

Boston Living Center to Help Establish New HIV/AIDS Wellness Center in South Africa

The Boston Living Center has been selected as a model agency by South Africa Partners, a Boston-based organization whose mission is to establish strategic partnerships between the United States and South Africa. The BLC is providing technical assistance to build a new organization serving people with HIV/AIDS in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Boston Living Center's Executive Director Cathy Morales and Director of Member Services Michelle Nankin are visiting Port Elizabeth this week to provide on-site technical assistance and present the Living Center's programs and services to South African officials.

Two delegations from Port Elizabeth visited the Boston Living Center in October and November to participate in activities with BLC staff, members and the BLC Consumer Advisory Board.

The South African organizers first became interested in the BLC because of its unique approach to AIDS service delivery. The BLC relies on input from its members on programming and policymaking. Nomalanga Makwedini, health director of Eastern Cape Province in South Africa, said this is the model she hopes to reproduce in Africa.



Facilitating Partnerships between
the United States and South Africa
www.sapartners.org

"I'm tired of people speaking on behalf of People Living with HIV/AIDS," she commented during a meeting with BLC directors and South Africa Partners. "I want them to speak for themselves."

BLC members deeply enjoyed hosting the South African visitors and sharing information about BLC programs and their own personal successes and challenges. One member said, "I have been given so much in my life, it is an honor, and also an obligation, to help others." Everyone in the BLC community is looking forward to the new relationships formed and the progress of the new Center

This partnership is especially meaningful in conjunction with World AIDS Day, December 1. The theme of World AIDS Day this year is Stop AIDS; Keep the Promise – Accountability. The BLC / South Africa story has also attracted attention from CNN and Boston's own Liz Walker, host of the Sunday with Liz Walker show on CBS Channel 4.



Standing from L to R Tracy Thomas (S.Africa), Lester Payne (BLC CAB), Cathy Morales (BLC Executive Director), Rick Cooke (BLC CAB), Sophie Lewis (DPH), Paul Goulet (DPH), Nyameka Mafani (S.Africa), Thembi Ngumbane-Zungu (S.Africa), Seated L to R Liesel du Plessis (S.Africa), Linda Nombembe (S.Africa)

Upcoming Events

**BOSTON LIVING
CENTER PRESENTS**

*Living to
Dream Gala*

May 3, 2007
Back Bay Events Center

Boston Gay Men's Chorus
Benefit Concert
February 2007

Message from the Executive Director

As you read this, I am in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Health and social service ministers from South Africa traveled to Boston over the month of November to learn about the Boston Living Center. They are returning to Port Elizabeth to begin a Wellness Center for people living with HIV that is based on the Boston Living Center's wellness community model. You may have seen the story about it on CNN on December 1st, World AIDS Day. My trip to South Africa is to complete the process of providing technical assistance to those who are creating the Port Elizabeth Wellness Center, ensuring the successful beginning of this critically important resource for those living with HIV/AIDS. The Ministers from South Africa are so ex-



cited about the model, they are already talking about expanding to other sites. With the very high level of HIV infection in South Africa, virtually everyone in the country is affected. Strengthening the wellness of those living with HIV/AIDS is critically important in every country of the world. We are proud and privileged to serve as the model for South African Wellness Centers.

It is our continuing work with members from throughout Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire, and Rhode Island that gives us the vast experience from which to develop the expertise to create, develop, and share programs and

services that change lives, dramatically impacting the infected individual as well as all those affected—families and communities.

Please be as generous as you can. Your philanthropic support truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Cathy Morales
Executive Director

P.S. Every dollar you give goes directly to support those living with HIV/AIDS at the Boston Living Center. Our travel is paid by the South African groups working together to create this Wellness Center.

From the Chair of the Board

This letter was my speech, delivered at the Reception hosted for members of the Boston Living Center Cornerstone Society. The Cornerstone Society is composed of supporters of the Boston Living Center whose giving is \$1,000 or more. My hope in including it as my letter in this newsletter is two-fold: that it will encourage you to join this group of very important friends of the Living Center if your economic circumstances permit. It is also an expression of our gratitude to all of our supporters.



the more than 2,400 men and women who came to the Center this past year. Many of our services are desperately-needed basic services: Members are seeking food, assistance finding housing, and support in their lives so they can attain a measure of health they may have thought impossible. Your gift is a gift of life. It is truly as simple—and as powerful—as that.

I hope you know that our gratitude matches your generosity. All of the expressions of thanks we receive from our members for all that we do are thanks that we accept in your name. It is a pleasure to have you join us tonight, and I hope that the thanks of the members are ringing in your ears as you hear us say thank you.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Hernandez
Chair of the Board

Dear Friends,

I regret I cannot be with you this evening, and send my best wishes for a pleasant event.

It is a privilege to receive your exceptional support for the Boston Living Center. It is thanks to friends like you that we are able to provide services to

BOSTON LIVING CENTER

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Boston Living Center

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BOSTON LIVING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2006

BOSTON LIVING CENTER - STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ending June 30, 2006

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2006 Total	2005 Total
Revenues, gains and other support				
Contributions	\$ 79,946	\$	79,946	\$ 65,354
Contributed goods and services	185,029		185,029	79,900
Interest income	29,260		29,260	32,731
Special events	141,726		141,726	135,401
Contract revenue	1,306,989		1,306,989	1,104,149
Corporations and foundations	231,521		231,521	274,066
Rental income	136,960		136,960	133,210
Other income	13,660		13,660	40,806
Realized gain on investments	730		730	
Unrealized gain/(loss) on investments	(19,668)		(19,668)	14,996
	<u>2,106,150</u>	<u></u>	<u>2,106,150</u>	<u>1,880,613</u>
Total revenues, gains and other support				
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>70,000</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Total revenue, gains and other support	<u>2,176,150</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>2,176,150</u>	<u>1,880,613</u>
Expenses				
Program services	1,710,347		1,710,347	1,614,923
General and administration	414,585		414,585	232,483
Fundraising expense	218,941		218,941	171,330
	<u>2,343,873</u>	<u></u>	<u>2,343,873</u>	<u>2,018,736</u>
Total expenses				
Change in net assets	(167,723)	(70,000)	(237,723)	(138,123)
Net assets, beginning	<u>1,189,423</u>	<u>528,302</u>	<u>1,717,725</u>	<u>1,855,848</u>
Net assets, ending	<u>\$ 1,021,700</u>	<u>\$ 458,302</u>	<u>\$ 1,480,002</u>	<u>\$ 1,717,725</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Year Ending June 30, 2006

		% of Total
HIV/Peer Support Holistic Program	629,804	
Education and Training	76,361	
Congregate Meals Program	629,407	
Support Services	374,775	
	<u>1,710,347</u>	73%
General Administration	414,585	
Fundraising Expense	218,941	
	<u>403,813</u>	27%
FY 2006 Total	<u>2,343,873</u>	
FY 2005 Total	<u>2,117,235</u>	

BOSTON LIVING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2006

BOSTON LIVING CENTER - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2006

	2006	2005
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$51,188	\$71,647
Investments	749,133	778,290
Accounts and contract receivables	233,255	332,694
Unconditional promises to give	5,000	35,000
Prepaid expenses	43,701	67,413
Inventory	9,054	6,836
Deposits	1,569	1,569
Property and equipment, net	<u>664,825</u>	<u>526,814</u>
Total assets	<u><u>1,757,725</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,820,263</u></u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	114,750	\$44,324
Accrued expenses	70,078	43,173
Rent deposits	8,828	7,348
Deferred revenue		7,693
Line of credit	78,000	
Other liability	<u>6,067</u>	
Total liabilities	<u>227,723</u>	<u>102,538</u>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted net assets	1,021,700	1,189,423
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>458,302</u>	<u>528,302</u>
Total net assets	<u>1,480,002</u>	<u>1,717,725</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 1,757,725</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,820,263</u></u>

Boston Living Center welcomes New Board Members

Lori Stewart Coletti, Director of Client Services at ELAINE Construction Company, serves as Chair of the BLC's Real Estate Committee. Lori brings her knowledge honed over more than 20 years in the design and construction industry. She has volunteered with the BLC since 2004, and was key in the BLC's 2004-2005 renovation project when she was with Fox Relocation Management Company.


Bruce Silverlieb has owned and operated The Party Specialists, A Black Tie Catering, Linen and Event Planning Company for the past 24 years. He is a long-time supporter of the BLC, and has been exceptionally

generous especially in donating catering services. His first food delivery was to the BLC when it was located at the YWCA, and he has deeply cared about the BLC since those early days.

John Lawrence first came to the Center in 1990 as a volunteer at Reception, and later joined the BLC staff. He is now the Account Manager for Trilogy Apartments in the Fenway area. Mr. Lawrence brings many years of Living Center experience as well as a deep passion for the mission of the BLC to his work on the Board.

Mary Cardaras has been the Department Chair of Digital Media & Communications at The New Eng-

land Institute of Art in Brookline for 9 years. She is completing her doctorate at Northeastern University in international relations with a specialization in press and politics. Mary shares her expertise with the Board in communication and community relations.

Bob Hardman is a longtime editor (30 years) at the Boston Globe, where he has worked at many different desks. He was also a cofounder of Out magazine and has been on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Review in Boston. He is amazed by all that the Boston Living Center does and became an active supporter, lending his talents in journalism and public relations. 

BLC Photo Album September-December '06



Randy and Steven Goldberger and Bob Hardman at the Cornerstone Event in the home of Randy and Steven Goldberger



BLC Kids Halloween Party with BLC Volunteer as Tigger



SomoHo artists from South Africa teach recycled art projects to BLC members



BLC friends enjoying food and community at the "Celebration of Life" Thanksgiving Event

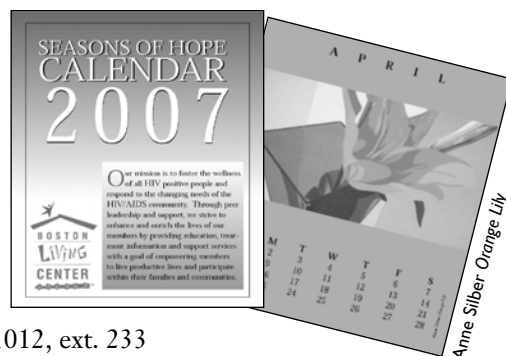
Announcing the BLC 2007 Seasons of Hope Calendar

We are delighted to feature the work of talented local artists in this 2007 Seasons of Hope Calendar.

The Seasons of Hope Calendar makes a great holiday gift! We hope it brings beauty into the life of your friends and loved ones, as your support brings beauty into someone's life at the Boston Living Center.

Calendars are automatically delivered to those who give \$100 or more. Calendars can also be purchased for \$10. You can order a calendar on our website: www.bostonlivingcenter.org.

Questions? Contact Kris Hormann, Development Director (617) 236-1012, ext. 233



¡A TU SALUD!

For Your Health! BLC in Latino AIDS Awareness and Services

In conjunction with the Latin American Health Institute, the Boston Living Center celebrated Binational Health Week in the annual Latino Health Fair Day celebration on October 7, 2006. To promote AIDS aware-

“There are a lot of very close friendships here at the center. My goal is to let the Latino community know that there is a place for them here too.”

-Celixia Rodriguez

ness and community outreach at the event, Boston Living Center’s Member Service coordinator, Celixia Rodriguez, joined local efforts towards AIDS awareness in the Latino Community.

In a 2006 report, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimated that roughly 1.2 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS in the United States and approximately 25% of those are unaware of their infection. Accord-

ing to CDC reports of 2004, Latinos are among the populations at the greatest risk of infection representing an estimated 20% of new HIV infections in the country.


“The obstacles facing the Latino community about AIDS awareness are largely due to the cultural stigma associated with the virus,” Ms. Rodriguez asserts. As a bilingual Spanish intake coordinator for the BLC, Ms. Rodriguez feels, “Education is the first step in empowering the Latino Community and addressing the misconceptions regarding transmission.”

With a myriad of Latino cultures in the country, a number of cultural, socioeconomic, and health-related factors contribute to the HIV epidemic in the Latino community. It is estimated that more than 1 in 5 Hispanics live in poverty and face various socioeconomic problems associated with poverty, including limited access to quality health care, lack of information about HIV/AIDS, and social isolation. These factors may increase the risk of exposure to the virus.



Celixia Rodriguez and Alfredo Hernandez representing the BLC at the Latino Health Fair Day.

Currently, the Boston Living Center offers programs designed for the Latino community including a weekly Spanish speaking support group, a weekly bilingual computer class and a monthly Latino Dinner.

For more information on Services and Programs for the Latino Community at the BLC contact Celixia Rodriguez, Members Services Coordinator (617) 236-1012 ext. 222 

Boston Living Center Active in World AIDS Day Events

19th Annual World AIDS Day to Memorialize and Educate

The theme for World AIDS Day, December 1 2006 was “Stop AIDS; Keep the Promise-Accountability.”

BLC members, staff, volunteers and board members were active all week with World AIDS Day activities

including serving on planning committees, speaking on panels, performing outreach, and hosting events.

Members, staff and volunteers participated in events at UMass Boston, Tufts AIDS Symposium, Boston College, Boston Medical Center, Medicine Wheel/Cyclorama, Speaking Our Truth, MIT, Emerson College, and Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MAC).

The Boston Living Center hosted our annual Memorial Ceremony to honor members who have passed on. The Meditation and Memorial Service

Continued on page 7



Three Needles, a film about the global AIDS epidemic, starring Stockard Channing, Olympia Dukakis, Sandra Oh, and Lucy Liu

BLC Member Profile

Leadership from within the Community

Mary, a native Bostonian, says the Boston Living Center changed her life through 13 years of membership. At a time when she struggled with substance abuse, an HIV diagnosis and homelessness, she was referred by a nurse to the Boston Living Center. Over the years, Mary has found health and well-being, and has become a dedicated and caring leader, sharing her compassion and skills with the BLC community and her family.


When she first arrived at the BLC, then Member Services Coordinator and now BLC's Chair of the Board of Directors Alfredo Hernandez, and other staff members greeted her with warmth, compassion and honesty. "They spoke openly about HIV and substance abuse and kept encouraging me toward health at a time when I really needed guidance."

Though there were not many women at the Living Center at that time, there was one women's support group through which she met HIV+ women moving forward with

"It feels good to know that I have accomplished this much in my life coming from a place where I have been and that I am moving forward in my life, continuing to grow and learn."

their lives. They were working, raising children, and taking care of their health. She stayed connected with these women because she wanted to learn how to live with the virus.

After some years of suffering with anger and self-destructive behaviors, Mary drew on the support of staff and other BLC members to firmly make the commitment to live and live well. She got sober, secured permanent housing, became a Certified Nursing Assistant, received certification in addictions counseling, and became employed as a health outreach worker.

Currently, she serves in an educational and outreach role by helping others in BLC's Education Programs. Over her 13 years of BLC membership, she has benefited from participation in the Meals Program, Women's Groups, Employment Counseling, CyberSpace computer classroom, Members' Meetings and the Long-Term Survivors Group. These programs helped her thrive in the work world, caring for her children and grandchildren, and serving as a role model in the community. 


AIDS Day

Continued from page 6

conducted by Rev. Bro. Bruce Baldwin and Rev. Judith Mannheim was held in the BLC library. Participants proceeded to the Medicine Wheel ceremony at the Cyclorama afterwards. This yearly ceremony helps keep memories of loved ones alive.

The Film Premiere of *Three Needles*, a film about the global AIDS pandemic, showed at the Brattle Theatre in Harvard Square to a full house on December 1 and 2 as a benefit for the Boston Living Center. On Saturday, a reception followed the film and included Q& A with *Three Needles* director, Thomas Fitzgerald and an auction of costumes and props from the film was also held.

Do you want to get involved with upcoming BLC events?

E-mail Nate Stell nstell@livingcenter.org and write "Updates" in the subject line. 

The Boston Living Center Extends our Gratitude to Corporate, Foundation, and Organization Gifts Received Since July 1, 2006

Bushrod Campbell and Adah F. Hall Charity Fund

Clipper Ship Foundation

IBM- World Community Grid

Jamie Pierce and Rick Cresswell Fund at the Boston Foundation

Old South Church

Until There's a Cure Foundation

(As of Press Time)

BLC Mission Statement

To foster the wellness of all HIV positive people and respond to the changing needs of the HIV/AIDS community. Through peer leadership and support, we strive to enhance and enrich the lives of our members by providing education, treatment information and support services with the goal of empowering members to live productive lives and participate within their families and communities.

"Helping People Live with HIV/AIDS"

BLC Wish List!

Please consider donating the following items. Would you like to spearhead a donation drive among your colleagues, friends, school or community of faith? Terrific! Contact Kris Hormann at khormann@livingcenter.org or 617.236.1012 x 233

For Living Center Operations



New Or Like New

- CD player** for the reception area (multiple disc);
- Stereo receiver** for the reception area;
- Server:** Intel Pentium processor 1 Ghz or higher; 1 GB RAM or higher; Windows server; 2 hard drives, more than 80 GB each; Embedded Raid; Network adapter; Modem and remote management (56 Kb); Tape Backup device; CD Rom; Floppy disk;
- Router:** Wireless or non-wireless networking routers;
- Monitors:** Flat Screen;
- Computers:** Pentium 4, Processor 1 GHz or higher, 520 MB SDRAM or higher, 40 GB Hard Drive or higher, DVD/ RW;
- Copiers;**
- Printers:** LaserJet/black and white or color;
- Scanners;**
- Wireless Notebook card;**
- Wireless microphone** for our Public Address system in the Dining Room;
- Computer soundcards, computer speakers & headphones** for Cyberspace computer lab.

For Living Center Activities

- Gift cards** to art supply stores (e.g., Pearl Art Supplies, Michael's, AC Moore);
- Blankets** for exercise/yoga;
- Beads** for art classes;
- Art supplies** of all kinds;



For Living Center Members

- Personal care items:** soap, toothpaste, dental floss, moisturizer, shampoo, conditioner, hair brushes/combs, tissues, lip balm, and shaving cream;
- Gift Cards for drug stores** (e.g., CVS, Walgreen's) for personal care items;
- Gift Cards for food** (e.g., Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King, etc.);
- Gift Cards for grocery stores** with locations in Boston (e.g., Shaw's, Stop & Shop);
- Phone cards;**
- MBTA passes** (for transportation to medical and other important appointments);
- TVs, DVD players, portable CD players** (for raffle items for member participation).



Mayor Menino greets BLC volunteers serving a festive meal at the annual BLC "Celebration of Life" Thanksgiving Event



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