

SUMMER 2005

Heart To Heart

AIDS EMERGENCY FUND • BREAST CANCER EMERGENCY FUND
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Dine Around Set for November 16

On Wednesday, November 16, 2005, thousands of neighbors and friends in San Francisco will open their hearts and wallets in support of loved ones with AIDS and breast cancer by participating in **Dine Around**. Save that Date! Simply by dining out at participating restaurants that night, friends of AEF and BCEF can raise money for us. Owners of participating restaurants will donate 25 percent of their total daily food and beverage revenue to AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

Last year's event was a huge success, raising \$25,000 for our clients in need. Thanks to help from the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** and the **Castro Lions Club**, volunteers at each restaurant thanked the diners for supporting

the cause and offered a free raffle for dinner for two at participating restaurants. Neighborhood merchant associations sponsoring the event included **Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, Eureka Valley Promotion Association, Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association** and **South of Market Merchants Association**.

For more information and a list of this year's participating restaurants, please visit www.DineAroundSF.org.



This Old Bag: It's Handbag-Mania on October 7

This Old Bag: The Power of the Purse, launches at **Harry Denton's** on August 24, 2005 with a preview of celebrity donated bags from philanthropists **Ann Getty** and **Bella Farrow**, SF Chronicle columnist **Leah Gar-chik**, CourtTV's **Kimberly Guilfoyle-Newsom**, Knots Landing Star **Donna Mills**, X-Men II & III star **Alan Cumming** and designer bags from ATYS to **Kate Spade** and beyond! Confirmed in attendance are honorary hosts **Bella Farrow**, **DA Kamala Harris**, **Hilary Newsom Callan**,

Harry Denton and **Wilkes Bashford**, board members, the steering committee, San Francisco press and surprise guests!

The main event on October 7th happens at Clift from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and features appetizers and cocktails, complete with silent and live auctions. A surprise celebrity auctioneer will showcase the most valuable and coveted bags and pair them with other exciting items like cruises, dining and entertainment packages, shopping sprees and more.

Tickets go on sale August 24 for \$100. With only room enough for 250 attendees, we're expecting this event to sell out quickly. Watch the Nob Hill Gazette, San Francisco Magazine, Paper City and the San Francisco Chronicle for more news and photos or online at www.thisoldbag.org.

this Old Bag
The Power of the Purse



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES!

AEF and BCEF have a fabulous new web presence! Thanks to the technical work and design brilliance of Chris Tyler and Tyrone Smith (Capital Graphics), AEF and BCEF now have bold, new and separate websites. The sites include information for clients on how to apply for assistance, as well as information for donors on how they help AEF and BCEF. The sites even include an

honor roll of major donors and collaborating agencies. The new "events" section is chock full of upcoming events and fundraising news, too.
AEF'S SITE IS: www.aidsemergencyfund.org
or just www.aef-sf.org for short.
BCEF'S SITE IS: www.breastcanceremergencyfund.org
or just www.bcef-sf.org.



Scion Raffle: \$30,000 and Counting

For the second year in row, **San Francisco Toyota** was the official car of SF Pride and donated a car to be raffled off among several beneficiaries. Thanks to the generosity of San Francisco Toyota and their general manager, **Doug Donnellan**, AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund were two of the four beneficiaries this year. Raffle tickets for the bright yellow, fully-loaded, limited edition 2005 Toyota Scion xB sold for \$10. AEF/BCEF

volunteers have been working the corner of 18th and Castro every weekend, and also hawked raffle tickets at our Pride Booth. Kudos to **Sam Riney, Phil Seigel, Neil Figurelli, Jay Hemphill, Tim Gaskin, Cynthia Hester** and others who have helped sell nearly 1,000 tickets! There is still a week or two left to buy tickets, but the total raised among the four beneficiaries already exceeds \$30,000. The winner of the car will be selected

at a special event at the LGBT Center on Monday, August 15. AEF will post the winner's name on www.aidsemergencyfund.org on Tuesday, August 16.



Castro Lions Celebrate 20 Years

On Wednesday, June 15, the Castro Lions Club celebrated twenty years of community service and fellowship. Founded on April 15, 1985, the Castro Lions Club was the first gay and lesbian chapter of the International Association of Lions Clubs. Dedi-



cated to the needs of the community, the Castro Lions Club has raised and given away more than \$500,000 in the last 20 years to over 200 organizations. Topping their list as their number one charity is AIDS Emergency Fund, which has received a staggering \$100,479 over the 20 years.

In addition to their fundraising generosity, the Castro Lions serve as restaurant ambassadors and greeters for Dine Around each November and join the AEF team at the Castro Street Fair and AEF's annual awards gala. AEF and BCEF congratulate the Castro Lions Club and look forward to working with incoming Castro Lions president Steven Sams in 2005 and beyond.

KOMEN FOUNDATION SUPPORTS BCEF EXPANSION EFFORTS

In June, Breast Cancer Emergency Fund received word that its grant request to the Bay Area Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation had been approved. The grant of \$35,000 (the single largest contribution ever

to BCEF) will be used to explore the possibility of expanding BCEF's geographic reach to begin serving women in neighboring counties. "We get calls weekly from people outside our service area who need assistance," said Lee Harrington, AEF/BCEF's client services manager. "We know our program is unique, but expansion will require strong client intake partners in other counties."

The grant will cover the hiring of a part-time outreach worker in San Mateo County and seed

money for the first few emergency grants there. At the check presentation event in June, Maria Sousa, Executive Director of Komen's local chapter, expressed her joy at being able to help at this crucial moment. "As I meet with the heads of other Komen affiliates throughout the US, I realize how unique and wonderful BCEF is. There is nothing like it in other communities. We are delighted to help this program reach more women in need."

OUR COMMUNITY NEVER STOPS GIVING

05.8.05 A MOMMY DEAREST MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Thank you to **Jason Ladd** in conjunction with the **Imperial Council of SF** for organizing this event held at **Mr. Lee-Onas Bar**. The event raised \$1,000 for BCEF.



Miss Gay San Francisco Galilea, Empress 25 Marlena, Leather Daddy 6 Jason Ladd.

06.26.05 SF LGBT PRIDE PARADE

Thank you to our staff, board and volunteers for helping to make this year's Pride Parade another successful event. This year, our float was a flame-throwing fire truck donated by **The Crucible**. Marchers wore fireman hats and collected nearly \$2,000 in cash and change from the crowd. Special thanks to **Beach Blanket Babylon** for their donation of \$5,000, underwriting the costs of the Pride float.



06.28.05 CHEER FOR LIFE/CHEER SF CHECK PRESENTATION

Thank you to **Cheer San Francisco** and their **Cheer for Life Fund** for donating \$1,000 to AEF. Each time **Cheer San Francisco** performs at an event they take along their spirit buckets to receive the generous donations of spectators who are thrilled and inspired by their performances. The spirit buckets help people facing life-threatening challenges, including HIV/AIDS and cancer. The \$1,000 donation was a special request from **Donna Sachet**, who emceed their annual dinner.

07.10.05 THE CASTRO LIONS CLUB CHECK PRESENTATION

Thank you to **The Castro Lions Club** and their new president, **Steven Sams**, for presenting a check for \$5,000 to AEF/BCEF at **The Eagle**. This donation brings the Castro Lions' total donations to AEF/BCEF to over \$105,000 over 20 years.

07.14-18.05 LAZY BEAR WEEKEND

Thank you to **Harry Lit** and **Allen Eggman** of **The Lazy Bear Fund**, **Castrobear Presents** and **The Sacramento Bears** for organizing the 10th Annual Lazy Bear Weekend in Guerneville. AEF and BCEF were major beneficiaries of Lazy Bear Weekend, Russian River's "biggest" event. The 2006 Bare Chest Calendar men assisted with the event by tending bar each night at **Club Fab**.

07.23.05 MR/MS TRAILER TRASH CONTEST

Thank you to **Mark Paladini** and **Mike Manicotti** for organizing this festive event at **The Edge**, which raised money for BCEF.



Miss Trailer Trash 2005, Carlos Meda.

Front Door Watch: Client Services is busier than ever

It's been quite a while since I've contributed to the newsletter. At this half-way point in our fiscal year, it seems like a good time for an update. There have been several big changes in client services over the last year. Last fall, after several years of falling government grants with no increases expected in the future, the Board instituted a \$5,000 per client lifetime grant limit. Of course, we did not turn anyone away immediately. If a client had received \$5,000 or more over their lifetime, we explained this to them and offered them one more grant.

Some people have mistakenly thought that this cap meant that AEF was making fewer grants or providing less assistance. Unfortunately, neither is true. Last year we made grants in excess of \$1,200,000 to over 2,400 people, approximately the same numbers as previous years. Each year we see about 500 new clients who have recently been disabled or are new to San Francisco. What seems to be happening is that clients who have been able to live without our help for several years are now finding themselves in need

again and are returning to fill the slot left by those capped off. The Programs and Services committee of the Board of Directors is looking closely at ways to make sure that clients most in need (i.e. facing eviction notices or utility shut-offs) continue to get help from AEF. We hope to have procedures in place by this fall to be able to give priority to these clients and others facing catastrophic financial emergencies or who are trapped paying high market rents while living on a small fixed income.

BCEF continues to grow, but with very different demographics. Annually, between 60% and 67% are new clients who have only recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. We do not see so many of them returning year after year for grants, in part because they are disabled for shorter periods of time: either their treatments are effective and the clients can move back into the work-



Lee Harrington
Client Services Manager

force or the disease progresses more rapidly. We continue to get calls from women around the Bay Area looking for programs like BCEF in their communities. While we currently only serve breast cancer clients in San Francisco, we are researching ways to expand the program into neighboring counties.

If you would like more information about client services at AEF or BCEF, please feel free to call me at **415-558-6999 x6** or e-mail me at **leeha@aef-sf.org**.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Macy's Passport In-Store
September 23-24

Folsom Street Fair
September 25

Castro Street Fair
October 02

**This Old Bag:
The Power of the Purse**
October 07

Dine Around
November 16

Every Penny Counts Day
December 01

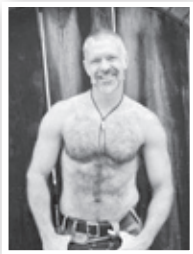
To Volunteer, call Jes Muse at
415-558-6999x4 or
jesm@aef-sf.org

*Volunteers worked the crowd
at Pride selling Toyota Scion
raffle tickets.*



09.18.05 MAMA'S LEATHERWALK AND BARE CHEST CALENDAR AUCTION

Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt just never stops working for AEF and BCEF! Her three-mile walk begins at Noon with the raising of the Leather Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza. At 1pm, walkers will start at Daddy's Bar, march to The Powerhouse and end at The Eagle. After the walk, starting at 3pm at The Eagle, six of the



2006 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off for dinner dates. To get your Leather Walk pledge sheets and participate in LeatherWalk, go to www.mamasfamily.org

Allen Silver, Back cover model for the South of Market Bare Chest Calendar 2006, will be auctioned off on September 18th

09.23-24.05 MACY'S PASSPORT

Buy a ticket for just \$10 and receive 10-20% off purchases at this 2-day in-store event at Macy's Union Square and Macy's Valley Fair. You can even win a \$1,000 shopping spree. For tickets, please fill out the enclosed insert or call **Chris Morris**, Fundraising and Events Manger, at 415.558.6999 x3.



09.25.05 FOLSOM STREET FAIR

As a major beneficiary of the Folsom Street Fair, AEF needs to recruit 50 volunteers to assist at the event. Please help

out and volunteer for a 4-5 hour shift and help us meet our volunteer needs. You can help any time from 6am-9pm with set-up, security, beverages, gate collection, coat check, entertainment, recycling and clean-up. To sign up, please call our volunteer coordinator, **Jes Muse**, at 415-558-6999 x4.

10.02.05 CASTRO STREET FAIR

Volunteer for the Castro Street Fair this year! The more volunteers we have, the more money AEF will receive from the fair. You can still enjoy all the food, vendors and entertainment the fair has to offer. To volunteer, please call **Jes Muse** at 415-558-6999x4.

10.07.05 THIS OLD BAG: THE POWER OF THE PURSE

Join us from 6-9pm at CLIFT, 495 Geary Street for a celebration of handbags. The event will feature live and silent auctions of purses, handbags and other accessories donated by fashion designers, San Francisco retailers and celebrities. For tickets and more information, please visit www.thisoldbag.org

10.22.05 HOEDOWN

AEF/BCEF is a beneficiary of the Sundance Stompede's annual gala country-western dance being held at the Regency Ballroom, 1320 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. We invite you to share this truly special event with hundreds of the hottest cowboys and cowgirls from the Bay Area and beyond. For tickets and more information, please go to www.stompede.com.

11.16.05 DINE AROUND

Join us for lunch or dinner and 25% of your bill will go to AEF/BCEF. Please visit www.dinearoundsf.org for a list of participating restaurants.

WHO'S WHO AT AEF/BCEF

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Heart To Heart

AIDS EMERGENCY FUND • BREAST CANCER EMERGENCY FUND
Providing emergency financial assistance to people fighting AIDS and breast cancer

965 MISSION STREET, SUITE 630 • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103

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Save these
Dates!

9/18/05

LEATHERWALK
AND BARE
CHEST DINNER
DATE AUCTION

9/23-24/05

MACY'S
PASSPORT

9/25/05

FOLSOM
STREET FAIR

10/02/05

CASTRO
STREET FAIR

10/07/05

THIS OLD BAG

11/16/05

DINE AROUND

Perspective

Bushwhacked: Cutting Holes in the Safety Net

I had planned to use my column in this edition of Heart to Heart to celebrate several recent fundraising successes at Breast Cancer Emergency Fund and AIDS Emergency Fund. One of the joys of this job is working with enthusiastic community organizers and generous donors who can still inspire us with their creativity and resourcefulness, even after 25 years of this epidemic.

But as the deadline for this edition approached, the White House released its recommendation on changes it wants to make in federal funding for care for people with AIDS. In a few seconds of reading, most of the joy and enthusiasm was sucked right out of me. If these

measures make it through Congress this fall, San Francisco's remarkable system of care for people with AIDS will face a funding chasm that private donations cannot possibly fill.

For fifteen years, the Ryan White CARE Act has provided funding to cities hardest hit by AIDS. Originally authored in 1990 by San Francisco's own **Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi**, the legislation has pumped hundreds of million of dollars per year into major cities to sustain public health systems overburdened by AIDS cases. The Act also provides support for a wide variety of services for people with AIDS, through grants to non-profits. Unfortunately, every five years, the Act has to be reauthorized. The Bush Administration is using the reauthorization to change the formulas and allocations that will reduce San Francisco's funding by up to \$7,000,000

Mike Smith,
Executive Director



– and reduce funding to all of California by an additional \$20,000,000 per year. Cuts of this magnitude will mean draconian reductions in services like delivered meals, housing, benefits counseling,

and yes, emergency financial assistance from AEF.

Fighting these moves will take even more creativity and resourcefulness at a time when many have been worn down by these political attacks. Funding reductions on this scale can't be made up with more beer busts, bake sales and bingo nights. I urge you to call your senators and congressperson – and to ask friends and family outside of the Bay Area to call theirs. Urge them to reject the Bush Administration's attempt to undo 15 years of progress, and to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE as it stands. The lives of people you love depend on it!