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Photo and extended bio available upon request

Cascade AIDS Project Appoints New Executive Director

PORTLAND, OR (September 19, 2008) – **Michael Kaplan** has been named the new Executive Director of Cascade AIDS Project (CAP). He will officially begin his role on September 29, 2008.

Kaplan brings more than 16 years experience in non-profit management and 13 years implementing international and US-based HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support programs to his new role as Executive Director for Cascade AIDS Project.

Kaplan said, “This is my dream - it brings living in one of the most beautiful places in the world together with doing exactly what I want to do. The chance to work with such a well established organization, to build on decades of experience, to be grounded in local communities, to help stop new infections, and to make living with HIV easier - I can’t imagine a better job nor a more ideal place to be doing it.”

Prior to joining CAP, Mr. Kaplan served as Vice President for International AIDS Programs and Deputy Director for the Center on AIDS & Community Health at the Academy for Educational Development (AED). In this role, with more than 150 staff world-wide, he has led HIV prevention and care programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He has procured, initiated, and managed HIV programs within the US and abroad on behalf of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the Department of Labor and multiple private donors.

The last seven years of Mr. Kaplan’s work has been primarily focused on international HIV programs, although he has remained engaged in domestic work both through his volunteer efforts, including a Board Member to National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC), and the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA).

Mr. Kaplan, along with his partner, Sean Sasser (both were profiled in the Advocates 1997, “Best and Brightest Under 30,” Kaplan for his work building District 202 - a youth center by and for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth in Minneapolis Minnesota, and Sasser for his work in AIDS Activism following his stint on *The Real World*) will be leaving Washington DC in late September to make Portland, Oregon their new home.

About Cascade AIDS Project

Founded in 1983 by two staff, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) has remained Oregon’s leading and largest AIDS service organization. CAP provides HIV supporting housing and care services, youth and family programming, prevention services, community education and influence public policy and legislation.

Over the past year, with 50 staff, CAP provided HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to 18,307 people; coordinated wrap-around support services for 3,253 men, women, and children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS; and provided direct housing and housing-related services to 575 individuals and families with HIV/AIDS. With an annual budget of \$4.2 million, CAP relies on individual donors, foundations, corporations, government contracts, and the proceeds of two annual events: *AIDS Walk Portland* (October 12, 2008) and the *Annual Art Evening & Auction* (April 18, 2009). In addition, 737 volunteers donated approximately 20,000 hours throughout all programs and services. **For more information: go to www.cascadeaids.org**

Our Mission: Lead efforts to **prevent** new HIV infections, **care** for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, **educate** communities to eliminate stigma and shame, and **advocate** for immediate action in combating the pandemic.

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