



NETWORKER

NEW MOVEMENT—NEW GROWTH



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LEADING AS WE MARCH ON...

by *Susan Fabrikant, Executive Director*

World AIDS Day, December 1, 2007, has come and gone, but we will always remember



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and never forget the toll of HIV/AIDS on so many. In the Spokane community, Spokane AIDS Network (SAN) staff, Cherie Moss and Mark Garrett, lead by example. As co-chairs

of the World AIDS Day planning committee, they assembled a dynamic program.

“Accountability means the number of HIV infections globally will lessen each year; instead they are increasing,” master of ceremonies Dr. Kim Thorburn told a full audience. She said we need to hold our leaders to their word because what is happening now is NOT OKAY.

Starting with an inspiring invocation by the Rev. Dr. Richard Erhardt of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, the theme, Keep the Promise: Take the Lead, was woven throughout the evening’s presentations. SAN educator and advocate Mark Garrett and Jim Breedlove, executive director of the Spokane HIV/AIDS Speakers’ Bureau, spoke eloquently of their leading productive lives with AIDS for more than

Continued on page 2

WE’RE STILL HERE!

by *Paul Tiesse, Board President*

Well, SAN survived 2007! Having said that, I’m sure some people will interpret that to mean SURVIVED?... Are there problems? What’s going on? Are you closing your doors? Who’s leaving now and why? It is interesting to consider how different people read different things into certain words.

Being the small big city that it is, Spokane has always been prone to rumor and gossip. An innocent remark can make the social circles and end up meaning something totally different than was originally said by the time the words reach the ears of the last person to hear them.

SAN is no different from most nonprofit corporations in that it must find or replenish financial stores annually. Funding is problematic when it comes to HIV/AIDS programs because funding has changed as the progression of the disease has changed. Many longtime grantors have run out of funds, restricted funding to services in specific geographical areas, or totally revised funding criteria.

Ryan White funding changes will affect SAN’s food program. The structure of the funding will

Continued on page 2

LEADING—*cont'd from page 1*

15 years. Several other community leaders, among them Mayor Mary Verner, Marj Johnston, assistant pastor at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, and Eastern Washington University's Dr. James Ocha-Echel discussed how HIV/AIDS has affected them personally. Other powerful and moving highlights included live performances by North Central High School students, the EWU Black Student Union, and Mark Morris' art photography of people living with HIV/AIDS were so moving and powerful.

Another notable aspect of the program was an exhibit of watercolor drawings created by HIV positive children from Rehoboth's Children Village in South Africa (complete with a picture of each child). Rheanne Garrett, a registered nurse, led this art project when she traveled there for 2 1/2 weeks in October as part of her church mission. The \$1,555 raised will be sent directly to the village for the children. The entire program was indeed inspiring and showed true community cohesion.

Shortly after the World AIDS Day event, I had a conversation with a friend who told me that my job had a lot to do with loss. I contemplated this for awhile and then responded, "It's as much about living."

SAN's mission is to nurture and help guide our clients and their families as they learn what living with HIV/AIDS entails. We do this by ensuring that our infected clients and their affected families have the essential medical care, support, and services they need to live their lives fully. Our taking the lead means showing we care and expresses our commitment.

We must go further than this by making our own individual and collective pledges and holding ourselves accountable. My pledge begins with educating other professionals, friends, and elected officials from

SURVIVAL—*cont'd from page 1*

leave SAN with less money for certain programs. Some corporations and foundations that have consistently granted SAN funds over the years have ended their programs or changed direction of their vision. So our programs have to change. Cuts have to be made.

To limit such losses, we have escalated our fundraising efforts. We are searching for new granting and financial resources. SAN has been successful in procuring new funding for certain programs; we will try to pick up the slack through additional fundraising.

Believe it or not, the hardest programs to fund are prevention and food. The Ryan White changes impact our food program the greatest. Cherie Moss, SAN's wonderful food program coordinator, has put together a new program that will ensure that our neediest clients receive the help they require.

The scarcity of funding for prevention of this disease always amazes me. Our government will spend millions to provide care to people infected with HIV/AIDS but it will not supply the money to prevent it, which we all know is the more prudent – and less expensive – course.

In light of a documented increase in infections among 18 to 29-year-old gay and bi males, SAN currently has dedicated money for programs that are age-specific. If you old-timers like me want a program, then you need to step up and help us find the funds. The prevention needs of 18 to 29-year-olds are completely different from those of us in the 30 years+ category.

all different systems, no matter how small the issue may seem to them. And I will continue to do so until there is widespread and accurate information about the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Working at SAN is exhausting emotionally and can take a toll on one's health. Our turnover rate tends to be high. SAN was blessed to have Monica Lahr for six years. We are sorry to see her go but wish her good luck in her new venture. We know she remains a big supporter of SAN.

Please remember that SAN is a community-based organization. Our employee salaries are very competitive but we cannot compete with government or private entities. We expect talented individuals to use SAN as a stepping-stone, a place to gain experience before they move on to other professional challenges.

In the end, I can proclaim 2007 a good year for SAN. We are searching and expanding our grant, foundation and donor base. We are offering our clients, many of whom live at or below the federal poverty line, basic services that will cloth, feed and give them shelter. SAN provides adherence and nutrition programs and has the best resource referral program in the Inland Northwest. We have the finest staff not only working in the HIV/AIDS world but in the nonprofit world. Our employees work hard for the community, and we in the community appreciate them.

The local community needs to TAKE THE LEAD in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We need to get involved at the local and state levels to make sure that we secure adequate funds to sustain our programs. We at SAN hope to see you at the various events planned for 2008. We invite you to share your concerns, advice, praise and support. Words cannot express our appreciation for your continued support of SAN.

On behalf of the SAN Team and Board of Directors, I thank you for your compassion and loyalty. I invite you to join us in 2008 as we march forward collectively. This is the community spirit and energy that fuels all of us!

OSCAR NIGHT 2008!

by *Ann Kalunian,*
Development & Adherence Asst.

The holiday season is over and here at SAN we are busier than ever dusting off our tuxes and evening gowns in preparation for the Oscar Night Gala on Feb 24th.

As was reported in the Fall Networker, Oscar's will be held this year at Northern Quest Casino. On January 8th the Oscar Committee invited all the table captains to attend an Oscar preview at Northern Quest.

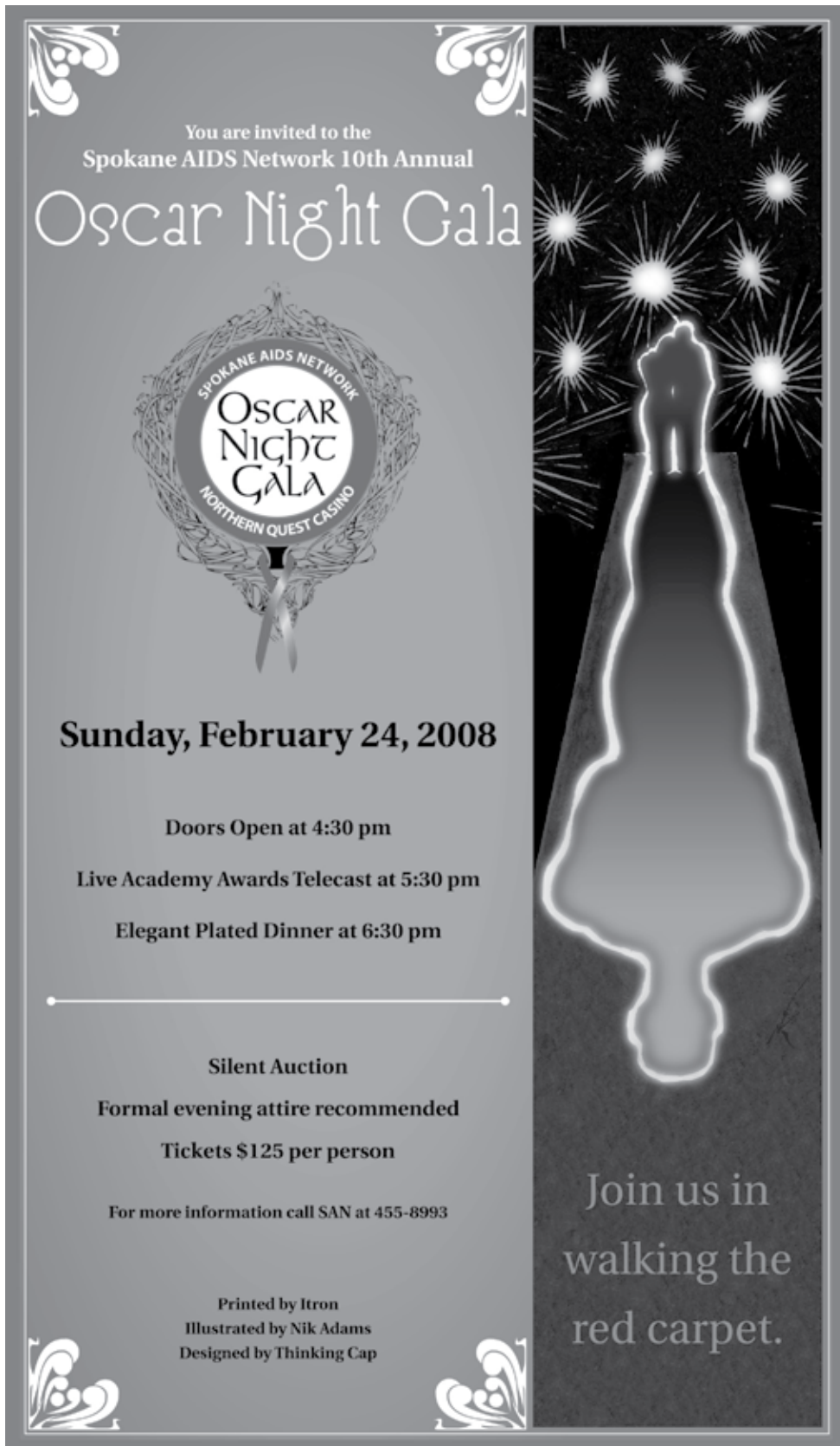
The Oscar Committee decorated one table as it will be the night of Oscar's, appetizers were sampled and excitement for the evening filled the room. Northern Quest and the decorating committee have gone all out to ensure that guests will receive red carpet treatment and an atmosphere will totally surprise and delight.

This year's auction will be particularly thrilling as it will include several getaways, autographed basketballs from both the Gonzaga University and Washington State University men's basketball team and of course hard to find entertainment memorabilia. There will be lots of surprises from the Hollywood community this year so you won't want to miss auction items the likes of which Spokane has never seen.


Hopefully by now you have received your invitation in the mail. If you have not or have any questions please feel free to call SAN at 455-8993.

I would love to be able to say I hope to see you all at Oscar's but I will not be able to attend. I have been accepted into a master's in Intensive Care nursing at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia. Jan 18th is my last day at SAN.

As I watch the Oscars on television I will be jealous of all the fun you are having but remembering all the funds that will be raised for all the important work that SAN does for the Inland Northwest.



You are invited to the
Spokane AIDS Network 10th Annual
Oscar Night Gala



Sunday, February 24, 2008

Doors Open at 4:30 pm
Live Academy Awards Telecast at 5:30 pm
Elegant Plated Dinner at 6:30 pm

Silent Auction
Formal evening attire recommended
Tickets \$125 per person

For more information call SAN at 455-8993

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Join us in
walking the
red carpet.

New
Location:
Northern
Quest Casino

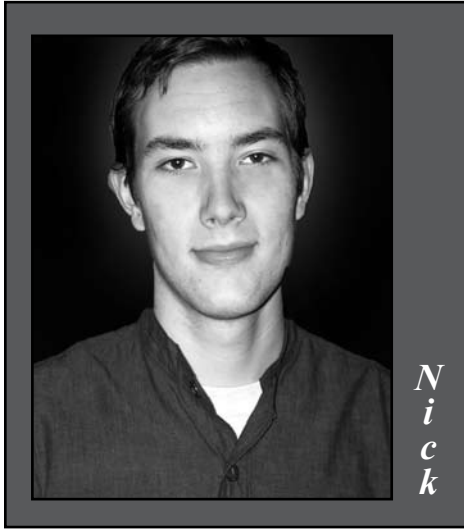


Northern Quest Casino
N. 100 Hayford Road
Airway Heights, WA 99001

Spokane
90
Exit 277 to
Fairchild AFB
Davenport/Spokane Airport

PREVENTION STRATEGIES – INMX & POL

by *Nick Klein*,
Assistant Coordinator, INMX



HIV prevention can be difficult and complex. SAN believes that an issue of such magnitude may never be solved with a single form of intervention, which is why early

this year we will begin to utilize an additional approach in our battle against HIV, Popular Opinion Leader (POL). Thanks to a grant from the “Until There’s a Cure Foundation,” POL will be implemented to work in consort with other prevention strategies such as The Inland Northwest Men’s Experience (INMX).

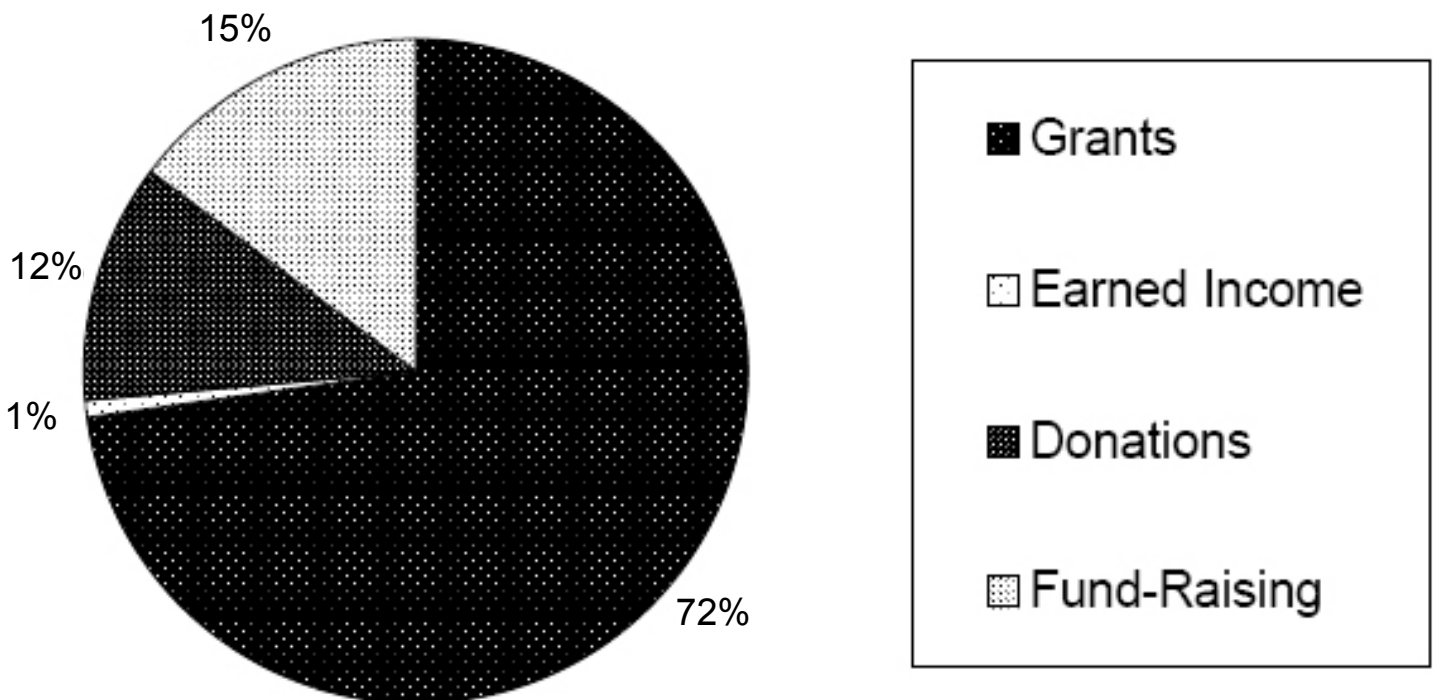
Dedicated to serving 18 to 29-year-old gay, bisexual, and questioning men, INMX endeavors to create a strong community based on friendship, mutual respect, and community service. It also promotes safe sex practices and regular HIV testing through the Spokane Regional Health District. INMX provides young men with a positive and safe introduction to the gay community in Spokane.

POL has a broader, mainly educational focus. Aimed at individuals

of all ages and sexual orientations, POL seeks to inform through the recruitment of peer leaders as educators. The goal is to promote the sharing of information not only about safe-sex behaviors and HIV testing but also disclosure of HIV status to partners and the appropriate and timely accessing of medical/prevention services. Combating misinformation remains one of the biggest challenges for all of us who do HIV prevention work.

I look forward to engaging this additional prevention model in 2008. Implementing many unique programs that serve a common goal is the best strategy we have against HIV. I urge the community of Spokane to participate in Popular Opinion Leader and help make it a successful program. Without dedicated individuals willing to take the lead, we will never keep our promise.

2006-2007 Revenue Sources



LOOKING FORWARD

by *Malin Orcutt, Case Manager*

SAN is going to be able to assist clients with many exciting things in the coming year. One of the major updates I would like to mention is that the Early Intervention Program (EIP) is now going to assist clients with dental services! Going to the dentist is something very few people enjoy, but good dental health is crucial to overall health. Clients have consistently reported that their dental needs have gone unmet. This change to EIP could benefit a lot of people and make a huge difference in the quality of their health, so get ready to show those pearly whites!

As some clients might remember, Washington State Department of Health HIV Client Services Early Intervention Program suspended

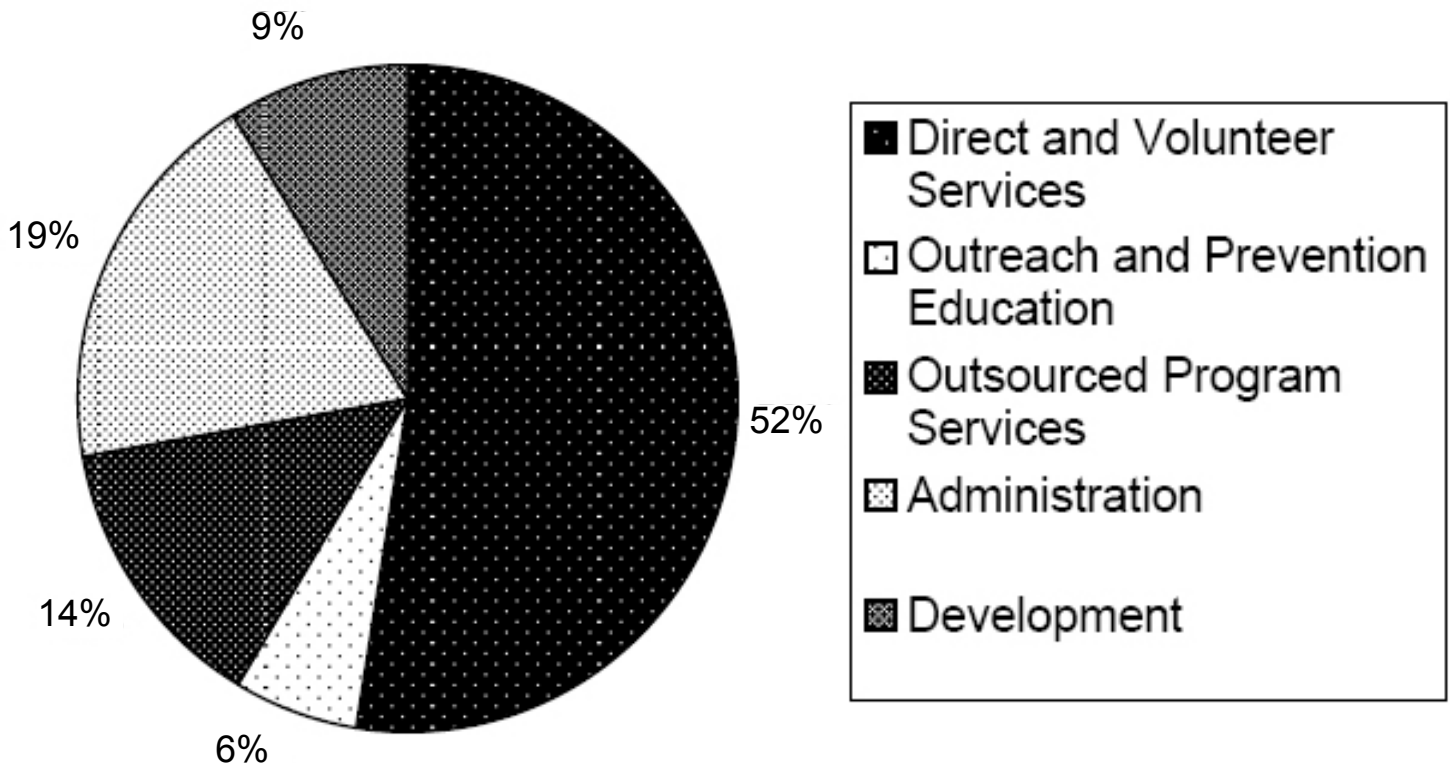


dental services in 2002 because of budget constraints. Beginning January 1, HIV Client Services will be able to provide dental services to clients outside King County.

Clients enrolled with EIP should have received a letter discussing this exciting update. In order to be eligible for dental services clients must meet the following criteria: have current non-temporary EIP eligibility, live outside of King County, and not have dental insurance or dental coverage through Medicaid. A list of providers is being developed as not all dentists will accept EIP. The Department of Health's website will present a list of covered procedures.

SAN is dedicated to staying abreast of services available to clients. Call your case manager if you have any questions. We should be receiving new information on dental options shortly.

2006-2007 Expenses



FOND MEMORIES WITH MUCH APPRECIATION

by *Monica Lahr, Program Supervisor of Services*

As many of you may already know, I have resigned my position at SAN. My departure from SAN is bittersweet. SAN has been my family for the last six years. In that time, I have seen staff go from mothers to grandmothers, families expanded, educations received, and people moved on to bigger and better things.

I have enjoyed watching the agency grow and mature. Yes, there have been some financial struggles along the way, but I am confident SAN will continue to hold its own. This agency will continue to give compassionate and professional service to the HIV/AIDS community and those affected by this disease.

Six years ago, I accepted this job to honor my friend Michael, who died of AIDS alone in a Hospice house in the early '90s. Now I can name several more individuals who inspire me to continue to do what I can for those infected and affected in this community.



I am appreciative of all the lessons I have learned here. So many people have touched my life and shaped who I am. I can't imagine the kind of person I might be had I not worked here. Thank you all for teaching me and allowing me to be a part of your lives.

New Case Manager on Board

by *Brandi Mahoney, Case Manager*

I am the newest addition to the case management team here at SAN. In the past two months I have had the opportunity to meet many SAN clients. I have felt very welcomed by both clients and staff and have had much success in updating charts and forming new relationships. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed my time with SAN thus far. Those of you who have met me may have come to realize that I am a little more reserved than the other case managers. My colleagues are doing a great job of helping me adjust. I look forward to making new connections. Don't hesitate to give me a call or stop by to say hello.

I attended the CAREvent in Tacoma in November. Wow! What an experience. I was able to learn so much that will aide me in assisting my clients. In addition to learning about the programs Washington State offers, I was able to meet clients from around the state and hear their stories. I believe personal stories help fuel the desire in me and other case managers to continue our work. I am already excited for the next CAREvent!

My background? I graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, and began my career in the

I Am Michelle

In the September issue of *The Networker*, SAN Program Supervisor of Services Monica Lahr wrote a very touching article about a couple she called Zack and Michelle. Zack's real name is Dan Lopez. At the time Monica submitted the article, Dan was still hanging on to life. I know now that he was holding on for me.

He waited until my mother came to visit us and help me care for him before he moved on, so that I wouldn't be alone. He never got to see the article; I received it a few days after he passed away. I know that he would have been very moved by the love and friendship that Monica poured into her writing.

During Dan's quick and unexpected decline, it was extremely hard for me to cope with the day-to-day tasks of his care without wondering if I would be able to make it on my own without him. His dignity and peace as he passed has lent me strength every day since then. As hard as it was to care for his needs, I would have had an even harder time of it if it wasn't for the love and support of Monica, Cherie, the Friends of SAN, and others in our community. I can't imagine how I would have been able to cope with everything without them. The outpouring of love and support was, and remains, overwhelming. I am honored to be a part of the SAN family, now and forever.

In Love and Light,

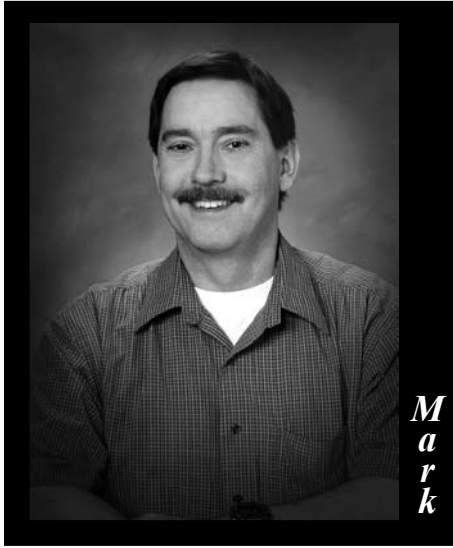
Karen Washington

mental health field as a child and family case manager for Spokane Mental Health. I then took a nice break to be with family before joining the SAN team. I grew up in a small town north of Spokane but have called Spokane my home for the last seven years and love it here.

by **Mark Garrett**, Client Advocate/Community Educator

In November, more than 25 delegates from Spokane, including person's living with HIV/AIDS and providers who care for them, experienced something that has not happened in our state since 2001. That something was CAREvent, a statewide conference sponsored by our State Health Department to encourage the sharing of the latest information about HIV and the many challenges we all face to STOP AIDS.

CAREvent has great personal meaning to me because I attended the first CAREvent conference at SeaTac in 1997. Having just moved to Spokane, I knew very few others



energizes seasoned advocates and inspires new leaders from our communities, and this year's conference was no different.

Many promises have been made in the past 10 years since that first CAREvent, among them the promise to reduce new annual infections in the United States from 40,000 to 20,000. Today, however, the CDC is reviewing new data that indicates annual infections may actually be closer to 60,000. "Taking the Lead" was another U.S. promise. Our nation would contribute one third of the \$23 billion required annually to care for and treat the more than seven million people worldwide who need immediate access to life-saving medications. Today these life-saving medications reach only 1.4 million of those people who need them.

Treatment alone will not end the pandemic. We must also "Take the

Lead" and develop microbicides that will prevent new infections and provide an effective tool for women and men to protect themselves.

I am very proud of Spokane's history of "Taking the Lead" in the fight to STOP AIDS. We can all continue to make a difference by promising to hold our leaders and ourselves accountable. Want to know if a candidate for public office understands what it takes to STOP AIDS and which candidates are committed to "Take the Lead" in that effort? Visit www.AIDSVote.org.

"Many promises have been made in the past 10 years since that first CAREvent, among them the promise to reduce new annual infections in the United States from 40,000 to 20,000.."

"I am very proud of Spokane's history of 'Taking the Lead' in the fight to STOP AIDS."

living with HIV then. I remember coming away with an incredible sense of hope because of the new medications that promised the first step toward ending this pandemic. I returned encouraged and motivated, certain that I could do more with new statewide friends who also wanted to make a difference. CAREvent re-

We can all promise to do our part, and one way to do this is to join the Communities in Action Network. C.A.N. is a statewide HIV advocacy group that will e-mail you an alert only when your voice is needed; with a couple of mouse clicks on your computer you can send a message directly to your elected representatives on issues important to people affected by HIV/AIDS. Go to www.cannetwork.net and sign up! Your promise will make a difference.

**Don't Miss the 2008 Oscar Gala
Sunday, February 24th**

Call 455-8993 for tickets or more information



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905 South Monroe
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www.spokaneaidsnetwork.org

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Lloyd Francis

Online donations now accepted at www.spokaneaidsnetwork.org

SAN'S WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

Please check the INMX web site for upcoming groups and events at www.theINMX.org

Jan

- ⌘ Open Bowling At North Bowl – Sun, 12:30-3 pm, 1/06/08
- ⌘ CHIV Ed/Support Group Meeting – Fri, 4-6 pm CHAS Downtown, 1/11/08
- ⌘ Advocacy/Consumer CARE Planning Group – Tues, 3-4 pm SRHD RM 320, 1/15/08
- ⌘ CARE Consortium Planning Group – Tues, 4-5:30 pm SRHD Rm 310/311, 1/15/08
- ⌘ CARE planning Grp Housing Svcs – Thurs, 10:30 am-noon SRHD Rm. 310/311, 1/17/08
- ⌘ SAN CLOSED for Martin Luther King, Mon. Jan 21, 2008
- ⌘ CHIV program Consumer Advisory 4-6 pm CHAS Downtown Clinic 1/11/08
- ⌘ Board Meeting – Wed, 5:30-7 pm, 1/30/08

Feb

- ⌘ CHIV Ed/ Support Meeting CHAS Maple Tues, 4-6 pm 2/12/08
- ⌘ SAN CLOSED Mon, Feb 18, 2008
- ⌘ SAN's Oscar Gala-Northern Quest Casino Sun, 4 pm 2/24/08
- ⌘ SAN CLOSED 8 am-1 pm OPEN 1-5pm 2/25/08 Board Meeting Wed, 5:30-7 pm 2/27/08

Mar

- ⌘ Board Meeting Wed, 5:30-7 pm, 3/26/08

April

- ⌘ Dine Out For Life, Thurs, 4/24/08 -Check our Web site for participating restaurants!
- ⌘ Board meeting Wed, 5:30-7 pm, 4/30/08