda Lee Eager** – R&B vocalist with a highly impressive musical resume, and **The Legends of Swing** – a full piece big band that provided the soundtrack for a dance floor full of swing dancing. Cirque du Soleil dancers entertained guests with acrobatic moves, and fashion design, body painting and even stilt walkers adorned the two-story loft-like store. Guests mingled late into the night with hors d'oeuvres, wine and cocktails provided by Diageo & Smirnoff, generous supporters of Aid For AIDS.

We want to thank all those in at-

the World AIDS Day events; **Brenda Goodman**, Aid For AIDS Board President, opened the evening, reminding attendees that the fight against the disease is not over; speeches followed from Councilmembers **Jeffrey Prang** and **John Duran**, one of the four United States elected officials living with HIV. The night continued with a candlelight vigil made up of over 100 attendees walking down Santa Monica Boulevard from City Hall to the Metropolitan Community Church. Each lit candle empowered the fight against the disease, while the bronze plaques dedicated to those who have died of AIDS lining Santa Monica Boulevard, were decorated with flowers – memorializing those who have passed on.

The reception held at the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles served as a call of hope for the future and honored employees and volunteers of local agencies who have gone above and beyond in their work in the HIV/AIDS community with the Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Award. Honorees were from local agencies around Los Angeles including Being Alive, AIDS Project Los Angeles, AIDS Research Alliance, and L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. Aid For AIDS nominee **Tim Sullivan** was honored for giving back to the community in immeasurable ways, including working on the annual Best in Drag Show for all of its fourteen years and serving as the Treasurer on the Aid For AIDS Board of Directors.

First started by the World Health Organization and United Nations eighteen years ago, World AIDS Day has been developed individually on local and national levels to educate others and commemorate those lost in a variety of ways. Red ribbons are worn, memorial quilts are displayed, parties are thrown, films are shown, and speeches are made around the globe. Pictures can be seen [here](#).

### Aid For AIDS Holiday Toy Drive – 1,000 Smiles

Aid for AIDS supporters did their part to serve those less fortunate in the community through the Annual Toy Drive this holiday season. A variety of businesses and corporations set up drop boxes to collect new, unwrapped toys for hundreds of children throughout Los Angeles. This year, participating businesses included **Curves West Hollywood, American Public Media, America's Most Wanted, Infinity Ward, ADRX Pharmacy, Capitol Drugs, Hugo's Restaurant, Igor Skincare, Leslie, Wallace and Associates, PX Pharmacy, Statscript Pharmacy, and UCG/T-Mobile** among other local businesses that volunteered to host drop-off locations. A special Thank You goes out to **Frontiers Newsmagazine**, for recruiting businesses around the West Hollywood area through their magazine for the third year in a row. **Kathryn Shafer** and **Tracey Broadman**, owners of Windermere Properties, also deserve a huge Thank You – their Art and Charity benefit kicked off the Toy Drive, and two oversized bins of toys and books were collected at their event.

The toys went to affected and infected children of AIDS for AIDS, as well as children connected a number of our partner organizations, including Salvation Army, Women Alive, Minority AIDS Project, Prototypes – Women's Link, Valley Community Clinic, Common Grounds, Bienestar, AIDS Service Center, and Children's Hospital Adolescent Medicine Risk Reduction Program.

Over 1,000 toys were collected and distributed by Aid for AIDS in the week prior to Christmas. They included art supplies, stuffed animals, DVDs, books, and board games.

Aid for AIDS wants to thank everyone who donated an item this season! The toys definitely made a child's 2006 holiday brighter and spread holiday cheer throughout Los Angeles County to many less fortunate.

### SISTER BINGO: Sunday, February 11



**Play to win prizes including major trip giveaways, and benefit Aid for AIDS**

Not exactly your grandma's Bingo game! Get ready for a wild afternoon of adult fun at Micky's in West Hollywood playing SISTER BINGO. 100% of the proceeds are donated to AFA by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and prizes include a monthly major trip giveaway thanks to

of Aid For AIDS.

We want to thank all those in attendance for their generosity. With all donations from "Scene" going to Aid for AIDS, the night was a success! You can see more pictures from the party [here](#).



playing SISTER BINGO. 100% of the proceeds are donated to AFA by The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and prizes include a monthly major trip giveaway thanks to event founder, Interactive Male. It's also a great way to promote your business by donating items for prize bags. SISTER BINGO is held on the second Sunday of every month, from 3 to 5 PM at Micky's 8857 Santa Monica Blvd. For details, [click here](#).

### Are You in the LOOP?

For details on how you can join this exclusive society and to see a list of Loop members, [click here](#).



Honor the memory of loved ones as a part of West Hollywood history. Consider purchasing a bronze plaque on the West Hollywood Memorial Walk, created by AFA and designed as a tribute to loved ones lost to AIDS. To learn more about purchasing a plaque, [click here](#).

Connections, AFA's E-Newsletter, is written, edited, and produced by the AFA Communications Office. Although AFA makes every effort to confirm details, it is not responsible for omissions and event dates that change after publication. We value your support and regret any omissions or errors. Always check our website or call for event details.

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