



# **FACING FORWARD**

**Annual Report 2006-2007**



## **Our Mission**

“AIDS Vancouver exists to alleviate individual and collective vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through support, public education and community-based research.”

## **Our Work**

AIDS Vancouver provides a community-based response to HIV/AIDS in the BC Lower Mainland. Our quarter century of experience and community involvement provides a foundation for our nationally recognized continuum of programs and services. AV's doors are open to all because HIV/AIDS knows no boundaries.

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# Executive Introduction

As we all know, change is inevitable. However, as far as community-based organizations go, evolution isn't always certain. It is no easy task for an AIDS service organization to remain consistently responsive to increasingly complex community and client needs and an ever-shifting political and social environment. However, it is this very self-awareness and flexibility that lies at the heart of AIDS Vancouver and allows us to face forward without fear. We are an agency unafraid of asking difficult questions, whether of itself or others, in order to ensure that the programs and services reaching our communities address the ever-changing demands of HIV/AIDS.

Some of our members will be marking the completion of four years of service on the Board of Directors. On behalf of those who will be moving on, and more importantly, to those who will be remaining, thank you for all the ways that you have helped make AIDS Vancouver the agency that it is today.

Be it a staff or volunteer, client or community partner, funder or donor, AIDS Vancouver is a sum of the creativity, innovation and determination of its people. Titled "Facing Forward", this annual report does more than just narrate our successes and progress forward in the field of HIV/AIDS. It is a portrait of the joys, triumphs, and hope that each unique face in our organization represents. With wisdom and experience combined with passion and purpose, AIDS Vancouver is well positioned to continue evolving to meet the challenges facing HIV/AIDS in the 21st century.



William Booth  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Booth'.



Jamie Myrah  
Director of Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Myrah'.

# Faces

## Mario Brondani, Helpine & Gayway Volunteer

“I first came from Brazil to pursue a PhD with UBC Dentistry in 2002, and started volunteering for the help-line in April 2003.

One of the reasons I became an AV volunteer was to improve my English. The other was related to a very personal and challenging experience: living with the ups and downs of my ex-partner’s HIV since 1999. From that highly emotional and stressful experience came the opportunity to grow and mature. I gained much strength and realized I could try offering help to others.

Volunteerism in itself has been part of my life even before coming to Canada. Its value lies in getting involved with the community and a sense of personal satisfaction.

Four years, three AIDS Walks, one International AIDS Conference and four Pride Parades later, I could not be more happy express my gratitude to AV!”

Mario continues his involvement with AIDS Vancouver through his research project on the importance of oral health in gay seniors, focussing on the link between the HPV virus and oral cancer.

He fondly remembers being in a crowd of over 25,000 people at the 2006 World AIDS Conference, and the emotional experience of hearing people from around the world tell their personal stories on HIV/AIDS. Mario urges people to battle homophobia and stereotypes through learning and the sharing of experiences.



“Four years, three AIDS Walks, one International AIDS Conference and four Pride Parades later, I could not be more happy express my gratitude to AV!”



# Prevent

## HIV Prevention & Awareness

**Phillip Banks, Director HIV Prevention & Awareness**

Preventing the transmission of HIV is one of AIDS Vancouver's fundamental goals. Within the Lower Mainland, gay men and other men continue to be the populations most impacted by HIV in terms of new infections, as well as the number of people living with this disease. Statistics clearly show a continued need for a strong focus on gay men's HIV infection, care and support needs. Gayway, AIDS Vancouver's gay men's health promotion program, continues to expand the number of interventions directed to gay men both through local initiatives, and provincial and national partners such as the Community Based Research Centre, The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, Canadian AIDS Society, Sero Zero, YouthCO and others.

In addition, AIDS Vancouver continues to provide HIV prevention and awareness programming (targeted to a diversity of communities and populations affected by HIV) through health communication, curriculum development and training, outreach, and community initiatives. Working in collaboration with other related organizations, our Education and Outreach Programs help empower vulnerable communities and the general public to take control of their health and prevent HIV transmission. Knowledge is also crucial to combating the stigma and discrimination that people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS often experience.

Through our work, we continue to address the historical challenges that surround HIV/ADS such as homophobia, gender inequity, poverty, homelessness and substance addictions. Though new infections continue to increase within traditional and newly-emerging communities, there is a general decrease in public and government support. Thus, it is crucial that Prevention and Awareness programs continue to inform and motivate people to recognize the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS.



### **Mandip Kharod, Educator**

My 4 years of experience in HIV work has mostly involved working with women (predominantly those in the sex trade), immigrants, newcomers and refugee populations.

One of my focuses with Prevention and Awareness is engaging a range of communities on the topic of sexual health and HIV, especially those who don't consider themselves as "high risk" of becoming infected. I also hope to encourage discussion around sexuality, gender, harm and choice. People will do what they want to do - it's our job as educators to approach them from a non judgemental space and provide the tools & information that will help them engage in activities in less harmful ways.



## Memorable Outreach Moments This Year

### The MAC Initiative

Last June, we developed a partnership so we could do outreach and hand out materials while promoting their Viva Glam Line (all proceeds go to the MAC AIDS Foundation, of which we were a recipient this year). It was an incredible opportunity to table at various MAC counters as we could engage with youth populations to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

### DCHC - Ladies Night at the Downtown Community Health Clinic.

We started monthly education sessions with women to explore their vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and discuss ways to reduce their risks of contracting or transmitting HIV. Usually I went pretty early to serve food and eat with them. Sharing MY life and having them share their lives with me was truly special. Throughout the night, we would work on a crafts while women would go in and see the doctor. It definitely inspired hope .



Amber Dawn (left) and Helenka (right) getting Viva Glam'ed up for the MAC outreach event.



Helenka delivering outreach to teenage girls: a demographic that normally doesn't consider itself at risk for HIV.



# Prevent



Lily, one of our current Prevention Team volunteers.

## More Highlights

- Delivered HIV/AIDS prevention and education workshops with our community partners including Aurora, New Dawn, Pacifica, and The Immigrant Services Society
- Participated in The Giving Women Power over AIDS international photo exhibit; a joint project with the Positive Womens Network. The opening Gala was held at the Telus World of Science, with the exhibit eventually moving to the Vancouver Public Library. We provided tabling and outreach at both venues.
- Provided a number of standalone workshops to a variety of new groups such as Canada post and home based care providers.
- Tabled at the Womens Expo for the first time. Women loved the female condom and it was the first time many had seen it.
- Provided outreach and tabling at UBC, the AMSSA Health Fair as well as the Tops and Bottoms Fundraiser

Parm at the MAC outreach event.



# PARC Library

Veronique Croizier, PARC Librarian

## Prevention through Knowledge

One of my priorities as a librarian has been to provide easy access to the most comprehensive and up-to-date collection of works on HIV/AIDS. This year, we replaced numerous outdated publications with over 220 new books, educational materials and research reports to enrich the library book collection. In addition, we became the recipient of the BCCDC's collection of educational videos on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. This resulted in over 150 new titles being added to our existing collection of 650 videos, popular with educators and Public Health nurses across the province.

Over 5,000 information requests were filled for on-site visitors to the library this year. Usually referred by their case manager at AIDS Vancouver, the library is often the place where persons newly diagnosed with HIV start seeking information about the disease. The library's staff and volunteers endeavor to offer them a warm environment where they feel comfortable to ask questions. The professional community, health practitioners and students, also widely utilized our resources.



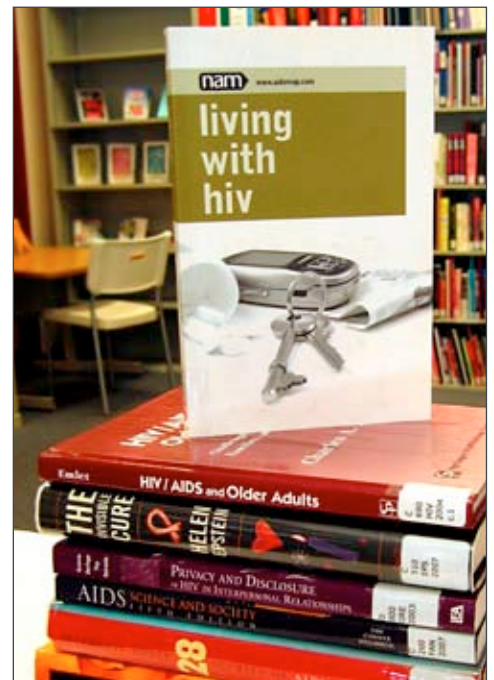
Kerry, a Librarian Studies student completing her practicum at PARC Library.

## Connecting with PARC Online

This year, PARC (Pacific AIDS Resource Centre) Library developed additional online services to further-improve accessibility to HIV resources. As a result, for the first time ever, online users were as numerous as on-site library visitors, totalling an overall number of 12,000 last year. Library users are kept informed of new library acquisitions through electronic notifications and the daily library blog (<http://aids-vanlibrary.blogspot.com/>), which also highlights noteworthy websites carrying HIV news and information.

Our resource collection is now searchable through several online routes:

- Our online catalogue (live since September 2005)
- CONNECT: the Canadian HIV/AIDS Information Gateway (<http://www.hivinfovih.ca/>)
- BC Health Libraries One search: <http://hlbc.andornot.com/>





# Prevent



## Library Tours

We are regularly asked by the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at UBC to host tours of our library to familiarize new students with library procedures as well as the role played by this kind of resource centre in supporting the community. This past November, a group of ten students visited our library and were so enthusiastic that ten of their fellow classmates requested a second tour a few months later out of their own personal interest!



## The CONNECT Library Project

After a year of intense collaborative work between librarians from Canadian community-based HIV/AIDS organizations, CONNECT became a reality and was launched on World AIDS Day 2006.

CONNECT (the Canadian HIV/AIDS Information gateway) provides a one-stop search through the five largest HIV/AIDS libraries in Canada. This provides access to over 67,000 books, videos, DVDs, journal articles, and other resources through a single interface.

Access this service here: <http://www.hivinfovih.ca/>.

# Client Profile

**Heather Hoiness,  
Case Management Supervisor**

The following is a true story about a client from AIDS Vancouver, as told by their case manager. Names have been altered to respect client confidentiality. See p. 24 for more about Case Management and other Client Services programs.

Emily was referred to us by The Oak Tree Public Clinic. Ben is her prior partner and the biological father of her infant son and step-father to her 6 year old daughter. He is also a refugee claimant who speaks no English. Both are younger than 25 years old. Emily never felt comfortable seeking help from an AIDS Service Organization before but was desperate for support. They assumed that Ben had become HIV positive, but he had not yet been tested.

By taking a holistic view of supporting people living with HIV that encompasses working with their partners and families, our case manager was able to connect with Emily and establish a trusting, productive relationship. She met with Emily and Ben, assessed their legal needs and secured appropriate legal counsel for his refugee claim. Our case manager was also able to help them through the process of having Ben tested for HIV, with Emily opening up about the complicated emotional and psychological aspects of her relationship that contributed to high-risk activities.

This conversation continued when Ben's test came back negative. Today, our case manager continues to work with Emily and her family. We continue assisting with their practical concerns and are helping to create a relationship that allows us to support and empower the couple to make better decisions around safer sex.



**Prevention is Support**

# Faces

## The youth participants of Project Stitch

At the table, a group of high school girls are finishing up their lunch before diving into a workshop on the art of podcasting. One could describe the group as being bright eyed, talkative and... well, normal high school girls. They are all here because they believe in the power that youth have in becoming educated and engaged on the topic of HIV/AIDS. The following dialogue ensued when asked about why they got involved with Project Stitch, and their experiences thus far.

Carol: "Project Stitch appeals to me because it's progressive, especially how it talks about harm reduction."

Jone: "The idea of Harm reduction is especially progressive for me, coming from a catholic school. It's nice to know that someone has options!"

Lisa (Project Stich Coordinator): "Sex a taboo subject. We need to change this so that people can start to listen!"

Krystal: "It's important for youth to be involved in fight against HIV/AIDS because HIV infection rates are rising in youth."

Cyndi: "Also, it's easier to make a difference with youth... youth are our future!"

Krystal: "Talking about safer sex and HIV/AIDS is important because one needs to quash the misconceptions. People really don't know about it. It's stuff that everyone should know!"

Jone: "It's all about who teaches about safer sex and HIV/AIDS... to hear an open-minded approach is very enlightening."



Working with freelance journalist Teresa Geoff (far right) during a pod-casting session.



(Left-Right) Cindy He, Joan Mendoza, Krista Caldwell, Carol Kwon and Snowy Liu.

“Talking about safer sex and HIV/AIDS is important because one needs to quash the misconceptions. People really don’t know about it. It’s stuff that everyone should know!”

**-Krystal**



## World AIDS Day 2006: It's still a big deal in our community...

### William Booth, Executive Director

After an absence in recent years, AV's Red Ribbon Campaign reestablished this universal symbol in the community. The Governor General posted a letter of support on her website, while Premier Gordon Campbell stated that "the Red Ribbon is a global symbol for solidarity with people infected with HIV/AIDS and it unites everyone in the common fight against the disease". This was a sentiment shared across a broad political spectrum leading up to World AIDS Day in support of AV's campaign. More than 15 local, regional and national political leaders endorsed this year's Red Ribbon Campaign.

The Mayor and Council Members wore Red Ribbon sashes; giant Red Ribbons hung from Dr Peter Center and other locations, from trees and light posts throughout parts of the city and appeared in publications. BC Fashion Week in solidarity and partnership included the Red Ribbon and AV logo in all their print materials. A survey following December suggested that the campaign indeed acted to raise awareness about the red ribbon and HIV/AIDS among media and individuals.



Large red ribbons adorn the trees outside the Vancouver Art Gallery ahead of World's AIDS Day, tomorrow.

### AIDS advocates use larger ribbons

AIDS advocates hope their new larger red-ribbon campaign will help stem society's decreasing awareness of the disease.

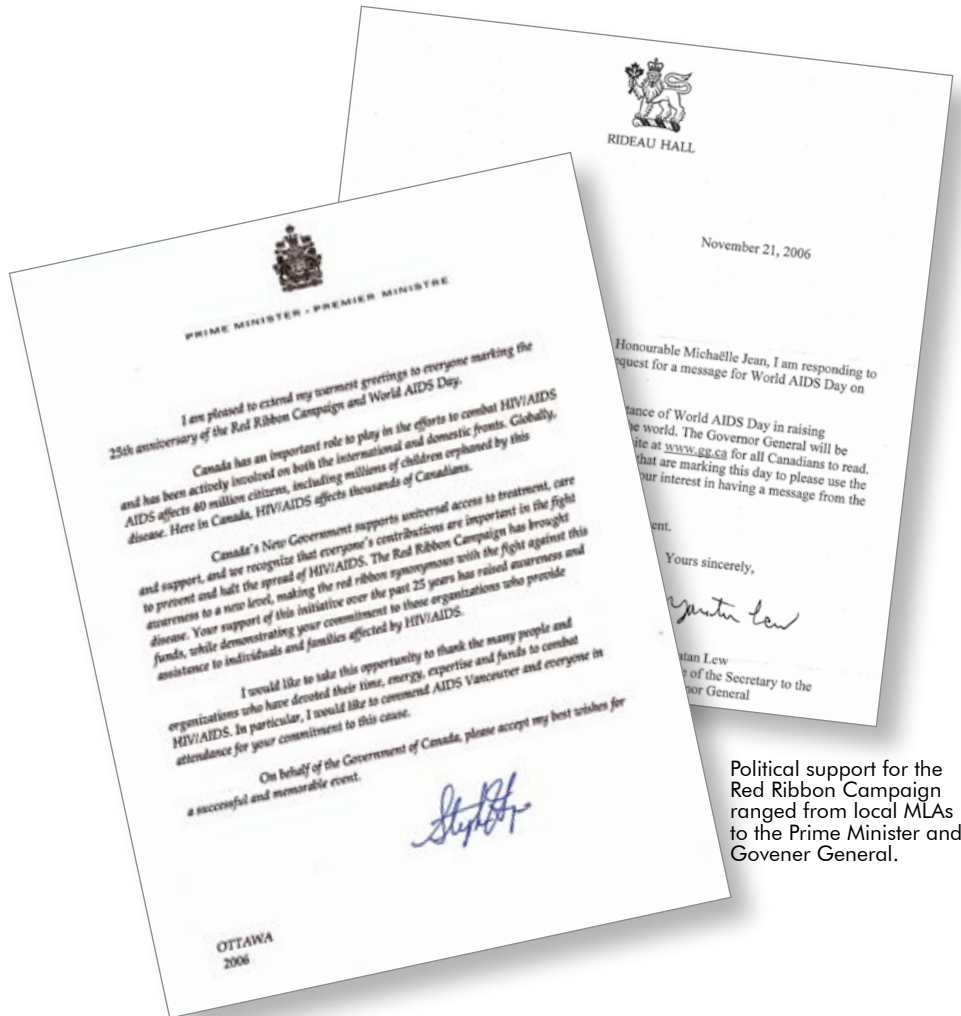
About 500 red ribbons, which are approximately one metre long, have been strung up along high traffic areas in Downtown Vancouver, said Steve Rodrozen, spokesman for the Red Rib-

bon Campaign. "The entire theme is, 'It's still a big deal in the community,'" Rodrozen said.

The campaign, which also includes putting ribbons on some buildings, like the Xtra West building on Davie Street, hopes to increase the number of ribbons to 1,000 by tomorrow, World AIDS Day.

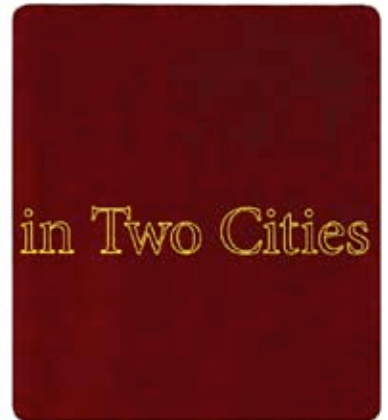
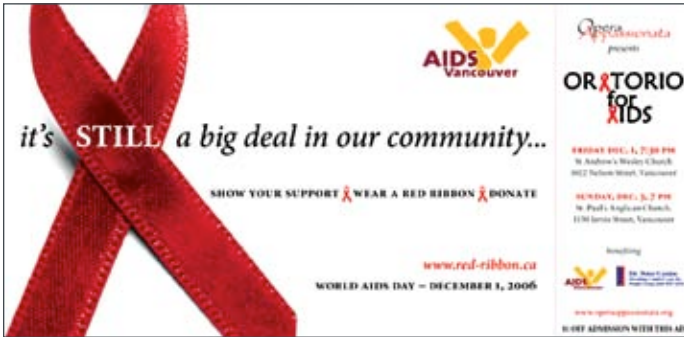
METRO VANCOUVER

Article from November 30th, 2006 issue of The Metro Newspaper.



Political support for the Red Ribbon Campaign ranged from local MLAs to the Prime Minister and Governor General.





Photos by Pieter de Vos

## 2006 World AIDS Day Event Highlights

- Gala Launch at City Hall: Attended by community leaders, health workers, media and the community at large, this event hosted the high profile PANOS “AIDS in two Cities” exhibit which provided visual comparison between AIDS in Port au Prince, Haiti and Vancouver, BC. The exhibit was later moved to Waterfront Station, thanks to the support of Cadillac Fairview Real Estate, where it made an impact on commuters and transit-riders for 10 additional days.
- Project Stitch Multimedia Youth Event at the Croatian Cultural Center: See “Project Stitch” below for more details.
- “Oratorio for AIDS” Opera Fundraiser: Opera Appassionata generously held three opera fundraisers, with proceeds benefitting AIDS Vancouver and the Dr. Peter Center. These concerts were a meaningful way for artists to help make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Some of the finest vocalists in Vancouver were accompanied in turn by piano and organ in the unforgettable acoustics of St. Andrew’s-Wesley United Church and St. Paul’s Anglican Church.



MLA Jack Layton.



(Left-Right) Counsellor Elizabeth Ball, Steve Bauer and MLA Gregor Robertson



(Left-Right) Counsellor Tim Stephenson, Irene Goldstone (BC Center for Excellence) and Joanne Farr (McLaren Housing)



Event onlookers admire the displays.



# Act



**Lisa Stephenson, Project Stitch Coordinator**

## 2006 Marked the Launch of Project Stitch

With the support of local youth and partners like Vancouver Coastal Health and YouthCO, AIDS Vancouver developed and launched our successful youth focused HIV/AIDS awareness project. This project empowers youth to become informed about HIV/AIDS by providing an interactive forum for self expression and creativity.

We are eager to build on the successes of last year and establish Project Stitch as the tool of choice for those seeking an innovative take on youth-focused HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Thank you for your support!



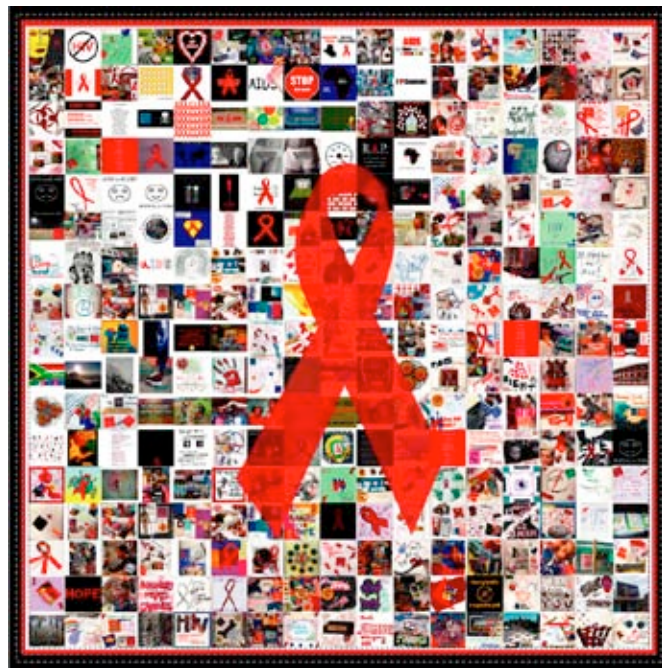
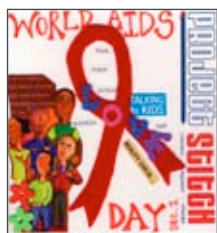
Joan (L) and Carol (R) taking podcasting to the streets of downtown Vancouver.

### First-Year Successes Include:

- Hosting an interactive multi-media World AIDS Day event: drawing a crowd of over 350 young people for music, art and information.
- Beginning to stitch the first ever digital quilt! So far there are 300 quilt pieces by local and international youth, which continues to expand today.
- Increasing media attention for AIDS Vancouver and World AIDS Day: Generated over \$40,000 worth of advertising through print, radio and television sources.
- 130 educational workshops, reaching over 4000 local youth.
- Launching ProjectStitch.com: which now hosts 140 online members with user profiles.
- Expanding our volunteer base and strengthening our connection to the youth community.
- New partnership opportunities with organizations such as the Steve Nash Foundation, YOUTHINK, and the MAC AIDS Foundation.

## More About the Digital Quilt

The Digital Quilt is a collaborative multi-media collage of art work created by local and international youths. Individual quilt pieces were created in a variety of mediums and 'stitched' together to form a digital quilt. This large-scale multimedia collage expresses youth experience and understanding of the impact of HIV. While paying homage to the Names Project quilt, The Digital Quilt incorporates the digital experience familiar to today's youth and hopefully, like its predecessor, will grow into a legacy installation that raises issues relating to HIV/AIDS in a creative and interactive way.



Left-Right: Lisa Stephenson, William Booth, Steve Nash and Joanne Nash. The Steve Nash Foundation is a proud supporter of Project Stitch.



## Gayway: Gay is Good!

**Zdenky Burkhardt, Educator**

The previous year offered Gayway many exciting opportunities. We not only held our regular social clubs, workshops and discussion groups, but also prepared for a move into a new larger space where everything promises to be bigger, better and more beautiful!

Gayway provides supportive environments that encourage gay men to share knowledge, friendship, experience and other resources with each other. This sharing helps contribute to healthier gay men and healthier gay communities, including a reduction in HIV transmission and longer better living for men with HIV.

We hosted regular groups such as the highly successful Club 40/50, the Knitting Club, Young and Fabulous, Committed Couples and launched new groups such as the New-Comers Group (formerly GNU). We held writing workshops, book clubs, speed dating events and more! Our team of staff and volunteers also pulled together an award winning Pride Day 2006 entry. Picture it: two giant caterpillars and an enormous pink Gaylien.

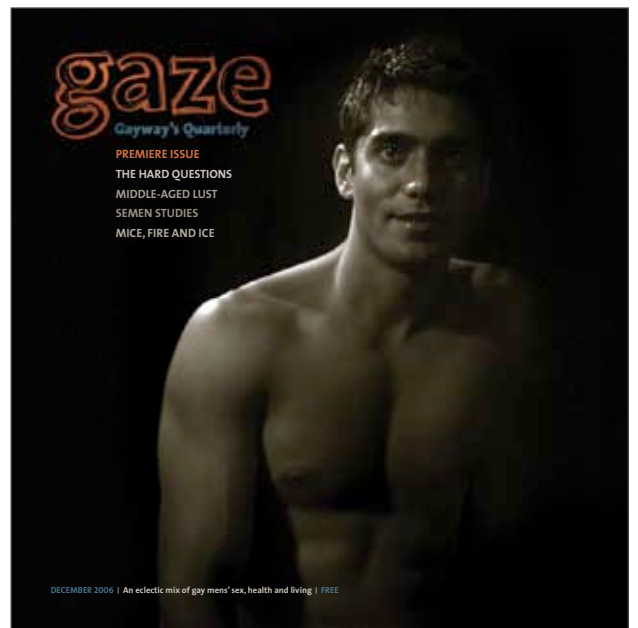
It was a busy year ending with packed boxes and moving vans and a bitter sweet good bye to the little hole in the wall that was Gayway's first office. But what opportunity and excitement our new space will bring! Facing forward!



Gayway shows its shiny happy colours at Pride 2006!



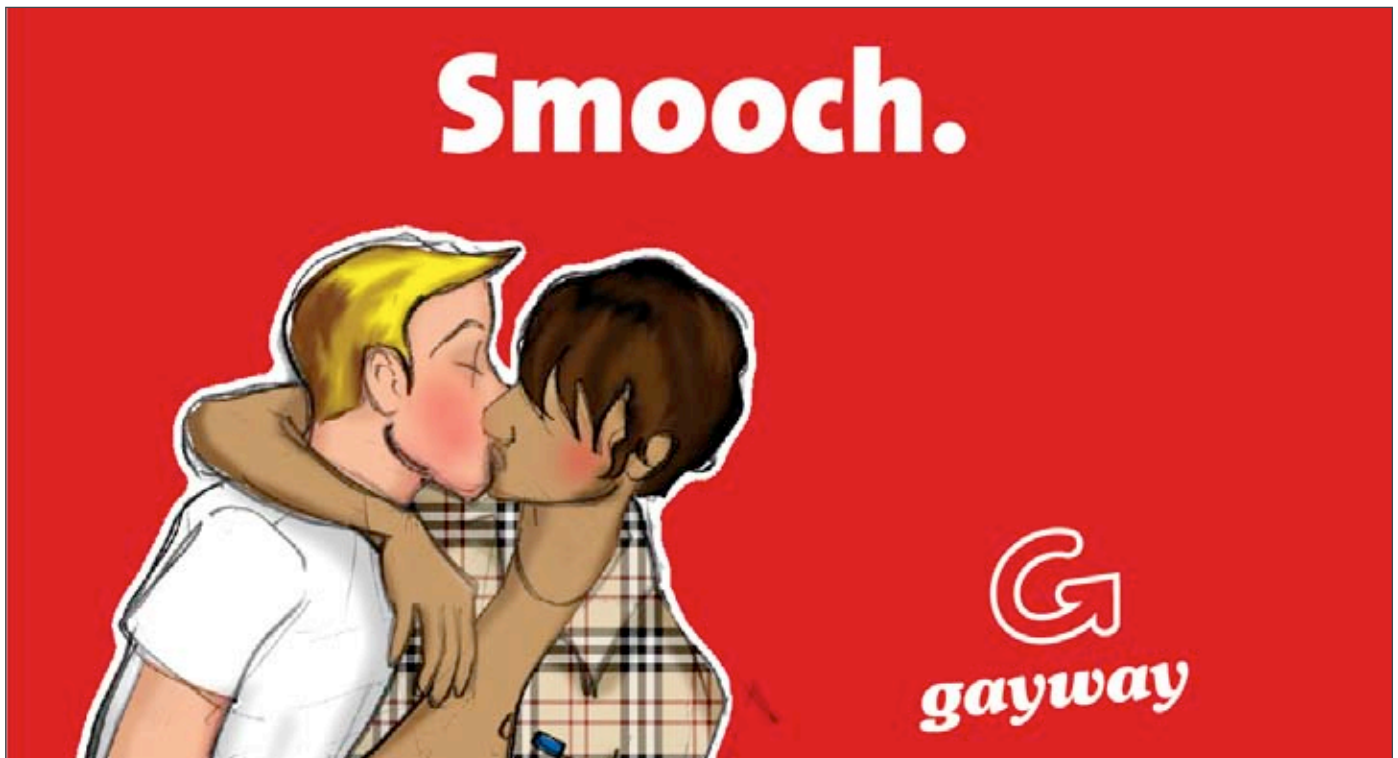
One of several versions of our Get Tested campaign.



The premiere issue of the relaunched Gaze.

## This year, Gayway delivered:

- The relaunch of Gaze, Gayway's fab quarterly magazine about health, sex, and living, in a sexy new format.
- Our eye-catching 'Get tested' and 'Smooch' awareness campaigns
- A Stanley Park condom clean-up and sidewalk outreach
- Partnering with the Community Based Research Centre to produce the gay men's health summit and Totally Outright – a young gay men's sexual health leadership training.
- New crystal meth related harm reduction resources and peer led support groups in partnership with the Gay Men's Crystal Methamphetamine Working Group (GAMMA).
- Presentations at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto and the Gay Men's Health Summit
- Production support on Craig Barron's play "Men Like Trees," and much more!



The eye-catching Smooch campaign.



# Act



## Strength in Unity

Arthur Yee, Communication Assistant

### Why AIDS Vancouver is Undergoing a Rebranding

Every week, there is at least one person who asks me what it is that a communication professional does. To me, it's all about informing people. A communication specialist ensures that staff, stakeholders and the general public understand why an organization exists, how it creates change in the world, and why that's important.

Every email, media article, webpage and letter created about AIDS Vancouver influences how our organization is perceived. Effective communication, facilitated by a strong brand and equally developed communication infrastructure, is important in creating a positive relationship with our funders, the people we serve, and the community at large.

The expertise of the "Coastline Communications" design team, plus an extensive amount of research, consultation and creativity has gone into the crafting of our new visual identity. Through its clean, vibrant look and impactful messaging, our brand is one that confidently reflects our maturity, innovation and vision of becoming a global center of excellence for HIV/AIDS. Perhaps more importantly, building a cohesive identity through our branding reinforces the fact that all of us are involved with AV for a single purpose. We are here to contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS and serve those affected by it. By communicating this unifying principle, we give our individual messages authority and strengthen AV as a whole.

# Client Profile

**Heather Hoiness,  
Case Management Supervisor**

Curt fell on hard times when he had to stop working due to his failing health. In addition to complications related to immune suppression, he was experiencing a major depressive episode. With no savings, he approached the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. They told him he needed to do a three-week job search before he could apply. However, Curt wasn't informed that he could be exempted from this stipulation because of emergency needs, even though he let them know that had no money for food or rent. He was, instead, directed to a homeless shelter. Sadly, he did end up losing his home and moved into in a shelter. When he eventually met with a case manager, she informed him of his rights and worked with him to get access to income assistance, though the delays had already wreaked havoc with his life.

Stories like Curt's show the need for advocacy to address the systemic barriers facing people living with HIV/AIDS. Our Case Management team recognizes that to best serve our clients, it is essential to act in coalition with other groups. An example of this work was our participation with the B.C. Public Interest Advocacy Centre in drafting a complaint to B.C.'s Ombudsman: "Exposing the Barriers: Administrative Unfairness at the Ministry of Human Resources".

The complaint resulted in changes in the way the Ministry administers its programs, including income assistance. The changes that we've seen this year mean what happened to Curt should not happen to future clients. The complaint can be read in full at [www.bcpiac.com](http://www.bcpiac.com) and to see the Ombudsman's response go to [www.ombudsman.bc.ca](http://www.ombudsman.bc.ca).

Names have been altered to respect client confidentiality. See p.24 for more on Case Management.



# Faces

## Barry & Samantha, Counselling Program

Barry learned of his positive status in the mid nineties. He and Samantha started seeing each other three years ago, but have since parted ways. They were in what is called a “sero-discordant relationship,” where one partner is HIV positive, and the other negative.

The two of them sit at a west-end café as the mid-day sun dances on the floor beside them. This was the first time they had seen each other in a long time. Their experiences together from a few years ago are still somewhat emotionally charged, with Samantha reaching up to occasionally dry her eyes.

Barry: “One of Sam’s friends is HIV+ and connected us with Sonia at AIDS Vancouver. Sam began accessing their Counseling Program services a year and a half into our relationship. Just walking through those doors, you felt completely embraced. The people were very genuine and non-judgemental. We especially remember Ian Benner at reception.”

Sam: “I was in counseling for a year. This was my first experience, and Dr. Keith (who volunteered his time) was very kind. He helped me clarify a lot of things and enabled me to put words to my feelings. I normally wouldn’t have been able to afford this.”

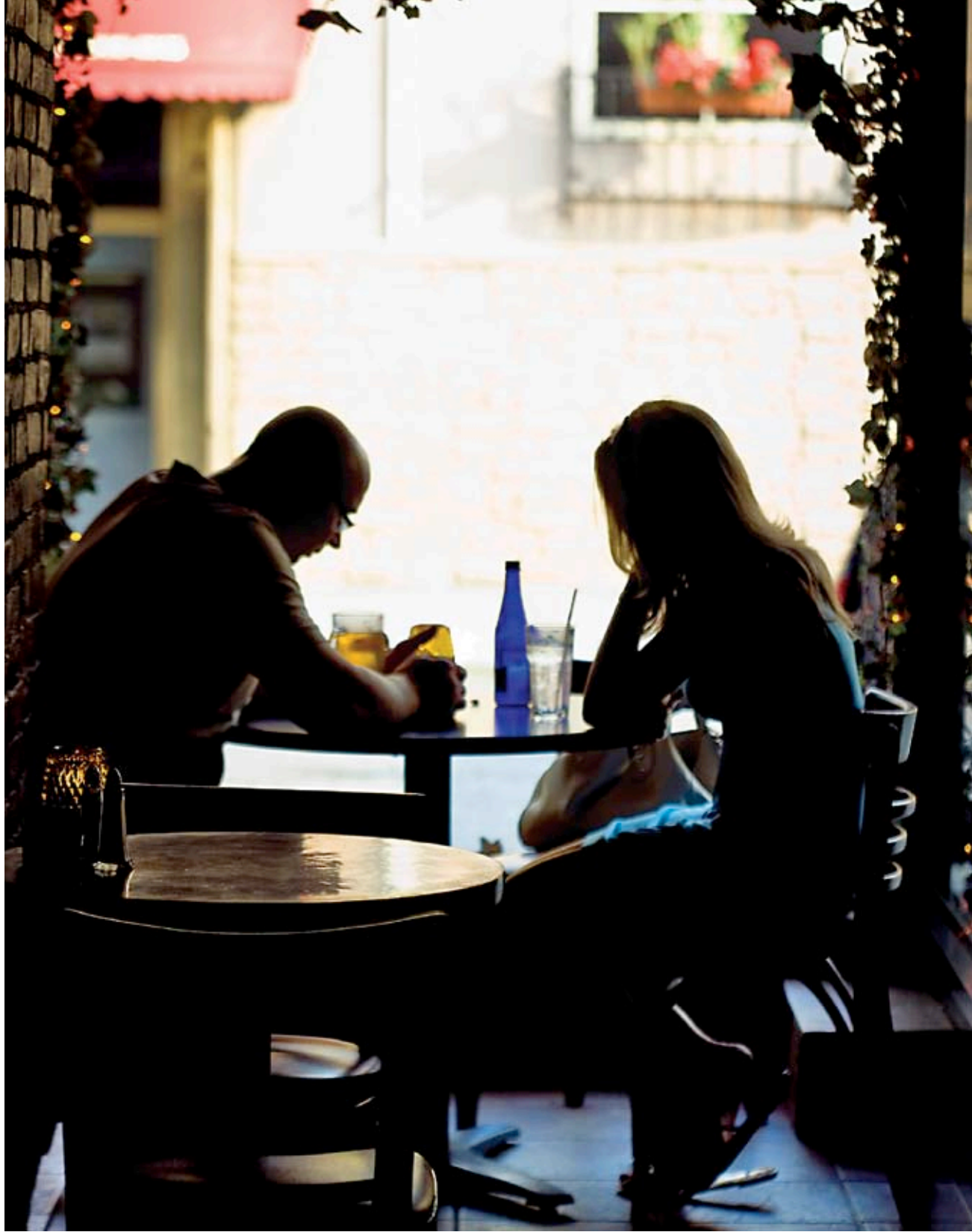
On HIV/AIDS and AV:

Sam: “It’s all about responsibility. When you have the education, you have the responsibility to make the right decision, not only for yourself but because it affects others too.”

Barry: “I thought AV’s safer sex posters were very dynamic and eye catching. That program is very important, especially since youth today seem to be disregarding the importance of safer sex.”

Sam: “Barry still occasionally works with AV through Sonia, and we both are donors.”





Names have been altered to respect client confidentiality.

“Just walking through those doors, you felt completely embraced. The people were very genuine and non-judgemental. ”

**-Barry**

## Volunteer Resources

**Parm Poonia, Manager for Volunteer Resources**

When there are new volunteer opportunities at AIDS Vancouver, it's a sign that our services are growing to meet new challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition to our signature service areas, our volunteers engaged in new and innovative initiatives such as Project Stitch and Gamma.

### Project Stitch

Volunteers helped engage fellow youth and community participants in increasing awareness and taking action in preventing HIV infection, culminating in a celebration at World AIDS Day 2007. The event was charged with youth energy, peer support and creative ways to address HIV/AIDS both locally and globally.

### Gamma

Our Volunteers received this year's X-West award for making a difference in community by providing peer leadership, outreach, information, and support to gay men living with and recovering from Crystal Meth use.

We also reviewed, re-vamped and redeveloped our Volunteer and Staff Orientation and Education curriculum to better reflect current the issues, complexities and realities of working in the HIV/AIDS community. This training helps enhance the experience and contribution that our volunteers, staff and Board of Directors can make while at AIDS Vancouver.



Gayway volunteer Juan Camacho (left) shares a moment with Parm.

## Volunteer Resources Highlights

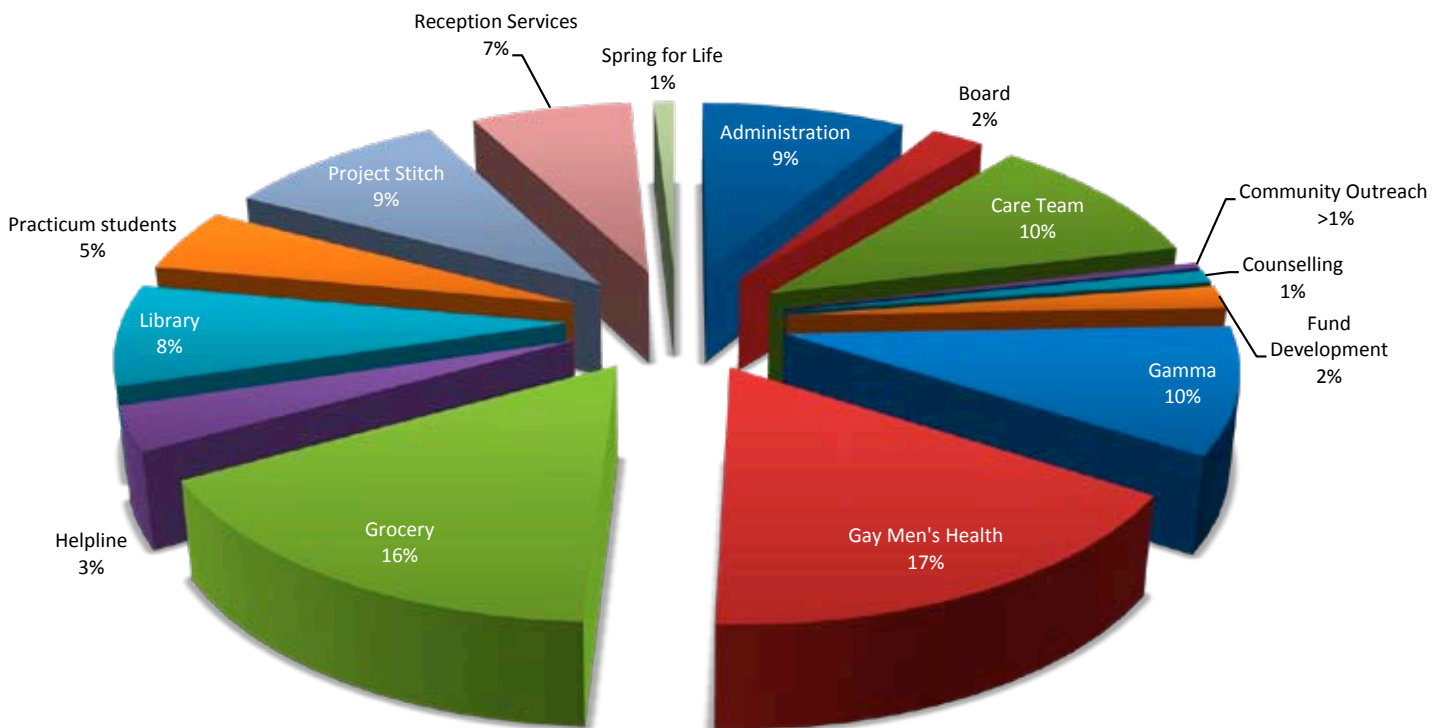
- Attending the 2006 International AIDS Conference in Toronto.
- Hosting local, national and international practicum students within the areas of Prevention, Client Services and Administration.
- Facilitating workshops on Volunteer Program Management and Community Development (Topics included: Volunteer-Staff Relations, Volunteer Motivation and Retention Strategies and Evaluation)
- Sustained an interactive Forum with Volunteer Coordinators to discuss and plan volunteer-based issues and activities.
- Hosting our second annual VISIT Learning Day for Volunteers as well as several successful volunteer recognition events and parties.



Longtime volunteer May McQueen (left) and friend.

# Total Volunteer Hours for 2006

21,000 volunteer hours X \$18.00 per hour  
= \$378,000 dollar value of volunteer time



## Case Management

Heather Hoiness, Case Management Supervisor

Our case managers worked with 1288 distinct clients and their families this year. Clients range from being toddlers to senior citizens, encompassing a diverse cross-section of Canadian society. Each individual comes to us with a unique story and unique needs. It is our job to help access the support they want and need, and to encourage an increase and maintenance in their health. As you've seen with the case management client stories throughout this report, every interaction with a client embodies AIDS Vancouver's motto: Prevent, Act, Support.

### Client Breakdown:

- 68% of our clients are male, with 38% of them being between the ages of 40 and 49.
- Of our 190 new intakes: 1% are transgendered, 24% female and 75% male.



(Left-Right) Our Case Management team including: Sheila Biddiscombe, Vicki Bright, Sonia Marino, Denise Woodley and Heather Cholack

## Towards Aboriginal Health and Healing (TAHAH)

It is well established that rates of infection and disease progression disproportionately affect aboriginal people in Canada. Reaching highly marginalized, street-dwelling native peoples in the Downtown Eastside (those who most need, but cannot access consistent medical care) requires a highly targeted, culturally-appropriate approach. Vancouver Native Health developed the TAHAH program and research initiative to meet this need and collect valuable research data.

The TAHAH connects community workers with a nurse and social worker to serve the most vulnerable and hard to reach. Recognizing that AIDS Vancouver case management can provide valuable expertise in social work practice, the two agencies forged a partnership to deliver this program together.

# Support Programs

Sonia Marino, Support Programs Supervisor

## The Grocery Program

This program distributes supplemental groceries to individual clients and their dependents. For the last two decades, the Grocery has remained one of AIDS Vancouver's most utilized programs, serving clients at six different locations in the Lower Mainland. Last year alone, the grocery provided 24, 879 bags to 1,339 individual clients and their dependents. At December's annual 'Holiday Grocery', we supplied seasonal groceries and children's toys to over 884 individuals and their families. The grocery aims to meet the specific nutritional needs that face our HIV positive patrons, providing products not normally available at other community food programs (including fresh dairy, eggs and produce!). Many clients have taken the time to let us know how the grocery has impacted their lives. One particular client stands out in my mind:

Each week Gordon walks in to the Grocery with the biggest smile, and the most amazing outlook on life. He is always cracking jokes and remembers all the staff and volunteers by first name. He says that he loves the Grocery's "shopping-bag" approach, providing patrons with a store-like setting where they can self-select the food needed for that week.

## Nutrition Education Exchange Program

Funded by a grant from the United Way of the Lower Mainland, this project was lead by Kelly Spec, a UBC dietetics student, with assistance from SFU Kinesiology student Reza Ghannadan. Grocery patrons were invited to participate in skill-building activities and games, exchanged ideas for the weekly newsletter and enjoyed free food samples. At the 6-month mark, the participation rate was 60% or higher, with 65% of Grocery patrons reporting that their nutritional health knowledge and capacity had improved as a result of the program.



Gabrielle (left) and Willow (right) display some of the fresh groceries we offer to clients.



Our "shopping-bag" approach provides a store-like setting for our clients.



# Support

## The Care Team Program

The Care Team Program provides companionship and practical assistance to clients to enhance quality of their lives and capacity to live independently. What really stood out for me this past year was how much the nature of the work has changed over the years. At the beginning of the Care Team Program in 1993, our typical client was a Gay White Male at end-of life with a focus on providing comfort measures and personal care. In 2006-2007, Care Team volunteers continued providing companionship and practical assistance, but the client could just as easily have been a single mom or a refugee from an endemic country, who simply needed child-minding services.

I'd like to extend a very big thank you to community nurse Nash Dhalla and therapist John Dube. They both generously offered their time and expertise to co-facilitate volunteer trainings that enabled us to adapt to these changing client demographics and needs.

## Care Team Story

Last summer, a gay man called the Access office with an urgent request for practical assistance to his ex-partner, Jeff. Jeff, living with advanced illness and dementia, was home-bound in his apartment, but very reluctant to accept any outside help. With Jeff's primary caregiver about to collapse from utter exhaustion, a Care Team volunteer saw the need to accept the challenge. During the first couple of home visits, there were a lot of awkward silences for our volunteer Lindsay, as she busied herself with meal preparation. Before long, however, Jeff and Lindsay became friends (who can resist a little TLC?) and they continued to work together for several weeks to enhance Jeff's quality of life.



## Financial Assistance Fund

The Financial Assistance Fund provide limited, short-term financial assistance available to individuals facing extraordinary medical or housing-related needs. Thanks to the immeasurable support of caring individuals in the community, in 2006-2007, our Financial Assistance Fund was able to distribute \$34,666 in short-term assistance to over 200 low-income clients facing extraordinary medical, legal or housing-related needs. A small sample would include Shawn, who needed \$70 to help with the cost of a telephone hook-up and a yearly transit pass to access medical care. There was also Oliver, who was in urgent need of \$50 to fill a prescription, but couldn't yet qualify for provincial medical coverage. There was also Jenny, who received \$250 towards moving costs when the property she was renting was suddenly sold. It is our fervent hope that we will soon be able to expand this program to assist more clients in their efforts to avert financial crisis and to prevent illness progression.

Knowing that our support programs are making a difference in many lives is the reason I do what I do. I look forward to facing the changes and successes next year will bring.

# Client Profile

**Heather Hoiness,  
Case Management Supervisor**

Ben has been a client of AIDS Vancouver since 2002. He was living with his wife and two children in sub-standard housing in East Vancouver and in recovery for addiction with declining health. With the end of his relationship, Ben found himself searching for a home and relapsing in his addiction. With limited income and an urgent need for housing, Ben rented the only accommodation typically available to our clients: a single room occupancy hotel room in the Downtown Eastside.

This living situation was particularly problematic for Ben who is a loving parent who wanted to continue sharing the joys and responsibilities of parenting. His case manager began finding subsidized housing for Ben, where he and his children would be safe to stay.

A trusting relationship developed and Ben began to open up about other issues in his life, including the trauma that led him to seek refuge in Canada over twenty years ago. He also divulged that he was not a citizen because of a criminal record stemming from his addiction: a keen source of shame and fear for Ben.

Ben, with the help of his case manager, began the process of overcoming his past by attaining permanent residency and then a citizenship. With his case manager, Ben continues to navigate through complex bureaucracies and address his addiction and trauma issues. Today, Ben has a safe, affordable place to live where his children can spend the night and where he can take care of his health. He knows that AIDS Vancouver is here to help him and together with his case manager, he has begun the journey of healing wounds that he has not been able to face for decades.



Names have been altered to respect client confidentiality.

## Support is action

# Faces

## Joe Kleiboer, Outgoing Treasurer of Board

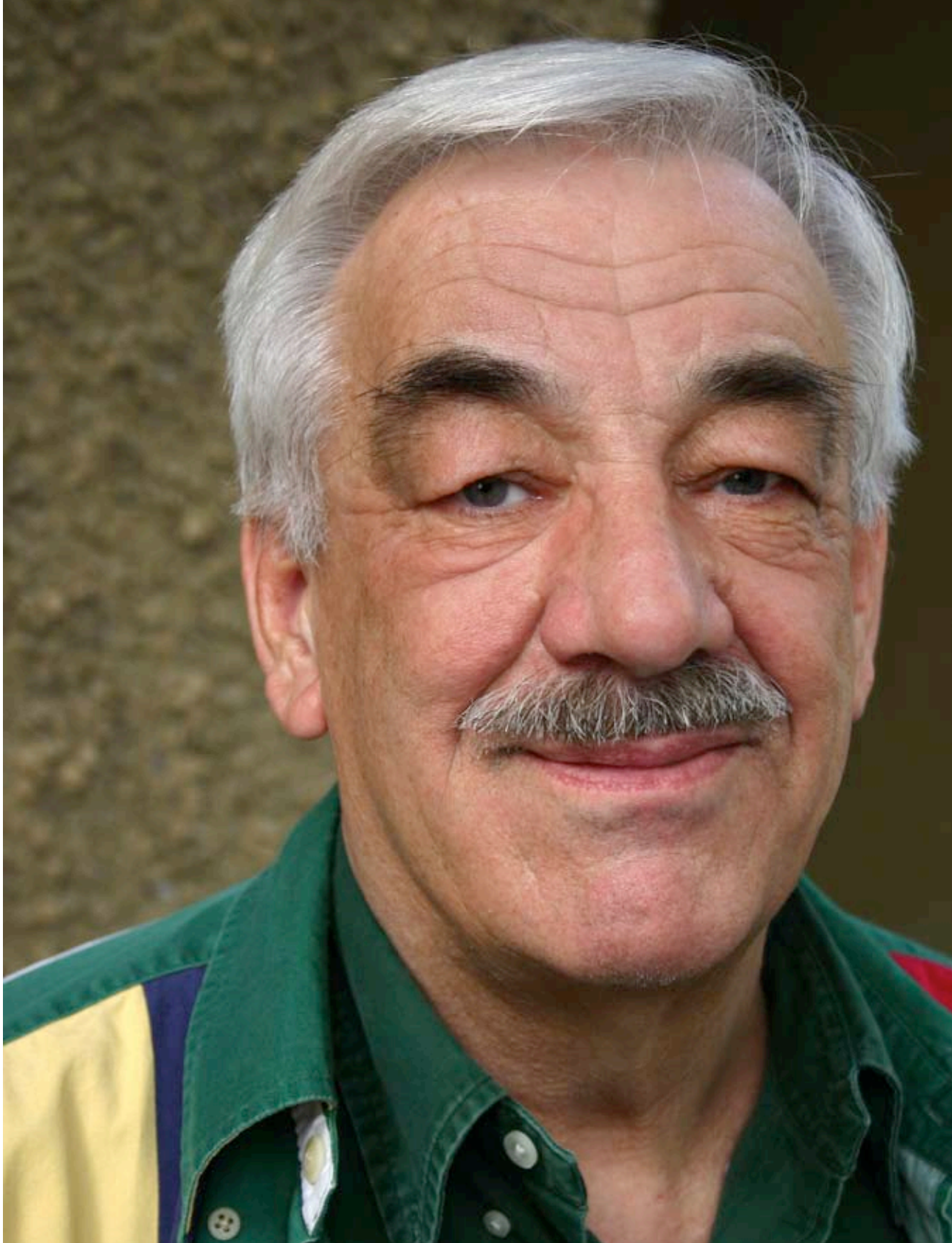
If one could describe their first impression of Joe Kleiboer, it would be that he is an articulate and well-spoken gentleman with a very deep love for opera (especially Wagner).

Joe discovered his positive status in 2002 and has been involved with AIDS Vancouver since 2003 as our Board of Director's Treasurer. Using his credentials of Certified Accountant, Joe has provided crucial support to both the agency and to clients with tax returns and other financial issues.

To him, some of the most rewarding aspects of working with AIDS Vancouver include being able to contribute to a cause that is neglected by the system and becoming familiar with the many different aspects of living with HIV.

He fondly remembers his work with Jaime Myrah and the Board, and urges people (especially youth) to be informed about HIV and safer sex!





“Despite ever-increasing demand for AV’s services, funding has not been able to increase accordingly. It’s been hard on the organization.”

**-Joe**

# Donor Report

**Thank you for your support. Without it, there is no AIDS Vancouver.**



Miranda Compton (far left) receives a generous \$10,000 donation from Theatre Cares.



Sonia Marino (left) and Jamie Myrah (right) receive a donation for the Nutrition Education Program.

## Gifts In-Kind

Gary Anderson  
The Georgia Straight  
Escentis Body products Inc.  
The Georgia Straight  
Sequoia T. Lundy  
Pink Triangle Press  
Stepho's Souvlaki Greek Taverna  
Paul Klein

## Foundations, Companies and Organizations

### Over \$25,000

MAC AIDS Fund

### Over \$20,000

United Way of the Lower Mainland

### Over \$10,000

Theatre Cares

### Over \$5,000

Estate of Randy Stephen Leppington

RBC Foundation

### Over \$1,000

Tides Canada Foundation

Shain Jaffe

Marnie Ross

IBM Employees' Charitable Fund

Tides Canada Foundation

SkiOUT

CP Charitable Trust One

Phyllis A. Langley

Edgar M. Sandulo

Davis & Company

BMO Fountain of Hope Employees  
Foundation

Sinclair Dental Co. Ltd.

Richard Sutherland

Phyllis A. Langley

Pacific Palisades Hotel

Motion Picture Studio Production Techni-  
cians

Kevin A. Doran

Dr. Don E. Pezzot Inc.

### Over \$500

Foundation Le Grand Circuit

Variety The Children's Charity

Catherine Henkel

Shaw Communications Inc.

Vancouver Pride Society

Merck Frosst Canada & Co.

Ron McLinton

Nicholas Dennys

Jacqueline Somerville

Issac Thau

Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.

Gallery Cafe and Catering

G.F.H. Enterprises Ltd.

Brian Olson

Angus One Professional Recruitment Ltd.

### Between \$100-\$500

150 generous donors

### Between \$50-\$100

88 generous donors

## Sustaining Donors

Alec Watson

Ann Beil

Barry J. DeVito

Body Energy Club

Carey Nasu

Carmen Gamboa

Charlie Louie

Derrin Cozart

Dick Snater

Doris Windrim

Heather Friesen

Hospital Employees' Union

Ina M. Roelants

Janice Shepherd

Jeffrey Mousseau

Kameleon Creative Solutions

Karen MacDonell

Kimberlee Lucy

Mark G. Torgerson

Melba Lapham

Nancy Armitage

Nancy Moro

Patrick Maxcy

Philip Cable

Richard Knowler

Risako Urakabe

Ron Richert

Ronald Strong

Steven Pecoraro

Susin Nielsen

Tetsuya Nakayama

Tony Hachey

William Wood

**Visit our website to learn  
how you can contribute.**



mahmoud virani inc  
chartered accountant

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Vancouver AIDS Society

I have audited the statement of financial position of Vancouver AIDS Society as at March 31 2007 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of this revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the books of the Society and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations and fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, financial position and net assets.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustment, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the donations and fundraising revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at March 31 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. As required by the Society Act of British Columbia, I report that, in my opinion, these principles have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

mahmoud virani inc  
chartered accountant  
Vancouver

July 4 2007

# Financials

## VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31		2007	2006
	notes	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current			
Cash - operating		120,146	289,683
- restricted	2	365,373	223,815
Short-term investments	2	29,406	28,112
Accounts receivable		24,233	21,627
Grants receivable		126,103	61,608
Prepaid expenses		34,850	23,718
		700,111	648,563
Capital assets	3	21,952	28,149
		722,063	676,712
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current			
Accounts payable and accruals		155,256	179,559
Severance and sick leave benefits payable	6	54,221	44,836
Deferred revenue	4	365,373	223,815
		574,850	448,210
Deferred contributions related to capital assets	8	6,650	9,975
<b>Net assets</b>			
Unrestricted		26,349	74,783
Internally restricted - Grocery Program	5	68,928	68,928
Internally restricted - Fund Development	5	23,334	46,667
Invested in capital assets		21,952	28,149
		140,563	218,527
		722,063	676,712

**VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY**

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

For the year ended March 31		2007	2006
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>notes</b>		
Grants - Federal		414,201	453,650
- Provincial		2,226,498	1,783,039
BC Gaming - direct access programme		100,000	100,000
Donations & fundraising		170,750	135,192
Recoveries		37,660	54,457
Memberships		625	575
Amortisation of deferred contributions related to capital assets	8	3,325	3,325
Bank interest & other		21,462	13,923
		<u>2,974,521</u>	<u>2,544,161</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Direct services		991,367	931,151
Training & outreach services		640,797	561,734
Fund development		95,135	108,394
Information services		334,045	274,126
Administration & finance		475,633	355,270
Community development		495,159	339,538
Amortisation of capital assets		20,349	17,685
		<u>3,052,485</u>	<u>2,587,898</u>
Excess/(Deficiency) of revenue over expenses		<u>(77,964)</u>	<u>(43,737)</u>

# Financials

## VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended March 31

		<u>Invested in</u> <u>capital assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Internally restricted</u>		<u>Total</u>
				<u>Grocery Program</u>	<u>Fund Development</u>	
2007	notes	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance beginning of year		28,149	74,783	68,928	46,667	218,527
Excess/(deficiency) of revenue over expenses		(20,349)	(57,615)	-	-	(77,964)
Transfer of net assets	5	-	23,333	-	(23,333)	-
Capital assets		14,152	(14,152)	-	-	-
Balance end of year		21,952	26,349	68,928	23,334	140,563
2006						
Balance beginning of year		33,336	90,000	68,928	70,000	262,264
Excess/(deficiency) of revenue over expenses		(17,685)	(26,052)	-	-	(43,737)
Transfer of net assets	5	-	23,333	-	(23,333)	-
Capital assets		12,498	(12,498)	-	-	-
Balance end of year		28,149	74,783	68,928	46,667	218,527

**VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY**

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

For the year ended March 31	2007	2006
	\$	\$
<b>Cash provided by operating activities</b>		
Excess/(deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(77,964)	(43,737)
Amortisation of capital assets	20,349	17,685
Amortisation of deferred contributions related to capital assets	(3,325)	(3,325)
	(60,940)	(29,377)
<b>Non-cash working capital items</b>		
Short term investments	(1,294)	23,477
Accounts receivable	(2,606)	(24,650)
Grants receivable	(64,495)	(39,358)
Prepaid expenses	(11,132)	(2,279)
Accounts payable and accruals	(24,303)	2,349
Severance and sick leave benefits payable	9,385	23,908
Deferred revenue	141,558	28,398
	(13,827)	(17,532)
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Deferred contributions relating to capital assets (net)	-	-
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(14,152)	(12,498)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash during the year	(27,979)	(30,030)
Cash beginning of year	513,498	543,528
Cash end of year	485,519	513,498

# Financials

## VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31 2007

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#### 1. Society operations

The Vancouver AIDS Society, operating as AIDS Vancouver, exists to alleviate individual and collective vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through support, public education and community based research. The Society was incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act.

#### 2. Accounting policies

##### Revenue recognition

The Society follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

##### Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost and amortised over the life of the asset. Computer equipment is amortised over 3 years on a straight line basis. Furniture & equipment is amortised over 5 years on a straight line basis. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the remaining term of the lease.

##### Restricted cash

Restricted cash represents cash and short term investments which have been segregated based upon external restrictions.

##### Contributed services and materials

Volunteers contributed in excess of 21,000 hours (2006 - 15,362) of their time during the year to assist the Society in carrying out its activities. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of such services and materials, the Society does not include the monetary value of these in its financial statements.

##### Short term investments

Investments are recorded at cost. The fair market value of the investment as at March 31 2007 was \$29,164.15

##### Financial instruments

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, short term investments and accounts payable and accruals. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying value because of their short term or immediate maturity.



## VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31 2007

#### 3. Capital assets

	Cost \$	Accumulated Amortisation \$	Net Book Value \$
<b>2007</b>			
Furniture and equipment	31,812	22,016	9,796
Computer equipment	194,968	182,812	12,156
Leasehold improvements	3,810	3,810	-
	<u>230,590</u>	<u>208,638</u>	<u>21,952</u>
<b>2006</b>			
Furniture and equipment	31,279	17,165	14,114
Computer equipment	181,349	167,314	14,035
Leasehold improvements	3,810	3,810	-
	<u>216,438</u>	<u>188,289</u>	<u>28,149</u>

#### 4. Deferred Revenue

The deferred revenue is made up of grants received which may only be used for the purpose of projects not yet completed. The balance in the account is made up as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Balance beginning of year	\$ 223,815	195,417
add: restricted funds received during the year	786,853	330,044
less: amounts utilised during the year	(645,295)	(301,646)
Balance end of year - see Schedule 1	<u>\$ 365,373</u>	<u>223,815</u>

#### 5. Internally restricted net assets

##### **Grocery Program**

The board of directors of the Society have resolved to establish an internal restriction of \$68,928 which is to be set aside for the specific use of the grocery fund. This amount has been transferred out of unrestricted net assets.

##### **Fund Development**

The Board of Directors of the Society established an internal restriction of \$70,000 in the year ended March 31 2005 for the specific use of the Fund Development program in support of salary costs. This amount has been transferred out of unrestricted net assets. A third of these funds were used in the current year.

# Financials

## VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31 2007

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#### 6. Severance and sick leave benefits payable

Under the terms of the Health Sciences Association Paramedical Professional Bargaining Association Collective Agreement, employees with ten years of service and having reached a certain age are entitled to receive special payments upon retirement. These payments are based upon accumulated sick leave credits and entitlements for each year of service.

The accumulated benefit obligation for severance benefits as at March 31 2007 is as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Severance benefits	\$ <u>54,221</u>	<u>44,836</u>

#### 7. Commitments

The Society has following lease commitments :

- office space at a monthly cost of \$5,679 from June 2002 through May 2008.
- office space at a monthly cost of \$2,358 to March 31 2008.
- office space at a monthly cost of \$12,582 to February 29 2012.
- sub lease of office space at a monthly cost of \$4,277 plus its share of operating costs. lease commences in October 2002 through September 2007.
- equipment leases at a monthly cost of \$647 to December 2008.
- equipment leases at a monthly cost of \$190 to January 2008.

#### 8. Deferred contributions related to capital assets

Deferred contributions related to capital assets consist of grants received that are restricted for the purpose of the purchase of capital assets. The balance in the account is made up as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 9,975	13,300
Less: Amounts amortised to revenue	<u>(3,325)</u>	<u>(3,325)</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>6,650</u>	<u>9,975</u>

#### 9. Comparative figures

Some of the comparative figures have been restated to conform to the current year's presentation.

**VANCOUVER AIDS SOCIETY**  
(Incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia)  
**SCHEDULE OF DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS**

For the year ended March 31

	Case Management	Euphoria/ GayWay	VCHA	VCHA Matrix	Keeping the Door Open	GaMMa	Nutritionist	Fund Development	Grocery	Safer Crack Use Coalition	VNHS-Case Management	Support Services	Boys R Us	ACAF	World AIDS Day	Total
<b>2007</b>																
Balance beginning of year	-	5,775	139,188	-	49,148	5,000	20,000	3,685	-	1,019	-	-	-	-	-	223,815
Funds received during the year	-	100,000	1,937,407	113,238	166,722	102,380	5,097	-	-	1,049	21,000	3,798	8,487	5,828	105,690	2,570,696
Funds utilised during the year	-	(100,251)	(1,923,031)	-	(163,579)	(107,380)	(25,097)	(3,685)	-	-	(9,883)	-	-	-	(96,252)	(2,429,138)
Balance end of year	-	5,524	153,564	113,238	52,291	-	-	-	-	2,068	11,137	3,798	8,487	5,828	9,438	365,373
<b>2006</b>																
Balance beginning of year	15,000	5,775	138,444	-	31,963	-	-	-	4,235	-	-	-	-	-	-	195,417
Funds received during the year	-	-	1,670,234	-	152,596	5,000	20,000	3,685	-	9,575	-	-	-	-	-	1,861,090
Funds utilised during the year	(15,000)	-	(1,669,490)	-	(135,411)	-	-	-	(4,235)	(8,556)	-	-	-	-	-	(1,832,692)
Balance end of year	-	5,775	139,188	-	49,148	5,000	20,000	3,685	-	1,019	-	-	-	-	-	223,815

# Prevent Act Support



## **Seymour Site**

1107 Seymour St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6B 5S8  
p: 604 893 2201  
f: 604 839 2205

## **Administrative Office**

200-2006 Maple St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6J 2B3  
p: 604 893 2201  
f: 604 893 2211

## **Gayway Site**

900 Helmcken St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1B3  
p: 604 682 3900  
f: 604 682 3988

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[contact@aidsvancouver.org](mailto:contact@aidsvancouver.org)