

## 2009 SPRING

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# Who is Looking for the Cure for AIDS?

The government has an extensive plan for AIDS research, but finding a cure is not part of it.

BY BOB HUFF

Martin Delaney was a pioneering AIDS activist who believed that knowledge was strength and that hope was an essential ingredient in the fight against HIV. In that spirit he founded San Francisco's Project Inform in 1985 and dedicated his life to obtaining information and clearly communicating what he learned to people living with the virus. Perhaps thousands of people are alive today because they heard Marty Delaney speak at a town hall forum, or read one of his newsletter articles, and understood that treating HIV was possible, and that there was hope. Marty had seen the darkest days of the epidemic and he heralded the dawn when the first effective combination therapies were revealed in the mid-1990s.

Despite the triumphs and disappointments with what AIDS drugs could and couldn't do, Marty never lost sight of the ultimate hope: that one day a cure for AIDS would be found. While others dismissed seeking a cure as scientifically naïve, Marty continued to raise the issue whenever he met with the government, scientists, the drug companies, or with groups of people living with HIV.

Martin Delaney died of liver cancer in January 2009, but his hopes for seeking a cure no longer seem naïve. A few visionary researchers are finally starting to turn their attention to the supremely difficult challenge of eliminating or permanently defeating HIV in the body. It may take 20 years or more for curing HIV infection to become practical—or even possible—but the quest is now being taken seriously. And that is what is needed to keep hope alive.

Since the beginning of the epidemic nearly 30 years ago, the two great quests of AIDS scientists have been to develop a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and a treatment to cure it. Although combination drug treatment has proven able to stop HIV cold, it is not a cure, and drugs must be taken carefully and consistently for life or the virus will come roaring back. After great hopes and millions spent on finding a vaccine, science's best efforts have been disappointing, although the search continues. Yet, despite the thousands of scientists working to improve the lives of people with HIV, relatively few have taken up the challenge of curing the disease for good. While there are signs the quest for a cure for AIDS is finally gaining some respect, high level leadership is still lacking. Even the government does not rank curing HIV very high on its list of priorities for AIDS research.

The 200-page *National Institutes of Health (NIH) Plan for HIV-Related Research*<sup>1</sup> for 2010 sets out the US government's priority areas for AIDS research and serves as a road map to coordinate its investment in AIDS science. The plan establishes two major priorities for NIH AIDS research: the prevention of HIV transmission and the prevention and treatment of HIV-associated illnesses and coinfections.

A glance at the plan's priorities makes it clear that finding a vaccine is a key goal of the NIH AIDS science effort. This is certainly justified given the enormous impact that a preventive vaccine would have on the course of the epidemic.

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# Being Alive Update

BY KEVIN KURTH

Our little agency rose to meet some big challenges in 2008. Early in the year we started seeing a huge increase in the numbers of young gay men coming through our door with a recent diagnosis. These young men came from varying backgrounds and ethnicities, but they seemed to have one thing in common. Although HIV and AIDS had been around most or all of their young lives, they did not know anyone who had been sick or dying with the disease. They wanted as much information as they could get, and they wanted emotional support from their peers. We formed a support group for young, gay, newly diagnosed men, which in less than a year grew from six members to over sixty. We also developed a mentoring program for them, offering them one-on-one peer support, prevention and risk reduction sessions alongside workshops and, if necessary, professional mental health counseling. We worked closely with these newly infected men as they navigated the health care system, and brought in local and national HIV specialists to share their knowledge and answer their questions. While it has been rewarding to see the growth in these young men, what's truly inspiring is the support they've shown for one another. Between meetings they text, phone, and visit one another. They share their experiences and offer the kind of support that can only come from someone who *really* knows what they are going through.

While making sure that we were meeting the needs of our newly diagnosed population, we haven't forgotten our long-term survivors. As people with HIV live longer, they are facing health issues associated with middle-age and beyond. Kidney and prostate problems, heart and bone disease are issues many of our members never thought they'd live to worry about. We address these concerns with a support group specifically for our more mature members, along with regular, ongoing medical forums with HIV specialists covering any issues of concern.

One huge hurdle for our long term members has been the issue of body changes, most specifically of lipoatrophy, or facial wasting. This disfigurement, usually the result of years of HIV medication, has been cited by our membership as a huge cause of distress and isolation. In 2008 we were fortunate enough to bring into our fam-

ily of volunteers a very talented plastic surgeon. He volunteers his time weekly to consult with any member with this problem. If they qualify, he helps them secure the product Sculptra, a facial filler, through the company's patient assistance program, and administers the procedure free of charge. In our offices, we actually see members come to this clinic with severe facial wasting—and leave with the face they had many years ago.

Our agency's home for the past 13 years has been in the Ron Stone Center at the edge of The West Hollywood Park. For almost that long we've known that we would someday have to find a new home due to plans for a new library on the site. This past summer we were told that day had come. The thought of moving an entire agency was daunting and initially overwhelming, but with the generous help of The City of West Hollywood, and the enthusiastic support of our staff, volunteers and members, we are now in our beautiful new home on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood. After weeks of searching, we found a space in a great, very accessible and visible location. The space needed some work done to fit our needs, and the city came through with a grant for construction. Once the walls were moved and the facility updated, we put out a call for help with painting, tiling and cleaning. The response was overwhelming; we had to turn people away because we just didn't have the space for all of the volunteers. Since the move, activity in our Wellness Center has increased dramatically; we now have four acupuncture clinics, a chiropractic clinic, two psychotherapists, four yoga classes, hypnotherapy, and many special events.

Like most, Being Alive is being affected by the economy. Individual donations are down and many foundations have lost money and can't be as generous. Still, we remain in operation and expect to be around for a long time. We are fortunate to have a low overhead, largely because so much of our services come from our wonderful volunteers. If you are unemployed or underemployed, get out of the house and come see us, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. If on the other hand you are among the fortunate and have some discretionary income, send us a check, we'll put it to good use. ☺

VISIT US AT  
[www.beingalivela.org](http://www.beingalivela.org)

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## NEWSLETTER

*In memory of Fred Clark, Gilbert Cornilliet,  
Eric Estrada, Mark Allen-Smith, Brian Stott,  
and Cary Alexander*

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# HIV+ for 25 Years

## Reflections on a Silver Jubilee

BY MARK C. OLMSTED

In 1981, I was 21 years old and living in New York City. I had just graduated from NYU, and lived in my own small apartment in an East Village walkup (next to the Hells Angels, but that's another story.) It was a decade into the sexual revolution, a heady time to be young in what felt like the center of the gay universe. I went out almost every night and rarely went home alone. When it became clear that the mysterious immune disorder that appeared that summer was spread by sexual contact, I suspected I would not emerge unscathed.

My brother was a medical student, and also gay. He almost immediately urged me to use condoms. My head told me this made sense, and yet I scoffed. It was so "straight," I told him. I see now that this was just a form of denial. If I'd admitted the necessity of safe sex, it would have meant confronting the potential enormity of what lay ahead. I needed to believe some explanation or cure would be found before too long. I could not wrap my head around the idea of an epidemic that might kill hundreds of thousands, not to mention most of my friends. No one could.

In 1983, a lymph node inflamed in the back of my head that made me think I had a brain tumor, but was no doubt the moment of my infection. That would mean this past fall I marked a quarter century of being HIV+. I would imagine less than 10% of the men who became positive when I did survive to this day. I'm 50 now, a battle-scarred veteran, an elder. I have become an expert on something no one wants to be an expert on.

Ironies abound. My brother not only used condoms, but could count the men he'd slept with on both hands. He died of AIDS in 1991. If life was fair, it should have been me. But life isn't fair, and neither is this disease.

Which doesn't mean it isn't a logical disease, even a brilliant one. The HIV retrovirus just happens to spread sexually—it doesn't care what the sex or the sexual orientation is of its hosts. It is nothing to take personally. So I never experienced shame, nor had any issue with disclosing my status. If potential partners demurred, that was absolutely their right. Hell, I'd much rather be rejected for my serostatus than my personality.

I learned many wrong lessons from this disease. I was so realistic (i.e., pessimistic) about the likelihood of my demise that I didn't know how to deal with salvation when it finally appeared in the late 1990s. The logical reaction would have been joy and gratitude, but I felt disoriented. I'd expended a considerable amount of effort making friends with the prospect of an early death, and this profoundly altered my thinking. It was as if the part of my brain that made plans for the future had shriveled, forgotten how to function. I could no longer compute living a long life any more than I'd been able to imagine living a short one back in 1983.

The fear of mortality had provided me with a huge rationalization to seek out as much immediate gratification as possible. By the time the prospect of hitting 40 and beyond went from fantasy to reality, another disease—addiction (camouflaged as the hunt for as much fun as possible)—now defined my life.

One disease fertilized the other. Since I'd been spared death, I started to think of consequences as things other people suffered. This arrogance led to drug dealing, and eventually a nine-month stint in the California Institute for Men at Chino.

Prison taught me that the worst thing that ever happened to you can turn out to be the best thing that ever happened to you. It was the closest

I could get to dying without really dying, so it gave me, at long last, closure. And the fear of returning to prison launched me into a lawful, sober life, where I've dwelt happily for over four years.

It's a terrible gift to survive when so many you loved have died, but it is a *gift*. This I'm clear on. And I'm also realizing that the fear that so marked over a decade of my life was not confined to me, or even to other long-term survivors. I'm actually convinced that AIDS, along with things like global warming and terrorism, have created a society-wide anxiety with far-reaching effects. For the first time in history, anyone watching the news was inflicted with a sense that the continued existence of the world could not be depended on.

From the hope for instant stardom on reality TV, to the emphasis on short-term profit on Wall Street or via housing speculation, Americans seemed to have become fixated on cramming all the rewards or excitement of a long life into a short time frame. It's as if everybody—not just people with AIDS—became afraid they wouldn't be around in another decade.

I've learned to think in terms of living a whole life again, and I'm hoping our new President is leading the country in the direction of that kind of thinking as well. Surviving AIDS and addiction has taught me the difference between living in the moment and living for the moment. I take things a day at a time, but I also plan ahead. I have my future back. 🙏

Mark C. Olmsted is an LA-based writer and editor. His blog can be read at [www.makemarc.blogspot.com](http://www.makemarc.blogspot.com)

WHAT'S UP AT  
**Being  
Alive**

Painting Class • Ceramics • Yoga • Restorative Yoga

**Wellness Center**

Chiropractic • Acupuncture • Healing Touch

Hypnotherapy • Psychotherapy

# Thanks Martin

BY AL MCKITTRICK

*Martin Delaney, who in 1985 founded Project Inform, died on January 23, 2009 from liver cancer in San Rafael, California. He was 63.*

I first met Martin Delaney at an AIDS, Medicine and Miracles (AM&M) conference in the fall of 1993. I was four months into my diagnosis as HIV+. Those were dark times of too many memorials and very little hope. Everyone seemed to have a different idea about how to treat your virus and how to possibly stay alive as long as possible. Ozone therapy, silver nitrate, hydrogen peroxide IVs, ancient rituals, Compound Q or bitter melon were just a few. I was calling the 1-800-CDC number a lot, trying to find out about what was true and what wasn't. After the

third time of being referred to Project Inform "for that information", I realized I need go no further for my questions for myself and for my young girl friend, Dee Dee, who was diagnosed with AIDS and 80 T-cells. We were desperate to find something that would give us hope, a very rare and precious commodity in those days. And then Martin came to town with AM&M to deliver his *What Holds Promise* talk. He spoke non-stop for an hour-and-a-half displaying a mastery of everything from epidemiology to current treatment to what was coming down the pike, to what still needed to be developed. Then he spent an hour answering everyone's questions and fears, never shy to be direct, factual and always compassionate in his reply. I was shocked to find out that he wasn't a doctor or a researcher, or even a scientist, he was a self-educated activist. Martin left us that day with the first real ray of hope we'd had, and a yearning to learn more for ourselves and for our friends. That was the effect that Martin had on people. He left you hungry for knowledge and empowerment.

After Dee Dee died in 1996, I went to work for the People with AIDS Coalition Colorado. One of my duties was to put together monthly summaries of what was going on in the HIV world for our publication "Resolute!" It seemed like every month, Martin and Project Inform were at the forefront of much of what was happening, whether it was patient rights to access, clinical trial design, drug pricing, world access to meds, or government and industry research. Not only was he leading the charge on many fronts but Project Inform was disseminating the information back to the community at amazing speed. Over the years I saw Marty at many conferences, and PWACC brought him to Denver on several occasions for community forums. The last time he came to town I drove him back to the airport and we got a chance to chat. It was not until then that I learned about his battle with chronic Hepatitis B in the 1970s and the resulting liver damage and painful neuropathy that he lived with every day. None of that, however, deterred him from his exhaustive schedule of commitments to carry on the work he had begun.

I called him last summer to see if he could present at the 20th Anniversary AM&M in late November. He was in some airport heading for

another meeting in Washington DC. He said he'd love to join us and would call back to confirm. When he called back he said he was sorry, but was already double-booked that weekend on both coasts. That weekend turned out to be eight weeks before his death.

Martin's dedication to the HIV community was unmatched. He initiated community-based clinical trials by smuggling in medications from Mexico. He pushed for quicker approval of promising compounds and demanded that Parallel Track Clinical Trials be established so that the sickest would have access to cutting edge therapy. He kept new medication prices lower by forming the Fair Pricing Coalition. He formed the most reliable source of information about HIV and AIDS in the world. The accomplishments of his activism over the last 24 years were of epic proportions, and he and Project Inform never stopped pushing for a cure.

Robert Gallo, co-discoverer of the HIV virus, wrote the following in a letter to Martin on January 22: "If—as in sports—we had a most valuable player award for an individual's overall contributions to medical health and specifically for contributions to our advances over one of the greatest epidemics in history, it would not be to a scientist, scientific administrator or political leader. Instead it would be to an activist from San Francisco, Martin Delaney. Your activism was central to the promotion of the science that led to our advances, and your educational work and administrative leadership in Project Inform led to saving countless lives."

Marty's service was held March 14 at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center in the Castro in San Francisco. It was the very same hall where some of his first town hall meetings had taken place 24 years before. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus brought that point home with an original song called *In This Very Room*. We heard from Anthony Fauci as well as just regular folk whose lives had been dramatically altered by Martin's efforts. We were all left with a feeling that a major chapter in the history of AIDS had just been closed and we would never see anything like it again. As I was leaving the service, I wanted to sign the guest book and leave my respects. All I could think of to write was "Thanks Marty from all of us for saving our lives. Thanks."

## Would you like to volunteer?

**Being Alive has always been a volunteer-driven organization. Through the help of over 100 volunteers, Being Alive has been able to offer direct services to over 1,200 Los Angeles residents (and reach an additional 12,000 people nationwide with community education) with a relatively small staff while keeping overhead low.**

**If you are interested in volunteering on any level (including Board membership), please call the West Hollywood office at 323.874.4322 or stop by to fill out a Volunteer Intake Form.**

**You can also go to [www.BeingAliveLA.org](http://www.BeingAliveLA.org) and click Volunteer Opportunities to download and fill out the form. In some cases, you will be referred to a volunteer who runs the program in which you are interested (for example, Speaker Bureau and Advocacy).**

However, if you search for mention of a cure, you will come up short. Attempting to eliminate HIV infection is not a priority, an objective, or even a strategy mentioned in the NIH plan. This gap in the national research effort raises a troubling question: How likely are we to find a cure for AIDS if it is not on the official road map?

One reason why curing HIV infection receives insufficient attention from the scientific establishment is because it has seemed like an extraordinarily difficult—perhaps impossible—goal to achieve; and research money tends to flow to problems that people believe can be solved.

There are two things that will make curing HIV infection so tough. The first is that HIV inserts its DNA into the DNA of an infected person's immune cells, and in some of these cells, the viral genes go to sleep, giving no sign that they are there until they are activated at some future point. This is called *latency*. Because modern antiretroviral (ARV) drugs can effectively prevent circulating virus particles from infecting fresh cells, latency on its own wouldn't be such a problem if all of the infected cells died off fairly quickly (cells that actively produce HIV tend to self-destruct after a short while; uninfected and latently infected cells survive longer). But some of the infected immune cells go into a "resting state" of dormancy, and may stay that way for ten years or longer. Others may divide and give rise to fresh daughter cells that carry a latent copy of HIV. This means that HIV infection is *persistent*.

Because HIV establishes a persistent and latent infection in very long-lived resting im-

mune cells, a reservoir of HIV is created within the body that could potentially take decades to disappear—and that's if the reservoir was never replenished by viruses that managed to escape the antiretroviral drugs. One of the lingering questions for scientists is whether reservoirs are replenished by active viral replication or not. In any event, if the drugs are stopped before the reservoir is fully depleted, then HIV will resume infecting new cells, and levels of virus in the body will surge.

The investigation of HIV latency and persistence does not appear in the short list of research topics that the NIH says will receive the highest priority under its plan for HIV research. Only a few lines in the plan call for studying factors that enable HIV to establish a persistent infection or for understanding the reservoirs that permit HIV persistence. It's no wonder that scientists who apply for funding to study HIV latency are so often turned down: the term does not appear in the NIH plan.

There are many good reasons to be skeptical about the chances for actually curing HIV. The mechanisms that permit latency are still not fully understood, and there are competing theories for how the viral genes are silenced in certain cells. In fact, there are likely multiple mechanisms at work, which means that any single approach to a cure could be insufficient.

In brief, the main theoretical strategies for eliminating HIV from the body involve:

1. waking up every single latently infected cell in the reservoir then letting each die off—all while keeping any new cells from becoming infected
2. finding a way to identify latently infected cells then specifically killing them

staffs actually listened to what you had to say and encouraged your input on their clinical trials, say "Thank you Martin."

If you are a PLWH, who is alive only because of the effective treatment available today from over two dozen medications, then say "Thanks Marty."

I now live in Los Angeles. I was with my two daughters playing on the floor when my wife Shelley told me of Marty's passing. As I looked around I was overcome with the blessing of being alive in 2009. I clasped my hands together and closed my eyes and whispered "Thank you Martin. Thank you."

3. sending molecular robots into cells to search for HIV DNA sequences then deleting or scrambling them

The last of these strategies is the sci-fi approach and (despite a recent report<sup>2</sup>) may not be possible for many decades. Identifying latently infected cells and killing them sounds ideal, but how to do it remains a puzzle since, by definition, such cells look exactly like uninfected cells. Thus, a strategy of waking up the cells of the latent reservoir and getting them to start making HIV copies seems like a plausible first step. Once awake, the infected cells would self-destruct or be eliminated by the immune system; antiretroviral drugs would protect new cells from becoming infected; and, theoretically, the body would soon be free of HIV. This idea is thought of as "purging the reservoir" and a few early, though unsuccessful, trials have been attempted in people.

Research into how the reservoir of latently infected cells can be flushed out is proceeding slowly in a few laboratories around the world. But government support is needed to invigorate this research and put finding a cure for AIDS back on the map. Marty Delaney kept our hopes for curing HIV infection alive. Now it is time for all of us to demand that the quest for a cure not be forgotten. 🙏

1 [www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2010](http://www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2010)

2 Sarkar I, Hauber I, Hauber J, Buchholz F. HIV-1 proviral DNA excision using an evolved recombinase. *Science*. 2007 Jun 29; 316(5833):1912-5.

Bob Huff is the antiretroviral project director at Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York.

If you are a woman, diagnosed with ovarian cancer and your hope for survival is access to an experimental drug that is still under study, you will have access through "parallel track"; say "Thanks Marty."

If you are parents of a young child with cystic fibrosis who are awaiting a new drug to be approved quickly by the FDA in time to help your child, Accelerated Drug Approval will bring you that treatment in three years instead of ten; say "Thanks Marty."

If you are a person living with HIV who was treated with respect by your doctors, and their

If you are interested in finding out more about Martin Delaney and Project Inform, go to [www.projectinform.org](http://www.projectinform.org). There are numerous press articles and personal reflections by family, friends, staff, PWAs, researchers and medical authorities. 🙏

Al McKittrick is an HIV+ activist, writer and full-time Dad. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Shelley and his daughters Grace (5) and Hope (8 months). He can be contacted at [almckittrick@aol.com](mailto:almckittrick@aol.com)

# FPC Negotiates for Patient Assistance and Co-pay Programs

BY NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS COUNCIL

The Fair Pricing Coalition (FPC), which was founded by the late Martin Delaney of Project Inform, is a national coalition of activists who work on HIV drug pricing issues and who help control drug costs, thereby insuring access for recipients of state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs), Medicare and Medicaid, and patients who are privately insured, underinsured and uninsured.

The FPC has recently negotiated patient drug co-pay programs with all major HIV drug manufacturers. The new drug co-pay programs are a direct result of intense work and negotiations between the FPC and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.

Most, if not all, HIV pharmaceutical companies already provide some level of patient assistance to individuals who are unable to afford their HIV medications. Several companies have also recently instituted co-pay assistance programs, which may cover all or part of the drug co-pay for many privately insured patients, up to a specified amount, and for a pre-determined period of time, for example, ADAP up to one year. Certain restrictions and eligibility requirements apply. For example, ADAP, Medicare and Medicaid patients are ineligible for co-pay programs. Eligibility requirements may vary from program to program. Once eligibility is determined, most companies will provide patients with a co-pay card that can be presented to a pharmacist or a mail order pharmacy when filling your prescription. Since the FPC expects the launch of new programs and revisions in current programs as negotiations continue, patients should contact or ask their health care providers or pharmacies to contact drug manufacturers directly for updated details on a specific drug.

There are may also be medications in addition to HIV drugs that individuals require, such as prescription medicines to control other conditions such as high cholesterol or diabetes. To find patient assistance or drug co-pay programs for these and other types of drugs, visit [www.needymeds.com](http://www.needymeds.com).

Jeff Berry, editor of *Positively Aware*, Chicago, Illinois, and FPC member states “In our current economic crisis and with the continued rising costs associated with health care, these new programs offer much needed assistance to people who may have insurance but who can not afford to pay the ever rising cost of their monthly prescription co-pays.”

Together Rx is a prescription savings program for uninsured individuals sponsored by many of the nation’s leading pharmaceutical companies. For more information call toll-free 800.966.0407, or enroll online at [www.TogetherRxAccess.com](http://www.TogetherRxAccess.com).

Below is a brief description on the availability of most HIV drug co-pay programs. Residents of Massachusetts are ineligible for these co-pay programs unless no part of the cost of their prescription is covered by insurance. A company program chart listing further details is provided below. Drug companies are often secretive about patient assistance programs (PAPs) and co-pay programs. Many will not volunteer information in an effort to avoid providing patients with free drugs, co-pay assistance or other financial services. Remember, if you are persistent enough many companies will often make exceptions to the criteria listed. You may even be granted full PAP eligibility. Even if you think you are not eligible, call the program anyway to make inquiries.

## **Abbott: Positive Partnership PLUS Card.**

Abbott recently launched a pilot program that expands the Positive Partnership Card. This 12-month program covers Kaletra plus other ARVs and requires no income or co-pay eligibility requirements. Your first out of pocket dollar will be covered up to a maximum of \$50 for Kaletra each month. Abbott will also cover another \$50 monthly for each additional HIV prescription up to a limit of \$100 monthly. The FPC is extremely disappointed that Norvir is currently not covered in this program. Visit [www.kaletra.com](http://www.kaletra.com) for more information.

## **Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS)**

recently announced that they will be launching a co-pay program in April of 2009. Their program will include Reyataz and Sustiva. More details will be provided as they become available. We hope Atripla, the one pill once a day, which BMS co-manufacturers with Gilead will be covered in the BMS program.

## **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK): Patient Savings Card.**

The GSK program is the most patientfriendly, covering the entire amount of all your actual out-of-pocket cost up to a maximum of \$100 for each prescription. All GSK HIV drugs are covered, including Combivir, Epivir, Epzicom, Lexiva, Retrovir, Trizivir, and Ziagen. Visit [www.mysupportcard.com](http://www.mysupportcard.com) for more information and to print the card.

## **Gilead: Truvada Co-pay Assistance Program.**

Gilead’s program covers Truvada, Emtriva, and Viread. This program covers high co-pays and kicks in only once patients have spent over \$50 in out-of-pocket costs and covers a maximum of \$200 in co-pays per month. Patients or providers can call toll-free 888.358.0398 to receive an eligibility card from Gilead by mail. Atripla is currently *not* part of this program.

**Merck.** Unfortunately, Merck does not have a specific insurance co-pay assistance program. However, it does have a PAP for Isentress and Crixivan called “Support.” If patients need co-pay assistance for Crixivan or Isentress they need to use the “Support” program. Call 800.850.3430; or visit [www.isentress.com](http://www.isentress.com), click on the site map, and then click “Support.” Some patients have experienced difficulty in accessing the co-pay aspect of this program. Be sure you clarify that you are applying for co-pay assistance, not for the PAP program. The eligibility criteria are different for each program.

**Pfizer:** The FPC is disappointed that Pfizer does not offer co-pay assistance for HIV medications. However, it does provide reimbursement assistance, appeals assistance, and patient assistance for Selzentry, Viracept and Rescriptor. Pfizer also offers information on obtaining assistance with tropism testing. Call the Pfizer RSVP program at 888.327.RSVP (7787) Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–8:00 PM Eastern Time; fax 888.773.0121, or write to Pfizer RSVP, PO Box 220574, Charlotte, North Carolina 28222-0574. For assistance with all other Pfizer medicines, call Pfizer Helpful Answers (PHA) at 866.706.2400, or visit [www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com](http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com).

**Tibotec: Tibotec Therapeutics Patient Savings Program.** Tibotec covers Prezista and Intelence. This program covers 80% of the amount of your actual out-of-pocket cost up to \$100 per drug per month. Visit [www.prezista.com/prezista/patient\\_assistance.html](http://www.prezista.com/prezista/patient_assistance.html) or call toll-free 866.961.7169.

For more information, please call the Project Inform Hotline at 800.822.7422. 

*The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) honored its twentieth year developing leadership within communities of color to address challenges of HIV/AIDS, in 2007. NMAC has responded to the needs of communities of color by developing programs aimed at enhancing the skills necessary to confront this health crisis, including a public policy education program, national and regional training conferences, a treatment and research program and numerous publications. Today, NMAC is an association of AIDS service organizations providing valuable information to community-based organizations, hospitals, clinics and other groups assisting individuals and families affected by the AIDS epidemic. NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only. For more information, call 202.234.5120; e-mail: [communications@nmac.org](mailto:communications@nmac.org); or visit: [www.nmac.org/](http://www.nmac.org/).*

**Abbott [888.458.6442]**  
**Approved drug: Kaletra**

Abbott 888-458-6442 Kaletra Abbott has launched a new patient co-pay assistance program called Positive Partnership Plus which covers 12 months of copays of up to \$50 a month for Kaletra and is renewable. The program will also cover up to \$50 a month for additional ARVs that are a part of a Kaletra regimen with a limit of \$100 per month. There is no income eligibility criteria required for participation in the program. Program enrollment cards are accessed through a person's primary care physician. If your physician is out of the cards you can also enroll through Abbott's complimentary program Positive Partnership.

**Gilead [888.358.0398]**  
**Approved drugs: Truvada, Viread, Emtriva**

Income information is not required in order to obtain Gilead's co-pay assistance card. Clients call into the toll-free number and undergo a short phone screening (about 10 minutes); the card is mailed to them or they can access the card through their medical provider. Enrollees cannot also be accessing medications through a federal or state funded program (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, ADAP, and SPAP). The card is good for 12 months and is renewable. It covers co-pays over \$50 and will assist with up to \$200 a month for each covered medication. (Please note that as of February 20, 2009, Atripla is not included in Gilead's co-pay assistance program.)

**GlaxoSmithKline [www.mysupportcard.com]**  
**Approved drugs: Lexiva, Epzicom, Combivir, Trizivir, Epivir, Ziagen, Retrovir**

Income information is not required in order to obtain a Patient Savings Card. Enrollees cannot also be accessing medications through a federal or state-funded program (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, ADAP, SPAP) or a former employer retiree prescription plan. This card reduces the enrollee's out-of-pocket co-pay costs by up to \$100 each month for each GSK medication they are prescribed for up to two years following the card's first use. The website has a lot of useful information and a list of pertinent FAQs. The card can be accessed through an enrollee's medical provider or enrollees can download and print their own Patient Savings Card directly from the website after affirming the information they have provided is correct. Keep in mind that enrollees must keep the original card and present it to the pharmacy each month for two years; lost cards are not replaceable. Cards provided by medical providers are printed on card stock paper. Enrollees printing their own cards should be advised to print their cards on thicker card stock paper that will last.

**Merck [800.850.3430 | www.isentress.com—click site map and then click “Support”]**  
**Approved drugs: Crixivan, Isentress**

Merck does not have a specific insurance co-pay assistance program. They have a manufacturer patient assistance program for Isentress and Crixivan called “Support.” Merck is instructing persons needing co-pay assistance for Crixivan or Isentress to use the “Support” program. Since this is a patient assistance program enrollees receive medication and not a program card. The application can be obtained by calling the 1-800 number or going to the web link and downloading it. Maximum income guidelines are 400% of the Federal Poverty Level and the application asks for a Social Security number, though US citizenship is not required. The application has a prescriptive portion that must be completed by the enrollee's physician. Completed applications must be mailed to the “Support” program. Enrollment is for 12 months and medications can be mailed to wherever the enrollee would like.

**Tibotec [866.961.7169 | www.prezista.com—click Patient Assistance then click Patient Savings Program]**  
**Approved drugs: Prezista. Intelence**

Enrollees cannot also be accessing medications through a federal or state-funded program (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, ADAP, SPAP) or a former employer retiree prescription plan. Enrollees can phone and have an application mailed to them or go to the web link and download and print one. The one page application asks for Social Security number and gross income. Enrollees can make up to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level. Completed applications can be submitted via mail or FAX. Co-pay cards are mailed to clients, are good for one year and are renewable. The card provides assistance for 80% of the enrollee's actual out of pocket cost up to a total of \$100 per month for each Tibotec medication prescribed.

# HIV/AIDS SPECIALISTS

We invite all HIV/AIDS specialists to mail or e-mail your information to us. Please indicate what insurances you do and do not accept, as well as your address, phone numbers and e-mail.

## MEDICAL DOCTORS

Marcia Alcouloumre, MD  
Dr. Devente, MD  
Dr. Montoya, MD  
St. Mary Medical Center  
1043 Elm Ave, Ste 300  
Long Beach, CA 90813  
562.624.4999

Accepts most insurance plans: Indemnity and PPO, Medicare and Medi-CAL, and uninsured HIV+ individuals.

Daniel H. Bowers, MD  
James Gaede, MD  
Anthony J. Scarsella, MD  
Charles Skiba, DO  
Pacific Oaks Medical Group  
150 N Robertson Blvd, Ste 300  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
310.652.2562

Accepts most PPO Plans, Medicare, Medi/Medi.

Paul J. Cimoch, MD, FACP  
Center for Special Immunology  
11190 Warner Ave, Ste 411  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
714.751.5800  
www.CSIHealth.com  
Accepts most insurance plans: Medicare, Medi/Medi, and Medical.

Lee Dodge, OD  
14429½ Ventura Blvd  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423  
818.783.8750; fax 818.783.8779  
lee@drdodgeod.com  
www.DrDodgeOD.com  
Accepts most PPO insurance plans and Medicare.

Charles Gonzales, MD  
Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center  
The Doctors Tower  
1300 N Vermont, #310  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
323.644.4415  
fax 323.663.6897  
Board-certified family medicine / HIV specialist.  
New office in Silver Lake. Most major insurances accepted, including PPO and HMO, as well as Medicare and Medi/Medi.

Michael S. Gottlieb, MD  
Synergy Hematology/Oncology  
5901 W Olympic Blvd, Ste 407  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323.525.1101, press 0

Mark H. Katz, MD  
Kaiser West Los Angeles  
6041 Cadillac Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
323.857.2064  
HIV/AIDS specialist. Not accepting new patients currently, but will help new patients navigate the Kaiser system.

Matt Pekerol, MD  
9201 W Sunset Blvd, Ste 616  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.858.0880  
pekerolm@hotmail.com  
Openly gay board-certified internal medicine.  
HIV/AIDS specialist. Accepts most PPO plans and Medicare.

Ilya Rachman, MD  
948 N Fairfax, Ste 201  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
323.654.2020  
fax 323.654.2828

Jorge E. Rodriguez, MD  
Orange Coast Medical Group  
496 Old Newport Blvd, Ste 4  
Newport Beach, CA 90263  
949.646.1111  
Accepts most indemnity and PPO health insurance plans, as well as Medical.

Myles Spar, MD, MPH  
Venice Family Clinic / West Side Partners  
604 Rose Ave  
Venice, CA 90291  
310.664.7607  
fax 310.664.7676  
Free comprehensive medical facility servicing the poor and uninsured populations of West Los Angeles.

## MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

Barry Cardiner, MA, MBA, MFT  
8430 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 100  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
Lic # MFT34301  
323.874.1967  
HIV+ physiotherapist. Accepts most PPO, POS insurance. Specialty areas: HIV issues, depression, abuse, addiction and recovery, relationships, grief.

Erin T. Childs, MA, LMFT  
11650 Riverside Dr, Ste 7  
Studio City, CA 91602  
818.985.4200  
etchilds@sbcglobal.net  
Accepts most insurance plans, indemnity and PPO. Individuals and couples therapy. Issues of illness/wellness, addiction and mood disorders. Solution-focused.

Terence Ford, MA, Registered Intern  
Located near Melrose and La Cienga  
213.400.3474  
Low-fee, individual psychotherapy. A calm, intelligent environment to work through your issues, whether HIV-related or not. Free initial consultation. Special low fee of \$40 if you mention Being Alive. Supervised by Dr. Steven Isaacman.

Payam Ghassemloo, MFT, PhD  
9056 Santa Monica Blvd, #205  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.801.2927  
Gay male therapist, works with people with HIV and their significant others. Bilingual, accepts most insurance plans, no Medi/Medi.

Richard Gollance, LCSW, MSG  
12402 Ventura Blvd, 2nd Fl  
Studio City, CA 91604  
818.503.7300  
Psychotherapy. Primary focus: gay men in mid-life and beyond.

Ken Howard, LCSW  
8430 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 100  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.726.HELP (4357)  
www.gaypsychotherapy.com  
Openly gay and HIV+ counselor. Psychotherapist. Life Coach. Helping gay men achieve their goals in career and relationships. Sixteen years experience working in HIV. Free, brief initial phone consultation. Fees negotiated individually. Insurance forms provided.

Luis O. Jarquin, Jr., MA, LMFT, Lic#41743  
3350 E Birch St, Ste 100  
Brea, CA 92821  
714.528.9335  
Individual, couple and family therapy; relationship difficulties; disclosure; coping with diagnosis; depression and anxiety.

Christopher Lawver, MA, MFT, Lic#40090  
323.481.2090  
www.ChrisLawver.com  
Long-time advocate for affirming counseling for HIV and AIDS. I offer a sliding scale and accept most insurance plans.

Ronald Carey Rambo, LCSW, BCD  
711 E Walnut St, #309  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
626.821.4063  
225 S Civic Dr, #212  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
760.832.6701  
Solution-focused individual, couple, and family therapy. Specialties include HIV issues, gay identity, addiction/recovery, mood disorders, relationships. Accepts most insurance plans.

Matthew Silverstein, PhD, MFT  
8235 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 309  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
310.842.6124  
e-mail: MSilversteinMFT@aol.com  
Specialty areas include gay identity, HIV/AIDS issues, addiction recovery, dream work, spirituality. Sliding fee scale and able to accept most insurance (not Medi/Medi).

Fred Wilkey, EdD  
Clinical Psychology  
PSY8380  
9056 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 306A  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.659.4455  
Successful short-term therapy. Accepts Medicare and most insurance.

Tony Zimbardi, PsyD, MFT  
Gay Male HIV+ Psychotherapist  
323.851.1304  
Enhance your quality of life. Dating, drugs, depression, anxiety are all common issues we have as poz men. I can help.

## BENEFITS COUNSELOR

Jacques Chambers, CLU  
Benefits Consultant and Counselor  
Chambers Benefits Consulting  
2658 Griffith Park Blvd, #290  
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2520  
323.665.2595 or 888.739.2595  
www.HelpWithBenefits.com

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT BEING ALIVE

Call Being Alive at 323.874.4322. We're located at 7531 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 100, West Hollywood.

## Being Alive Board Meetings

The Being Alive Board of Directors meetings for 2009 will be held at 6:30pm at Being Alive on the last Tuesdays of each month. Call for more information.

## The Young and the Restless

**Thursdays • 7:00–9:00pm**

A new support group for the young and newly poz. All are welcome, but the focus are on the newly diagnosed and under 30. Topics include emotional and physical well-being, risk reduction and disclosure, HIV 101 and basic information, treat adherence, communication skills, and fellowship. Call Being Alive for more information.

## Psychotherapy

**by appointment**

**Evenings • 6:00–9:00pm**

**Saturdays • 10:00am–4:00pm**

Licensed psychotherapy intern provides one-on-one and couples therapy. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Positively New

**Wednesdays • 7:30–10:00pm**

For newly diagnosed or newly identified HIV+ within the past three years. Get emotional support, discuss medical issues, and topics relevant to a new diagnosis. Facilitated by Brian Risley, lead treatment educator for APLA. Call 213.201.1547.

## Silver Lake Meet-and-Greet

**Support Group**

**Fridays • 7:00–9:00pm**

All those interested in attending a Being Alive peer support group in Silver Lake please contact Bart, Peer Support Manager, at Being Alive.

## Positive Reactions West

**Wednesdays • 7:00–9:00pm**

At Being Alive. A small drop-in group in a safe, honest place to discuss issues and meet others dealing with HIV. Call Bart for more info.

## Daytime Group

Temporarily on hiatus.

## Ceramics and Pottery

**7978 Santa Monica Blvd**

**Sundays, Mondays • 12:00 noon**

Learn ceramics and wheel-throwing. Beginners to advanced are welcome.

## Yoga

**Beginning Yoga**

**Tuesdays • 3:00pm**

**Thursdays • 3:00pm**

**Saturdays • 11:00am**

At Being Alive in the Meditation Room. Call to make an appointment.

## Reiki

**by appointment**

**Mondays • 4:30–6:30pm**

**Saturdays • 10:00am–3:00pm**

Alternative healing by hands-on and energy-based techniques. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Hypnotherapy

**Tuesdays**

By Bruce Bonnett. CHT. Call 310.291.4376.

**Thursday**

By Dean L. Williams, CHT. Call 877.667.5844.

## Speaker's Bureau

Spread the word about prevention, treatment, living with HIV/AIDS. For more information, call Colin at 310.739.6504.

## Acupuncture Services

**by appointment**

**Mondays • 1:30–4:30pm**

**Wednesdays • 10:30am–5:00pm**

**Fridays • 1:00–4:00pm**

Treatment for a range of conditions including pain management, neuropathy and other side effects, addictions, stress, headaches, and allergies. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Chiropractic Services

**Fridays • 1:00am–4:00pm**

Back and body adjustments.

# BEING ALIVE SUPPORT GROUPS

Our goal is to provide a safe and confidential space where everyone can express themselves in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

## WEDNESDAY

**Daytime Support Group** On hiatus. Being Alive West Hollywood. A place to meet others with HIV. Exchange information about treatments and community resources, share life experiences and emotions, discuss ideas, develop friendships, and fine-tune your strategy for living well with HIV. One hundred percent non-judgmental and supportive. For more information, contact Bart at Being Alive at 310.289.2551.

**Positive Reactions WEST** 7:00–9:00pm. Being Alive West Hollywood (Being Alive Green Room or outside picnic table). Co-facilitated. A small drop-in group in a safe, honest place to discuss issues and meet others dealing with HIV. Call Bart for more information.

**Positively New** 7:30–10:00pm. 1300 N Vermont Ave. (Doctor's Building 2nd floor Conference Room). Facilitated by Brian Risley, Lead Treatment Educator for APLA at 213.201.1547. A fairly large support group for those who are newly diagnosed or newly identify HIV+ within the past three years. Get emotional support, discuss medical issues and topics relevant to a new diagnosis. Please contact Brian for more information or Bart at Being Alive at 310.289.2551.

## THURSDAY

**The Young and the Restless** 7:00–9:00pm. A new support group for the young and newly poz. All are welcome, but the focus are on the newly diagnosed and under 30. Topics include emotional and physical well-being, risk reduction and disclosure, HIV 101 and basic information, treat adherence, communication skills, and fellowship. Call Being Alive for more information.

## FRIDAY

**Silver Lake Meet-and-Greet Support Group** 7:00–9:00pm. An emotional and social support group in Silverlake area for HIV+ men to discuss current issues and solutions to life with HIV. Contact Bart at Being Alive at 310.289.2551.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights: 213.977.9500 x237

Aid for AIDS: 323.656.1107

AIDS Healthcare Foundation: 888.AIDSCARE

AIDS/HIV Discrimination Unit, LA City Attorney's Office:  
213.978.7758

APLA: 213.201.1600

AIDS Research Alliance: 310.358.2423

AIDS Service Center: 626.441.8495

AIDS Services Foundation/Orange County: 949.809.5700

Asian/Pacific AIDS Intervention Team: 213.553.1830

Being Alive San Diego: 619.291.1400

Beth Chayim Chadashim: 323.931.7023

Bienestar Hollywood: 323.660.9680

Caring for Children and Families with AIDS: 323.931.9828

Carl Bean Home: 323.766.2326

Clean Needles Now: 323.857.5366

Common Ground, the West Side HIV Community Center:  
310.314.5480

Congregation Kol Ami: 310.248.6320

CVS Pharmacy: 310.659.9810

Deaf Women Outreach: 323.478.8000 (TTY or voice)

Department on Disability, AIDS Coordinator's Office:  
213.485.6320

East Valley Community Health Center:

West Covina: 626.919.5724;

Pomona: 909.620.8088

Foothill AIDS Project: 909.482.2066

HALSA: 213.637.1690

Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic (GLCSC):  
323.993.7500

Jewish Family Services HIV/AIDS Program: 323.761.8800

LA Gay and Lesbian Center: 323.993.7400

The Life Group LA: 888.208.8081

Los Angeles Free Clinic: 323.653.1990

Los Angeles Patients & Caregivers Group: 323.882.6033

Minority AIDS Project: 323.936.4949

Narcotics Anonymous Hotline: 800.863.2962

National AIDS Hotline: 800.227.8922;

800.344.7432 (en Español);

800.243.7889 (TTY)

The New Hope Learning Center: 213.251.8474

North East Valley Clinic: 818.988.6335

PAWS (Pets): 323.464.7297

Peer Education Program: 323.651.9888

Project Angel Food: 323.845.1800

Project Inform: 800.822.7422

Project New Hope: 213.251.8474

Rue's House: 323.295.4030

Serra Project 213.413.0306

South Bay Family Health Care Center: 310.318.2521 x236

Spanish Language AIDS Hotline: 800.400.7432  
(SIDA) toll-free Southern California only

Tarzana Treatment Center HIV-Mental Health Project:  
818.342.5897

THE Clinic: 323.295.6571

USC AIDS Clinical Trials Unit: 323.343.8288

Valley Community Clinic: 818.763.8836

Van Ness Recovery House: 323.463.4266

Voices with a Message Hotline: 800.554.4876

WeHoLife.org: 323.467.2626

Wellness Works Community Health Center: 818.247.2062

West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation:  
323.650.8771 x2

Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project: 562.698.3850

Woman's Link: 310.419.8087

Women Alive Coalition: 323.965.1564

Women At Risk: 310.204.1046

Zahn Emergency Shelter: 213.438.1619

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Notices for this Bulletin Board and the preceding Support Group sections should be submitted to Kevin Kurth via Community Bulletin Board, *Co Being Alive* Newsletter, 7531 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90046; or send e-mail to [Kevin@BeingAliveLA.org](mailto:Kevin@BeingAliveLA.org); or send fax to 310.289.9866. Please be concise and indicate if there is a fee. Please also renew notices every six months.

## MORE SUPPORT GROUPS

### WHITTIER HIV+ GROUP

Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project (WRHAP) offers this group for all people with HIV. An open support group. Every other Saturday 10am–noon. For info, call Elizabeth Mendia at 562.698.3850. 6/2008

### SPECTRUM / PASSPORT TO CARE

Various support groups. Yoga: Mondays 10:30am–noon, Building L. Relapse prevention workshop: Tuesdays 10:30am–noon, Building L. Heterosexual support group: Wednesdays 10:30am–noon, Building K. Food pantry: Thursdays 10am–5pm, Building L. Women's support group: Thursdays 11:30am–1pm, Building M. Soul food men's support group: Thursdays 4–5:30pm, Building N. Movie night: first and third Thursdays 6–8:30pm, Building L. Cocaine anonymous: Fridays 10:30am–noon, Building M. Grupo universal: Fridays 5–6:30pm, Building L. For more information call front desk at 323.563.4939. 11/2007

### SOUTH BAY FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS social service support—case management, mental health, prevention education, HOPWA, short-term rental assistance. Call Joanne Silva at 310.318.2521 x1422. 11/2007

### TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER—HIV MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Support groups: HIV support, yoga, relapse prevention group, self-help, vocational counseling, and mental health counseling. For info, call Carol Bishop at 818.342.5897 x2195. 11/2007

### SHABBAT LUNCH AND JEWISH HIV SUPPORT GROUP AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Come and schmooze and eat with fellow Jewish HIVers at Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood. We provide a safe, nurturing Jewish environment to talk about life with HIV, Jewish life, and life in general. 1200 North La Brea Avenue, West Hollywood. Call for time and date of next meeting. Reply in confidence to Rabbi Denise Eger at [rabi@kolami.org](mailto:rabi@kolami.org), or 323.606.0996, x100. 12/2006

### APLA SUPPORT GROUPS

The following groups are ongoing and offered through APLA's Mental Health Services: HIV/AIDS Gay Male, HIV/AIDS Heterosexual, Substance Use and HIV, and Mono-lingual Spanish-speaking HIV/AIDS. For information in English and Spanish, call Walter Campos at 213.201.1621. 4/2006

### METH AND GAY MEN

Feeling out-of-control? Having trouble finding intimacy? Promising to quit but using anyway? Worried that you need meth to have hot sex? On-going psychotherapy group meeting weekly for men concerned about crystal meth, sex, and intimacy. Conveniently located in Hollywood, this closed therapy group explores issues and feelings in a safe, confidential setting, Monday, 7–8:30pm. For more information, contact Glen at 323.993.7655, or Andre at 323.860.5804. Sponsored by the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. 2/2006

### SPIRITUAL SUPPORT DROP-IN GROUP

For people living with HIV/AIDS or cancer, or dealing with grief or imprisonment. One-on-one spiritual support, primarily Catholic. Can make inter-faith referrals. For info, call 323.225.4461. 5/2004

### BIENESTAR

Bienestar Human Services offers a variety of services and support groups for the Latino community, HIV+ client services, and HIV– prevention programs. Call Miguel Gonzalez at 323.727.7897. 5/2004

### CHURCH OF THE VALLEY HIV+ SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30pm, Disciples of Christ Church, 6565 Vesper, Van Nuys. 818.786.4070. 5/2004

### COMMON GROUND

HIV/AIDS drop-in support group for women and men, Mondays, 12:30–2pm; free; lunch is served. Gestalt Therapy Group, Thursday nights, 5:30–7pm, actively recruiting mem-

bers. Women's drop-in group, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 12:30–1:30pm. Spanish-speaking drop-in group, Wednesdays, 10–11:30am. Call 310.314.5480. 5/2004

### ALTAMED SUPPORT GROUP

For men and women living with HIV/AIDS. Meets Tuesdays from 2–3pm at AltaMed in Pico Rivera. For more information, call 562.949.8717. 12/2003

### POSITIVES IN SOBRIETY

Open AA meeting for people affected by HIV. Meets every Sunday, 6pm. Great Hall in Plummer Park, Vista St., between Fountain and Lexington in West Hollywood. 323.656.0829. 12/2003

### HIV BY THE BOOKS

Open AA meeting. Intimate book study for people dealing with HIV/AIDS issues. Meets every Friday, 7:15pm at Being Alive. 323.656.0829. 12/2003

### LONG BEACH POZ PEERS

Social support group for HIV+ guys who want to meet other HIV+ guys. Contact David at 562.272.8810. 7/2003

### FOUND SOBRIETY CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS

7pm. 11321 Camarillo St. (upstairs), North Hollywood, CA 91602. Go to [www.crystalmeth.org](http://www.crystalmeth.org) for more information. 1/2003

### PASADENA AIDS SERVICE CENTER

Support groups including Living Positive, HIV Symptomatic, Newly Diagnosed Group, Teen Group, HIV+ Spanish Women, Journaling Group, and Gay Men Over 45 Group. 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena. Call 626.441.8495: Jody Casserly, LCSW, x144. 8/2002

### NA HIV+

Thursdays at 8:30pm. HIV+ and gay narcotics anonymous meeting. Members share their experience, strength, and hope that they and others may recover from the disease of addiction. HIV+ focused. Many new-comers at this meeting. 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles. For more information, call 323.850.1624. 6/2002

### MINORITY AIDS PROJECT

Minority AIDS Project sponsors a variety of support groups for people of color. Call 323.936.4949. 9/2000

## GRUPOS Y NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

### BIENESTAR

Bienestar Human Services offers a variety of services and support groups for the Latino community. HIV+ client services and HIV-negative prevention programs. Call Miguel Gonzalez at 323.727.7897. 11/2007

### PROJECT ANGEL FOOD

Project Angel Food es una organización que provee comidas para las personas que viven con VIH/SIDA. Nuestros servicios están disponibles para personas que viven en nuestras áreas de servicio y que están oficialmente diagnosticado con el SIDA o VIH sintomáticos. Para recibir servicios, llame el 323.845.1810. 8/2001

### ALTAMED GRUPOS DE APOYO EN ESPAÑOL

Todos los miercoles de 6–8pm le ofrecemos un grupo para hombres y tambien otro grupo para mujeres. Para mayor informacion: Juan—323.869.5403. 2/2001

## WOMEN'S SERVICES

### THE SERRA PROJECT/CASA DE LA MADONA Y EL NIÑO

A home for women and children living with AIDS and HIV. RN and MSW case management, medical transportation, bilingual—English/Spanish, family preservation and reunification. Call Martha Aldreta at 323.342.0705. 4/2008

### PROTOTYPES WOMENSCARE

Complete medical treatment, follow-up, and case management, education available at WomensCare Center, Queen of

Angels/Hollywood Presbyterian. No fee, childcare available. 1300 N. Vermont, Ste. 401. Call Andrea Jackson 323.662.7420. East LA location: 5427 E. Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90022. Call Yolanda Salinas 323.869.5467. 11/2007

### WOMEN AT RISK

Multiple specialized support groups with childcare services and transportation, one-on-one peer counseling, prevention, education/community outreach, speakers bureau, hospital visitation, resource referrals and assistance. For information call 310.204.1046. [www.womenatrisk.org](http://www.womenatrisk.org). 4/2006

### ESCAJEDA WOMEN'S CLINIC

Comprehensive health services for women with HIV/AIDS regardless of ability to pay. General and specialized HIV health care includes GYN services. Social Worker. Psychiatric services. English/Spanish speaking staff. For info, call 626.744.6140. Pasadena location. 12/2003

### T.H.E. CLINIC FOR WOMEN, INC.

Offers specialized services for women living with HIV. Early intervention program, HIV testing. Staff speaks ten languages. Call Nola Thomas for information or appointments: 323.295.6571 x3109. 9/2000

## LEGAL SERVICES

### HALSA

A collaborative effort of AIDS Service Center, the L.A. County Bar Barristers, AIDS Project, the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, and Public Counsel. HALSA provides legal assistance in a variety of areas including bankruptcy, benefits, employment, housing, wills, powers-of-attorney to low-income people living with HIV, as well as comprehensive pro bono referrals. For more info, call 213.2637.1022. 4/2006

### INSURANCE

Supplemental health and life insurance, serving our community. Contact Glenn at 818.774.1556 x33, or [Glenn\\_Zorn@us.afiac.com](mailto:Glenn_Zorn@us.afiac.com). 9/2004

### NOTARY PUBLIC

I live a few blocks from Being Alive in West Hollywood. Services are free if we can arrange a time to meet there. You can also come to my home on Palm Avenue and pay the regular \$10, or I can come to your place in West Hollywood for \$15. Call Michael at 310.659.4299. 2/2002

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### HIV OCULAR SPECIALIST

Lee Dodge, OD. 14429½ Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. 818.783.8750. Fax 818.783.8779. [lee@drdodgeod.com](mailto:lee@drdodgeod.com). [www.drdodgeod.com](http://www.drdodgeod.com). Accepts most PPO plans and Medicare. 6/2008

### NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORP

Confidential comprehensive medical services for HIV/AIDS provided in English and Spanish at low or no cost in the SF Valley. Call Stefen Ruiz at 818.988.6335. 6/2008

### UCLA CARE CLINIC

The UCLA Care Center conducts clinical research in HIV disease management, new medications, metabolic complications, prevention and therapeutic vaccines, opportunistic infections, AIDS-related cancers and co-infections. Contact Deon Claiborne at 310.557.9062. Provides specialty HIV care to those with private insurance, Medicare, or Medicare and Medi-Cal combined. Contact Mike Marcial at 310.557.2273. 11/2007

### CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Spinal adjustments available for \$10 by appointment for HIV+ people who are uninsured and not working. Other services available. Brian Smith, DC, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 218, West Hollywood. 323.656.2652. 11/2007

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

## JEFFREY GOODMAN SPECIAL CARE CLINIC

Provides HIV and STD testing, as well as treatment, case management, complementary therapies and AIDS Drug Assistance Program for HIV+ patients. 1625 N. Schrader, Third Floor, Los Angeles 90028. [www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org). Call 323.993.7500 for info. 11/2007

## AIM HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Healthcare for adult-industry members. HIV/STD testing, referrals, counseling, GYN services. For clients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at AIM Healthcare—free-for-life medication placement. Call 818.981.5681. Also in Woodland Hills: 19720 Venture Blvd., 818.961.0291. 11/2007

## COMPREHENSIVE AIDS RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (C.A.R.E.)

Offers the following services: Out-patient, non-emergency clinic (sliding scale)—562.624.4999 • Dental center (sliding scale)—562.624.4949 • Testing/outreach (no charge)—562.624.4900 • AIDS drug assistance program (no charge)—562.624.4944 • Mental health program and nutritional counseling (no charge)—562.624.4914 • Case management / social services (no charge)—562.624.4900 • Family services program—562.624.4918. Located at 411 E. 10th St., Suite 107, Long Beach, CA 90813 (inside St. Mary Medical Center campus). 11/2007

## ALTMED HEALTH SERVICES

Comprehensive medical treatment for people with HIV/AIDS. In addition to medical treatment, we provide case management, support groups, and HIV testing. To make an appointment to see a physician, please call 323.869.5548. 11/2007

## LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY CLINIC

Treats qualified clients for a low fee. Two HIV specialists accept Medical and Medicare. 362 3rd St., Laguna Beach, CA 92651. 949.494.0761. 11/2007

## FREE RAPID HIV AND STD TESTING

At The SPOT, 745 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, southwest corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente. Tuesday–Friday, 1–7pm, 323.993.7440. If you are experiencing STD symptoms, call 323.993.7575 between 11:30am–2:30pm to schedule an appointment. 11/2007

## VALLEY COMMUNITY CLINIC, NORTH HOLLYWOOD

Offering free, anonymous HIV counseling service and testing Mondays 4–7:30pm, Tuesdays 2–7:30pm, Thursdays 12–3:40pm, and Saturdays 11am–4:30pm. Contact Walter Abb 818.763.8836. HIV case management everyday. Medical outpatient services for people with HIV. ADAP enrollment. For interview call 818.301.6334. [www.valleycommunityclinic.org](http://www.valleycommunityclinic.org). 11/2007

## AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

AHF Clinics in Hollywood, Downtown, Sherman Oaks, the Westside, Upland, Lancaster, and West Adams provide care to people with HIV/AIDS regardless of ability to pay. No one ever turned away. Free HIV testings at our Out-of-the-Closet thrift stores. Call 800.AHF.2101. 10/2002

## ANDREW ESCAJEDA CLINIC

Comprehensive health services for adults with HIV/AIDS, regardless of ability to pay. ADAP enrollment site and psychiatric services. Open to all HIV-infected, even if receiving medical care elsewhere. Pasadena location. Call 626.744.6140. 8/2002

## TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER

Provides residential rehabilitation and medical detoxification programs for people with HIV/AIDS. Call 818.996.1051 x40. HIV outpatient clinic, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am–6pm. Call 818.342.5897. 9/2000

## USC AIDS CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT

Free clinical trials for people with HIV/AIDS. Located at 5P21, Rand Schrader Clinic, 1300 N. Mission Rd., Room 349, LA. For info, call 323.343.8288. 9/2000

## METHADONE TREATMENT FOR HIV+ PEOPLE

If you are HIV+ and opiate-dependent, Western Pacific Rehab offers free out-patient methadone treatment at conveniently located sites. Call 800.223.3869. 9/2000

## AIDS SERVICE CENTER, PASADENA

Free treatment education and advocacy via one-on-one counseling/assessment, monthly treatment forums, Treatment Library and more. Call 626.441.8495. 9/2000

## WELLS HOUSE HOSPICE, LONG BEACH

A home-like environment serving Long Beach and Orange County. Volunteers always welcome. Contact Ron Morgan at 562.435.9363. 9/2000

## LA COUNTY RAND SHRADER 5P21 HIV CLINIC

Provides comprehensive HIV care; services available in English and Spanish. Call 213.343.8255. 9/2000

## T.H.E. CLINIC, INC.

HIV/AIDS testing, treatment, counseling, family planning, other services. For more information call 323.295.6571. 9/2000

## PHARMACY SERVICES

### EDDIE'S PHARMACY

As your community pharmacy, we are committed to provide the best service possible. Getting to you know and your individual needs is an integral part of that commitment. Small enough to care; large enough to meet your needs. Call 310.358.2400. 1/2006

### ALL-IN-ONE PHARMACY

For all your pharmacy needs. Adherence tools and delivery provided free of charge. Treatment educators available for any questions you have. Most insurance accepted. Call toll-free: 866.255.6663. 11/2005

### MOMS PHARMACY

The original adherence pharmacy. Services include free delivery, pager notification, and optional MOMS Paks medication packets, the ultimate adherence tool. For more information, visit [www.momsparmacy.com](http://www.momsparmacy.com), or call 866.993.6337. 8/2005

## PERSONAL SERVICES

### HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Jewish Family Services provides kosher meals (fresh or frozen) to the homebound. Call 323.761.8770. St. Vincent's Meals on Wheels: 213.484.7775. 11/2007

### TRUE NORTH MASSAGE

Swedish circulatory massage. Tim Maloney, Certified Massage Technician. APSB. 818.244.3029. 818.726.9480 (cell). [shaktim2001@hotmail.com](mailto:shaktim2001@hotmail.com). 1/2006

### SPORTS MASSAGE

Deep tissue, soft touch, and Reiki therapy. Discount for HIV+. I've worked on athletes for over five years. Call Wayne at 562.235.8716 and mention this ad. 12/2005

### COUNSELING

Payam Ghassemloo, PhD, MFT, gay male counselor. 310.801.2927. Sandplay Therapy—a fun, creative, and healing process to connect to your psyche's self-healing powers. 9/2004

### RESIDENTIAL DRUG TREATMENT

Live-in drug treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. For info, call Robyn at 818.985.8323. 2/2002

### MASSAGE BY JEFFREY

Therapeutic touch at a discount for people living with HIV/AIDS. Contact Jeffrey at [jjeffrey54@aol.com](mailto:jjeffrey54@aol.com), or call 310.770.7515. 10/2001

### PROJECT ANGEL FOOD

Project Angel Food's agency delivers nutritious meals to individuals with a formal diagnosis of AIDS or symptomatic HIV disease living in our delivery area. To start free meal delivery service, please call Client Services at 323.845.1810. 8/2001

### FREE GROCERIES

Food and personal care items are provided to PWAs. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10am–1pm. For more

information, call Imani Unidos Food Pantry, 323.754.2320. 5/2001

### LOW INCOME HOUSING FOR PWAs

1-, and 2-bedroom housing wait list. Contact West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, 8285 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 3, West Hollywood, or call 323.650.8771, x2. 1/2001

### 50% MASSAGE DISCOUNT

Full hour Swedish massage. Legit. \$25. Designed for financially challenged HIV+ folk who are looking for a way to afford regular massage. Call Bruce at 323.660.5358. 9/2000

## MISCELLANEOUS

### ALLEGRIA HOUSE SHELTER

Assist families, and couples (gay or straight) living with AIDS. Sober living program. Contact Julie Lewis at 323.454.4200. 11/2007

### CHOICES RECOVERY SERVICES

Has homes in Long Beach and Los Angeles, providing clean, comfortable, structured, drug- and alcohol-free living environments for men, women, straight, gay, HIV+, and dual-diagnosed individuals. Please call us for further information at 562.930.0565. [www.choicesoflongbeach.com](http://www.choicesoflongbeach.com) 11/2007

### ZAHN EMERGENCY SHELTER

Welcomes singles and families with open arms to our sober living program. Priority is given to referrals living with HIV/AIDS. Referrals only. Please call 213.438.1619. 8/2006

### MCINTYRE HOUSE

A non-profit residential substance abuse recovery and sober living program for men. Low-cost medical care and food provided. Contact Ed at 323.662.0855. 12/2004

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS (SIN)

A non-profit social network for HIV+ gay men that organizes and promotes fun and relaxed events in LA and Orange County. All HIV+ gay men are welcome. Events include pot luck, breakfasts, and bar nights. All events are low-cost, but everyone is expected to cover their own expenses. Check out are Web site for more information and updates on events: [www.strengthinnumbers.org](http://www.strengthinnumbers.org). 5/2003

### TEENS REACH TEENS

Peer Education Program of L.A. offers educators to lead discussions on HIV/AIDS prevention in schools, group homes, and youth agencies. Call Wendy at 323.651.9888. 8/2002

### WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A unique, spiritual community of lesbians, gays, and supportive heterosexuals. Worship service Sunday mornings at 11am. 7350 Sunset Boulevard. Children are always welcome. Call 323.874.6646 or visit [www.wehpres.org](http://www.wehpres.org). 8/2002

### HELPLINE FOR DEAF PEOPLE WITH HIV

A unique service run by HIV+ deaf people, providing referrals to other deaf and hard-of-hearing people with HIV/AIDS. Contact Emmett Haggan at 323.550.4258 (TDD) or 323.550.4255 (fax). 9/2001

### AIDS EDUCATION/SERVICES FOR THE DEAF

Provides education to schools as well as one-on-one meetings and interpreters to Ryan White-funded HIV/AIDS services and testing with no charge to the service providers. Call 323.550.4250 (TDD/voice). Fax: 323.550.4244. 9/2001

### HIV/AIDS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Common Ground offers mental health services to HIV+ residents of Los Angeles who cannot afford to pay. Call Mark Fairfield, LCSW, Director of Mental Health, at 310.314.5480. 4/2002

### CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS INFO LINE

12-step program offering a 24-hour information hotline at 213.488.4455. 9/2000

### AID FOR AIDS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Aid for AIDS provides financial assistance to people with HIV/AIDS. Help with pharmaceuticals, nutrition, monthly bus passes, rent, health insurance payments, utilities. For more info, call 323.656.1107. 9/2000