

February 1, 2011

Cascade AIDS Project



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CASCADE AIDS PROJECT TURNED 25!

Anniversary kick-off event showcases archives that represent quarter century's work in fighting HIV and AIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, OR – On February 3, 2011, at 6pm, Cascade AIDS Project will begin the celebration of their 25th anniversary with an unveiling of “CAP Archives Grand Opening and Exhibit,” 25 years of fighting HIV and AIDS. The event will be held at PIVOT, 209 SW 4th Ave in downtown Portland. The Archive Project includes a sampling of CAP’S memorabilia: posters, program material, t-shirts - plus ephemera, and a new website that encapsulates CAP’s past. The event kicks off a month-long exhibition honoring 25 years of service to those within our community who are living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

During the past year, volunteers and staff have collected, catalogued, filmed, and packaged thousands of items and stories documenting the history of the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in Oregon. The archives themselves are divided into two components: physical artifacts and virtual (video and online).

The physical artifacts, which will be housed at CAP, consist of documents relating to CAP history, events, media articles, zines, photographs, safer-sex promotional items, and more. Many of these items are edgy in format and in-your-face on impact. “The early years of HIV and AIDS were years of fear as so many were lost to the disease,” said Jack Cox, an HIV Activist who has been living with HIV since October 1985. “It made us come together. It made us love each other. But it also drove us to anger.

The collection of materials represents all these emotions and begs this generation to get involved, know their status, and protect themselves.”

The virtual archives, which can be accessed at www.caparchives.org, consist of CAP’s 25 year timeline, scanned copies of remembrance books, and 31 video clips of oral histories. The timeline, both in its physical and virtual form, takes you through 25 years of CAP’s history and that of HIV in Oregon. The scanned selections of remembrance books contain handwritten entries with one of the most extensive lists of those who have died of AIDS in Oregon as well as messages from loved ones. The oral histories are stories shared by people with HIV, past employees, HIV activists, and community partners. Highlights of the interviews include: CAP’s inception; CAP’s grass-roots beginnings; questions regarding CAP’s notorious 1993 embezzlement crisis; “drug cocktails” and how they changed the face of HIV and CAP’s direction; challenges CAP faces now as HIV becomes less sexy in the media and “normalized” in the US.

Join CAP in celebrating 25 years of service and to view highlights of the archive collection by attending the Grand Opening from 6pm – 9pm on February 3rd. Light refreshments will be served. Scholars, researchers, and members of the general public may view the physical archive, in its entirety, by

contacting Judith Rizzio to make arrangements. www.caparchives.org will stand indefinitely. Ample opportunities for interviews for print and video will be available with both clients and staff.

About Cascade AIDS Project

Founded in 1983 and incorporated in 1985, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS related stigma.

With a staff of 50, and a volunteer corps that includes over 700 individuals providing 20,000 hours of service each year, CAP manages a diverse array of programs and an annual budget of \$4.6 million. Fifteen percent of CAP's staff are individuals living with HIV, 25% identify from communities of color, and 30% are bilingual. Our programs serve the broad and diverse set of communities impacted by HIV from community-specific programs focused on teens, Latinos, the gay community, individuals and families living with HIV, to the thousands of individuals throughout the state who seek education through our AIDS/STD hotline each year.

A committed 18-member volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and oversight to ensure CAP accomplishes its mission and continues to operate with integrity and transparency. www.cascadeaids.org.

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CAP ARCHIVES

GRAND OPENING & EXHIBIT

COME CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF CAP'S ARCHIVE.

[pivot] 209 SW 4th & Pine St.
Portland, Oregon

Thursday, February 3, 2011
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

* Website, artifacts, posters, and ephemera of 25 years of HIV service

Exhibit runs 2/3/11 to 2/25/11
* www.caparchives.org

The poster features a collage of historical photos and documents in the top right corner and a stack of old books in the bottom left corner.