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# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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January 12, 2000

Sandy Thurman, Director  
Executive Office of the President  
National AIDS Policy  
736 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 200503

Dear Ms. ~~Thurman~~: *Sandy*

On Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the Family AIDS Network will host the "Third Annual Washington Luncheon on Women and AIDS." Mary has asked me to extend to you a personal invitation to attend the luncheon as our guest. You have been such a good friend and we would like you to share this important event with us this year.

This year's event promises to be a very special occasion. As I write this letter, Mary is traveling with National AIDS Policy Director Sandra Thurman to four country's in the world epicenter of today's epidemic, Africa. She returns home only three days before the event and is eager to share with us the lessons and impact of her journey. This is especially appropriate because the theme for this year's luncheon is "Minority Women and AIDS." Former Congressman Ron Dellums will provide the keynote address. ABC 20/20's Deborah Roberts is serving as hostess for the event. And we are delighted to be giving our Angel Awards to Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and Congressman John Porter. We also plan to make some exciting announcements about future directions for the work of the Family AIDS Network at that time.

The luncheon will begin at noon on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. Would you please call Cynthia Poole in our office (703-243-8276) and let her know if you can join us for this important event. As always, we hope to conclude our program before 2:00 p.m.

Thanks for all you do in the fight against AIDS. Mary, and all of us at the Network hope to see you on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely yours

*Steve*  
Steve Gunderson  
Managing Trustee

*Welcome*

*Home!*

*Administrative Center*  
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# Master Program Copy

## **“Minority Women and AIDS” The Third Annual Washington Event on Women & AIDS**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2000**

### **Program Participants**

*(In Order of Appearance)*

Sandra Thurman  
The Reverend George Evans  
The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Steve Gunderson and Mary Fisher  
The Honorable John Porter & The Honorable Carrie Meek  
Mary Fisher  
Eric Hunter, M.D.

### Program Staging Directions

|               |                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12.01p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                                    |
| 12.02p        | “Program Opening”                                                                                                    |
| <b>12.05p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Pastor George Evans</b>                                                                               |
| 12.06p        | “Invocation”                                                                                                         |
| <b>12.27p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                                    |
| 12.28p        | “Recognitions” & “Introduction of The Honorable Ron Dellums”                                                         |
| <b>12.32p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Hon. Ron Dellums</b>                                                                                  |
| 12.33p        | “AIDS Marshal Plan for Africa”                                                                                       |
| 12.48p        | [Ron Dellums completes address, Mary Fisher and Sandra Thurman approach and embrace Ron after which he leaves stage] |
| <b>12.48p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman, Mary Fisher</b>                                                                       |
| 12.49p        | “Angel Awards Introduction”                                                                                          |
| <b>12.52p</b> | <b>Steve Gunderson joins Sandra Thurman and Mary Fisher on stage</b>                                                 |
| 12.53         | “Presentation of Award to Carrie Meek” by Mary and Steve                                                             |
| <b>12.56p</b> | <b>Carrie Meek comes forward to receive award, pictures, and response</b>                                            |
| 1.02p         | “Presentation of Award to John Porter” by Mary and Steve                                                             |
| <b>1.06p</b>  | <b>John Porter comes forward to receive award, pictures, and response</b>                                            |
| <b>1.011p</b> | <b>All depart stage except for Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                    |
| 1.12p         | “Introduction of Mary Fisher                                                                                         |
| <b>1.13p</b>  | <b>Come to Stage: Mary Fisher</b>                                                                                    |
| 1.14p         | “Pushing Through the Closed Door”                                                                                    |
| 1.25p         | Mary concludes speech, exits stage                                                                                   |
| 1.26p         | “Introduction of Dr. Eric Hunter”                                                                                    |
| <b>1.27p</b>  | <b>Take Stage: Dr. Eric Hunter</b>                                                                                   |
| 1.28p         | “Response from UAB AIDS Center”                                                                                      |
| 1.32p.        | Dr. Hunter concludes remarks and exits stage                                                                         |
| <b>1.32p</b>  | <b>Sandra Thurman and Pastor Evans re-enter stage</b>                                                                |
| 1:33p         | Sandra Thurman - “Concluding Remarks”                                                                                |
| 1.35p         | Pastor Evans - “Benediction”                                                                                         |
| 1.37p         | Sandra Thurman – “Adjournment”                                                                                       |

# **Program Script**

## **"Minority Women and AIDS" The Third Annual Washington Event on Women & AIDS**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2000**

### **Program Participants**

Sandra Thurman  
The Reverend George Evans  
The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mary Fisher and Steve Gunderson  
The Honorable Carrie Meek & The Honorable John Porter  
Mary Fisher  
Eric Hunter, M.D.

**12.01p          Take Stage 1: Sandra Thurman**

**12.02p          Sandra Thurman** -- HELLO, I'M NOT DEBORAH ROBERTS, AND AL ROKER IS NOT MY HUSBAND. BUT, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE THIRD ANNUAL WASHINGTON EVENT ON WOMEN & AIDS. I AM SANDRA THURMAN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF AIDS POLICY.

LAST NIGHT, ABOUT 9:00 P.M., DEBORAH ROBERTS CALLED KAREN VAGLEY AND STEVE GUNDERSON TO INFORM THEM THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET TO WASHINGTON FOR TODAY'S LUNCHEON. ABC WAS SENDING HER ON ASSIGNMENT TO ETHIOPIA. AND WITH THE WEATHER CONDITIONS AS THEY WERE IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT, IT BECAME CLEAR SHE COULD NOT COME TO WASHINGTON AND STILL MAKE HER FLIGHTS TO EHTIOPIA. IN HER ABSENCE, I AM HONORED TO SERVE AS THE HOST FOR TODAY'S LUNCH.

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF BILL PITTS, A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WE'VE BEEN ENJOYING THE PERFORMANCE OF MUSICIANS FROM HOWARD UNIVERSITY THIS NOON. WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN THANKING BOTH BILL PITTS AND THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY JAZZ QUINTET?  
[Applause]

MARY FISHER IS BOTH ONE OF MY HEROES, AND A DEAR FRIEND. WE HAVE BOTH SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS TRAVELING TOGETHER IN AFRICA WITNESSING THE EPICENTER OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY LIVING WITH AIDS.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT TWO YEARS AGO, DEBORAH ROBERTS HAD TO CANCEL AT THE LAST MINUTE WHEN SHE WAS ALSO SENT ON ASSIGNMENT AT THE LAST MOMENT. LAST YEAR, JUDY WOODRUFF HAD TO

CANCEL DUE TO THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS IN THE US SENATE. AND NOW YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THIS YEAR'S EXPERIENCE. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE... NEXT YEAR MARY WILL ASK ONE OF US BUREAUCRATS TO HOST THIS LUNCHEON. WE MAY BE BORING, BUT WE ARE ON A SHORT LEASH AND ALMOST NEVER LEAVE WASHINGTON WHEN THE CONGRESS IS IN SESSION.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE...AND BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT BECAUSE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FIGHT. AIDS HAS NOT BEEN CONQUERED – NOT EVEN CLOSE. WE HAVE GROWN TOO WEARY TOO QUICKLY, AND FAR TOO QUIET. AND THIS IS ONE OCCASION WHEN WE CAN RE-ENERGIZE EACH OTHER AND REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE.

WE KNOW THE IMPORTANT ROLES THAT MANY OF YOU PLAY -- IN THIS CITY AND IN THIS FIGHT, AND WE KNOW YOUR IMPOSSIBLE CALENDARS. AND LORD KNOWS, WE KNOW ABOUT THE WEATHER!

SO ON BEHALF OF MARY FISHER AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THANK YOU FOR COMING, FOR CONTRIBUTING, AND FOR CARING.

TODAY, WOMEN CONSTITUTE THE FASTEST GROWING GROUP OF HIV INFECTED AMERICANS. WE ARE REMINDED OF THIS FACT WHEN WE SEE MARY FISHER WHO HAS TOUCHED US ALL IN REMARKABLE WAYS. WE HAVE COME TO SUPPORT HER AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK – EVER REMINDED OF THEIR MISSION OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN.

WHILE MANY STILL THINK OF AIDS AS A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS MOSTLY MEN -- HALF OF ALL NEW INFECTIONS IN THE US ARE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 – AND HALF OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WOMEN. THE CDC ESTIMATES THAT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 120,000 AND 160,000 AMERICAN

WOMEN ARE NOW LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS. WHILE THE DEATH RATE FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH AIDS IN AMERICA IS DOWN , THE INFECTION RATE – ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN – IS NOT. IF, AS THE CDC REPORTS, THERE ARE 40-50,000 NEW INFECTIONS ANNUALLY HERE IN AMERICA, BETWEEN A QUARTER AND A HALF OF THOSE ARE NOW WOMEN.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 13% OF THE NATION'S POPULATION, IN 1998 THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 37% OF AIDS CASES AND 49% OF AIDS DEATHS. OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WOMEN WITH AIDS HERE AT HOME ARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN. AND IN AFRICA, AIDS IS DEVESTATING FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ENTIRE NATIONS. FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, AIDS IS A PLAGUE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS -- AND SOMETHING THAT WE AMERICANS -- NO, WE HUMANS, CAN NO LONGER IGNORE. WE ARE A GLOBAL COMMUNITY -- AND OUR SHARED BATTLE AGAINST AIDS MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR US ALL. SO, I WANT TO PAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU, MARY, FOR AGAIN SHINING YOUR LIGHT ON AN ASPECT OF OUR FIGHT THAT SO DESPERATELY CALLS OUT FOR ATTENTION.

IN EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS, LEADERSHIP OFTEN COMES FROM PEOPLE OF EXTRAORDINARY FAITH.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER IN MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF MARY AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK. IT WAS THE PASTOR OF THIS CHURCH WHO BROUGHT TOGETHER THE "N STREET VILLAGE" AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR MULTIPLY-DIAGNOSED WOMEN. A BROCHURE DESCRIBING THIS PROGRAM IS ON YOUR TABLES.

FOLLOWING A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE MILITARY, INCLUDING SERVICE AS CHAPLAIN OF THE US MARINE CORPS, PASTOR GEORGE EVANS WENT INTO CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY. WHILE SERVING IN THE LANCASTER,

PENNSYLVANIA AREA, HE CREATED AND LED AN INTER-FAITH CORPORATION THAT SPONSORED "THE RAINBOW HOUSE," A HOSPICE FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS. HIS MINISTRY TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO TO THIS ISSUE HAS NEVER ENDED. PASTOR EVANS, WILL YOU HONOR US WITH AN INVOCATION?

**12.05p          Pastor Evans takes stage and provides the invocation. Sandra Thurman steps to the side.**

**12.06p          REV. GEORGE EVANS    "INVOCATION"**

**12.09p          At the completion of the invocation, Pastor Evans is seated and Sandra Thurman returns to the podium to announce that lunch is now served.**

**12.27p          Sandra Thurman takes stage.**

**12.28p          SANDRA THURMAN -- FOR SOME MONTHS KAREN VAGLEY AND JANET CRUMP HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH A TASK FORCE OF EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE TO CREATE TODAY'S EVENT. THE HOST COMMITTEE FOR THE 2000 WASHINGTON EVENT ON WOMEN AND AIDS IS LISTED IN YOUR PROGRAM. BUT WE WOULD LIKE THE COMMITTEE TO PLEASE STAND SO THAT WE MIGHT EXPRESS TO YOU OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS.**

**DON'T BE BASHFUL. PLEASE STAND. AND ON BEHALF OF THE NETWORK, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS. [Applause]**

**WHEN STEVE GUNDERSON BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK HE ENCOURAGED MARY TO HOLD THIS ANNUAL EVENT. HE THOUGHT THE LUNCHEON COULD ACCOMPLISH TWO PURPOSES. FIRST, IT COULD HELP RAISE FUNDS AND, SECOND, IT COULD OFFER A PLATFORM FROM**

WHICH TO REACH THE NATION'S POLICY MAKERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AIDS.

MARY HAS SPOKEN AT NUMEROUS EVENTS IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PAST YEAR – FROM A SERMON AT THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL TO SPEECHES FOR POLICY AND ADVOCACY GROUPS. AND THE NETWORK ITSELF HAS SPONSORED THE “N STREET PROGRAM” AND A COMMUNITY “GOSPEL AGAINST AIDS” PROGRAM. SUPPORT FROM YOU AND OTHERS HAVE MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.

THIS LUNCH PROVIDES AN OCCASION TO SPUR A DIALOGUE ABOUT AIDS WITH YOU, POLITICAL LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS. WE'RE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO RECOGNIZE THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY -- PLEASE STAND FOR A MOMENT TO BE RECOGNIZED:

(List to be provided, but with the snowstorm I expect very few to have arrived in Washington)

WHEN THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S LUNCHEON WAS MADE, THE CHOICE FOR TODAY'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER WAS AUTOMATIC. THERE IS NO ONE BETTER ABLE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF AIDS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY AFFECT COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, THAN RON DELLUMS. TODAY RON BRINGS TO THIS DISCUSSION NOT ONLY A CONCERN FOR THOSE FACING THIS CHALLENGE, BUT HERE AT HOME, BUT ALSO FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN AFRICA.

RON DELLUMS WAS ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN 1970. UNIVERSALLY LAUDED AS ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING AND ARTICULATE SPEAKERS TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE, DELLUMS OCCUPIED MANY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS INCLUDING CHAIR OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, AND BEFORE THAT CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE.

WHILE A MAN OF STRONG CONVICTIONS AND DEEP COMPASSION, RON DELLUMS HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO BUILDING BRIDGES AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN HIS EFFORTS TO BRING HOPE AND HELP TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. HE BUILT A STRONG PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE NETWORK'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DURING THEIR SERVICE TOGETHER IN THE CONGRESS WHICH RESULTED IN RON DELLUMS VISITING THE SMALL FAMILY FARMS OF WESTERN WISCONSIN WITH STEVE. LIKE MARY, RON HAS ALSO SPENT TIME RECENTLY IN AFRICA. IT IS THE RAVAGES OF AIDS IN AFRICA WHICH CAUSED RON TO MAKE THIS CAUSE A PRIORITY IN HIS LIFE.

TODAY, RON SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF HEALTHCARE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR "CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA," AND HE SERVES ON THE BOARD OF AIDS ACTION. HIS RESUME IS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED, BUT HIS ELOQUENCE IS FORCEFUL AND COMPELLING..

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE HONORABLE RON DELLUMS:

**12.32p        Ron Dellums approaches the stage, embraces Sandra Thurman. Sandra exits stage.**

**12.33p        HON. RON DELLUMS:    "KEYNOTE ADDRESS"**

**12.48p        At the conclusion of the address, Mary Fisher and Sandra Thurman join and embrace Mr. Dellums. Mr. Dellums exits. Sandra and Mary remain on stage for awards presentation.**

**12.49p        SANDRA THURMAN – RON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

LET ME READ A BRIEF EXCERPT FROM MARY FISHER'S MOST RECENT BOOK, A CAREGIVERS' JOURNAL IN PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES ENTITLED *ANGELS IN OUR MIDST*. THIS IS FROM THE OPENING PAGES OF MARY'S JOURNAL ON CAREGIVING:

(Reading) I WAS RAISED IN A HOME WHERE POWERBROKERS WERE FATHER'S FRIENDS, WHERE MY MOTHER CHARMED MOVIE STARS AND DIGNITARIES. I HAD TRAVELED WITH A PRESIDENT AS HE WRESTLED WITH GLOBAL ISSUES. I'D SEEN EGOS OF SPECTACULAR DIMENSIONS AND EVEN MET A FEW SAINTS. BUT FOR PURE, HUMAN POWER, NO SET OF PEOPLE ARE AS EXTRAORDINARY AS THE CAREGIVERS.... THEY ARE, COLLECTIVELY, AN ALMOST ENTIRELY INVISIBLE ARMY OF COMPASSION....

(Reading) WHEN I ASK IF I MAY TAKE THEIR PICTURES, THEY WONDER WHY. WHEN I SAY THEY ARE THE ANGELS IN OUR MIDST, THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS IN DISBELIEF. THEY WOULD BE THE LAST, THE VERY LAST, TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS HEROIC.

IT IS NOW OUR PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK'S 2000 ANGEL AWARDS TO TWO AMERICANS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY IT. TO MAKE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK, STEVE GUNDERSON.

**[12.52p      Steve joins Mary and Sandra on stage as Sandra Thurman continues:]**

TO BE ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS A HIGH HONOR, NEVER TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. BUT IT IS ALSO, AS I RECALL EACH TIME I HEAR MARY SPEAK OF PUBLIC POLICY, A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU WHO ARE MEMBERS – AND THOSE OF YOU WHO CLOSELY ADVISE THEM -- ARE GRANTED, BY VIRTUE OF YOUR TRUSTED POSITION, THE POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE LIVES AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND STRANGERS. IN OUR WORST NATIONAL MOMENTS, YOU CONSIDER ARTICLES OF WAR. IN OUR BEST MOMENTS, YOU MOVE BEYOND POLITICS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING TRULY WORTHY OF THE COMMON GOOD.

THIS YEAR’S RECIPIENTS OF THE ANGEL AWARDS HAVE BEEN MOVED BY MORE THAN POLITICAL INTERESTS – NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO AIDS, BUT WITH REGARD TO THEIR OWN CAREERS.

IF ANGELS ARE INDEED THOSE WHO DO GOD’S WORK AMONG US, THEN IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO REGARD THIS WOMAN AND THIS MAN AS ANGELS IN OUR MIDST.

**12.53p        STEVE GUNDERSON** -- IT WAS MARY FISHER WHO SAID FAMOUSLY IN 1992, “AIDS DOES NOT ASK US IF WE ARE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, BLACK OR WHITE, MAN OR WOMAN, GAY OR STRAIGHT. ALL THAT MATTERS TO THIS DISEASE IS THAT WE ARE HUMAN.” AMEN, MARY.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE AT THE NETWORK HONOR ONE REPUBLICAN AND ONE DEMOCRAT EACH YEAR WITH THE “ANGEL AWARDS.”

WE WANT TO HONOR THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, NOT BECAUSE IT MAKES FOR GOOD PUBLICITY BUT BECAUSE TO THEM – IT IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IN 1997, WE HONORED JOHN DINGELL AND NANCY JOHNSON. LAST YEAR WE HONORED NANCY PELOSI AND MARK FOLEY. IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS FOR THIS YEAR.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE FIRST ANGEL AWARD TO A FRIEND FROM THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA. IT IS EVIDENT OF THE BI-PARTISAN COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS THAT LAST YEAR THE REPUBLICAN RECIPIENT WAS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA, AND THIS YEAR'S DEMOCRATIC RECIPIENT IS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA.

CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK IS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN ELECTED TO CONGRESS FROM FLORIDA SINCE THE DAYS OF RECONSTRUCTION. BUT HER SERVICE IN CONGRESS IS ONLY PART OF A LIFE GIVEN TO PUBLIC SERVICE AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

BORN IN TALLAHASSEE -- THE GRANDAUGHTER OF A SLAVE -- CARRIE MEEK HAS COMMITTED HERSELF TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE. WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE IN BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, HER EDUCATION WORK HAS RANGED FROM COACHING A COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM TO SERVING IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

TODAY WE HONOR CARRIE MEEK FOR HER WORK IN PUBLIC POLICY. WHILE MUCH OF HER ENERGY IS FOCUSED TO BEBUILDING THE ECONOMY OF HER HOMESTEAD/NORTH DADE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, SHE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL ITS CITIZENS INCLUDING HATIAN REFUGEES. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHO CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATES FULL FUNDING FOR DISEASE-RELATED PROGRAMS. AS AIDS HAS MOVED INCREASINGLY INTO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, CARRIE MEEK HAS BEEN A FORCEFUL, ARTICULATE LEADER IN SHAPING THE PUBLIC-POLICY RESPONSE.

WHEN THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK BROUGHT THEIR GOSPEL AGAINST AIDS TO MIAMI TWO YEARS AGO, CARRIE MEEK WAS THERE. STANDING WITH MARY FISHER AT THE GREATER BETHEL AME CHURCH, SHE RAISED HER VOICE OF COMPASSION AND POWER TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE, PLEDGING THAT THEY WILL NEVER, NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

“FOR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN AMERICAN AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE,” I AM HONORED TO RECOGNIZE CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 ANGEL AWARD.

**12.56p        Come to the Stage: The Honorable Carrie Meek. Steve Gunderson, Mary Fisher, and Sandra Thurman present the award, pose for picture, and step back to allow Carrie Meek to make her response.**

**12.58p        CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK (UNSCRIPTED REMARKS)**

**1.02p        Steve Gunderson goes to the podium during applause for Carrie Meek.**  
AT THE CLOSE OF THE 106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS THIS NATION WILL LOSE ONE OF THE GREAT WARRIORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. FIRST AS THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LABOR, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE, JOHN PORTER HAS LED THE EFFORT TO FUND THE RYAN WHITE CARE ACT, THE AIDS INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, AIDS RESEARCH THROUGH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH.

JOHN IS COMPLETING HIS ELEVENTH TERM IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. HIS TENURE ON BEHALF OF ILLINOIS' 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT HAS BEEN MARKED BY HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

AMERICANS. HE IS ONE OF ONLY FIVE HOUSE MEMBERS EVER APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENNEDY CENTER, RECOGNIZING HIS LOVE OF THE ARTS. HE IS ALSO A FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, RIGHTFULLY REGARDED AS A CHAMPION OF THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENT – THE NATURAL, PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO THE HUMAN, MORAL ENVIRONMENT. AND TODAY WE REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS CONSTANT SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. HIS ADVOCACY OF GREATER RESEARCH FUNDING HAS EXTENDED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS. HIS SUPPORT FOR RYAN WHITE AND DRUG ASSISTANCE MONIES HAVE MADE SUCH LIVES BEARABLE. EVERY FAMILY IN AMERICA TOUCHED BY AIDS OWES JOHN PORTER DEEP APPRECIATION – INCLUDING THE FAMILY GATHERED HERE, TODAY.

“FOR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN AMERICA AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE,” I AM HONORED TO RECOGNIZE JOHN PORTER AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 ANGEL AWARD.

**1.06p            Come to Stage: The Honorable John Porter. Steve Gunderson, Mary Fisher, and Sandra Thurman, present the award, pose for a picture and then step back to allow John Porter to make remarks.**

**1.08p            CONGRESSMAN JOHN PORTER (UNSCRIPTED REMARKS)**

**1.11p            At the completion of John Porter's remarks all but Sandra Thurman depart stage.**

**1.12p            SANDRA THURMAN – ONE OF THE GREAT REWARDS OF MY SERVICE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM**

A CLOSE AND LASTING FRIENDSHIP WITH MARY FISHER. WITH COURAGE AND COMPASSION– WITH DIGNITY AND DETERMINATION – MARY HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

FOLLOWING HER FAMOUS 1992 CONVENTION SPEECH, IN THE MIDST OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL WRITER PRAISED HER POISE AND POWER, AND THEN ADDED, “IF THE REPUBLICANS COULD WISH FOR A SINGLE VOICE BY WHICH THE NATION WOULD HEAR THEM, IRONICALLY, THIS IS THE ONE THEY SHOULD WISH FOR.”

IT’S A VOICE THAT STILL MOVES US ALL, AND SHOULD.

ASK HER WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HER, AND SHE’LL QUICKLY ANSWER, “MY SONS, MAX AND ZACH.” BUT ASK HER HOW SHE HAS SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF HER LIFE, AND SHE’LL SAY, “TRAVELING TO AFRICA WITH KATE CARR, RON JOHNSON, MICHAEL ISKOWITZ, AND MYSELF, TO JOIN WITH THOSE IN THE STRUGGLE IN FOUR AFRICAN NATIONS.

WITH GRACE, ELOQUENCE, AND GOOD HUMOR – MARY MACRHESE ON. SHE NEVER GIVES UP AND SHE NEVER GIVES IN. WITH A CLEAR VISION AND AN OPEN HEART MARY CONTINUES TO MAKE MAGIC WHEREEVER SHE GOES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, MARY FISHER.

**1.13p            Mary Fisher returns to the stage, embraces Sandra. Following the embrace, Sandra exits the stage.**

**1.14p            MARY FISHER -- “PUSHING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOOR”**

**1.25p At the conclusion of Mary's speech, Mary returns to her seat. Sandra Thurman returns to the stage.**

**1.26p SANDRA THURMAN - MARY, I – ALL OF US HERE TODAY – WANT TO TELL YOU THAT WE NOT ONLY ADMIRE YOU. WE LOVE YOU. DON'T GIVE UP. WE'RE RIGHT HERE BEHIND YOU.**

DR. ERIC HUNTER IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN BIRMINGHAM. HE REPRESENTS THE FUTURE OF MARY'S WORK, AND THE ORGANIZATION THAT WILL SOON TAKE OVER ALL TASKS OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK.

AS A LEADER IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY'S FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, DR HUNTER HAS FACED SUCCESSFULLY MANY CHALLENGES. BUT I SUSPECT FEW HAVE BEEN AS CHALLENGING AS FOLLOWING MARY FISHER TO THIS PODIUM TODAY.

DR. HUNTER IS GOING TO RESPOND TO MARY'S PROMISE THAT THE DOOR TO HOPE WILL OPEN IN THE DAYS BEFORE US, AND THAT A DOORWAY TO THE MOST CRITICAL RESEARCH IS NOW BEING BUILT IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

PLEASE WELCOME DR. ERIC HUNTER.

**1.27p Dr. Hunter approaches the stage. Sandra Thurman exits stage.**

**1.28p DR. ERIC HUNTER - "RESPONSE"**

**1.32p At the conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Hunter leaves stage. Sandra Thurman and Pastor Evans return to stage.**

**1.33p        SANDRA THURMAN -** WHAT SHALL WE TAKE FROM THIS LUNCHEON TODAY BESIDES MEMORIES? WE COULD TAKE THE CONVICTION THAT THERE IS NO SPECIES OF HUMAN BEING WHICH IS LESS WORTHY THAN ANY OTHER.

WE COULD GO OUT, CONVINCED, THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR RACE OR OUR GENDER, LESS WORTHY; THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR AGE OR OUR ORIENTATIONS, LESS DESERVING; THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR HEALTH OR OUR ILLNESS, JUDGED TO BE LESS HUMAN.

IF WE ARE HUMAN, WE ARE WORTHY -- WORTHY OF DIGNITY, WORTHY OF CARE, AND WORTHY OF COMPASSION.

WE SHOULD LEAVE KNOWING THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS IS NOT OVER. IT SO MANY WAYS, IT HAS JUST BEGUN.

THIS IS THE THIRD, "WASHINGTON LUNCHEON ON WOMEN AND AIDS" SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK. BUT IT CANNOT BE THE FINAL LUNCHEON – BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE DO, AND HOW MUCH WE PRAY, AND HOW MUCH WE HOPE, THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS WILL STILL BE RAGING IN JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR. I HOPE TO BE HERE. I PRAY MARY WILL BE WITH US. AND I ASK YOU TO RETURN AS WELL – NEXT YEAR, TO AN EVENT WHOSE SPONSOR WILL BE THE MARY FISHER INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL AIDS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, SOON TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARY FISHER INSTITUTE FOR C.A.R.E.

WILL YOU PLEASE STAND AS PASTOR EVANS BESTOWS UPON US THE BLESSING, BEFORE WE ALL DEPART THIS LUNCHEON.

**1.35p            PASTOR GEORGE EVANS   "BENEDICTION"**

**1.37p            SANDRA THURMAN   THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. SEE YOU  
NEXT YEAR!**



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Hyatt Regency Business Center FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
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RE: Speech for Fisher Event

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please hold for  
Sandra Thurman.  
Thank you.

736 Jackson Place  
Washington, DC 20503  
(202) 456-2437  
(202) 456-2438 (fax)

# Master Program Copy

## **“Minority Women and AIDS” The Third Annual Washington Event on Women & AIDS**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2000**

### **Program Participants**

*(In Order of Appearance)*

Sandra Thurman  
The Reverend George Evans  
The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Steve Gunderson and Mary Fisher  
The Honorable John Porter & The Honorable Carrie Meek  
Mary Fisher  
Eric Hunter, M.D.

## Program Staging Directions

|               |                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>12.01p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                                    |
| 12.02p        | "Program Opening"                                                                                                    |
| <b>12.05p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Pastor George Evans</b>                                                                               |
| 12.06p        | "Invocation"                                                                                                         |
| <b>12.27p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                                    |
| 12.28p        | "Recognitions" & "Introduction of The Honorable Ron Dellums"                                                         |
| <b>12.32p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Hon. Ron Dellums</b>                                                                                  |
| 12.33p        | "AIDS Marshal Plan for Africa"                                                                                       |
| 12.48p        | [Ron Dellums completes address, Mary Fisher and Sandra Thurman approach and embrace Ron after which he leaves stage] |
| <b>12.48p</b> | <b>Take Stage: Sandra Thurman, Mary Fisher</b>                                                                       |
| 12.49p        | "Angel Awards Introduction"                                                                                          |
| <b>12.52p</b> | <b>Steve Gunderson joins Sandra Thurman and Mary Fisher on stage</b>                                                 |
| 12.53         | "Presentation of Award to Carrie Meek" by Mary and Steve                                                             |
| <b>12.56p</b> | <b>Carrie Meek comes forward to receive award, pictures, and response</b>                                            |
| 1.02p         | "Presentation of Award to John Porter" by Mary and Steve                                                             |
| <b>1.06p</b>  | <b>John Porter comes forward to receive award, pictures, and response</b>                                            |
| <b>1.011p</b> | <b>All depart stage except for Sandra Thurman</b>                                                                    |
| 1.12p         | "Introduction of Mary Fisher                                                                                         |
| <b>1.13p</b>  | <b>Come to Stage: Mary Fisher</b>                                                                                    |
| 1.14p         | "Pushing Through the Closed Door"                                                                                    |
| 1.25p         | Mary concludes speech, exits stage                                                                                   |
| 1.26p         | "Introduction of Dr. Eric Hunter"                                                                                    |
| <b>1.27p</b>  | <b>Take Stage: Dr. Eric Hunter</b>                                                                                   |
| 1.28p         | "Response from UAB AIDS Center"                                                                                      |
| 1.32p.        | Dr. Hunter concludes remarks and exits stage                                                                         |
| <b>1.32p</b>  | <b>Sandra Thurman and Pastor Evans re-enter stage</b>                                                                |
| 1:33p         | Sandra Thurman - "Concluding Remarks"                                                                                |
| 1.35p         | Pastor Evans - "Benediction"                                                                                         |
| 1.37p         | Sandra Thurman – "Adjournment"                                                                                       |

# **Program Script**

## **"Minority Women and AIDS" The Third Annual Washington Event on Women & AIDS**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2000**

### **Program Participants**

Sandra Thurman  
The Reverend George Evans  
The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mary Fisher and Steve Gunderson  
The Honorable Carrie Meek & The Honorable John Porter  
Mary Fisher  
Eric Hunter, M.D.

**12.01p            Take Stage 1: Sandra Thurman**

**12.02p            Sandra Thurman** -- HELLO, I'M NOT DEBORAH ROBERTS, AND AL ROKER IS NOT MY HUSBAND. BUT, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE THIRD ANNUAL WASHINGTON EVENT ON WOMEN & AIDS. I AM SANDRA THURMAN, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF AIDS POLICY.

LAST NIGHT, ABOUT 9:00 P.M., DEBORAH ROBERTS CALLED KAREN VAGLEY AND STEVE GUNDERSON TO INFORM THEM THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET TO WASHINGTON FOR TODAY'S LUNCHEON. ABC WAS SENDING HER ON ASSIGNMENT TO ETHIOPIA. AND WITH THE WEATHER CONDITIONS AS THEY WERE IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT, IT BECAME CLEAR SHE COULD NOT COME TO WASHINGTON AND STILL MAKE HER FLIGHTS TO EHTIOPIA. IN HER ABSENCE, I AM HONORED TO SERVE AS THE HOST FOR TODAY'S LUNCH.

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF BILL PITTS, A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WE'VE BEEN ENJOYING THE PERFORMANCE OF MUSICIANS FROM HOWARD UNIVERSITY THIS NOON. WOULD YOU JOIN ME IN THANKING BOTH BILL PITTS AND THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY JAZZ QUINTET?  
[Applause]

MARY FISHER IS BOTH ONE OF MY HEROES, AND A DEAR FRIEND. WE HAVE BOTH SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS TRAVELING TOGETHER IN AFRICA WITNESSING THE EPICENTER OF A GLOBAL COMMUNITY LIVING WITH AIDS.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT TWO YEARS AGO, DEBORAH ROBERTS HAD TO CANCEL AT THE LAST MINUTE WHEN SHE WAS ALSO SENT ON ASSIGNMENT AT THE LAST MOMENT. LAST YEAR, JUDY WOODRUFF HAD TO

CANCEL DUE TO THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS IN THE US SENATE. AND NOW YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THIS YEAR'S EXPERIENCE. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE.... NEXT YEAR MARY WILL ASK ONE OF US BUREAUCRATS TO HOST THIS LUNCHEON. WE MAY BE BORING, BUT WE ARE ON A SHORT LEASH AND ALMOST NEVER LEAVE WASHINGTON WHEN THE CONGRESS IS IN SESSION.

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE...AND BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT BECAUSE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FIGHT. AIDS HAS NOT BEEN CONQUERED – NOT EVEN CLOSE. WE HAVE GROWN TOO WEARY TOO QUICKLY, AND FAR TOO QUIET. AND THIS IS ONE OCCASION WHEN WE CAN RE-ENERGIZE EACH OTHER AND REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE CAUSE.

WE KNOW THE IMPORTANT ROLES THAT MANY OF YOU PLAY -- IN THIS CITY AND IN THIS FIGHT, AND WE KNOW YOUR IMPOSSIBLE CALENDARS. AND LORD KNOWS, WE KNOW ABOUT THE WEATHER!

SO ON BEHALF OF MARY FISHER AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THANK YOU FOR COMING, FOR CONTRIBUTING, AND FOR CARING.

TODAY, WOMEN CONSTITUTE THE FASTEST GROWING GROUP OF HIV INFECTED AMERICANS. WE ARE REMINDED OF THIS FACT WHEN WE SEE MARY FISHER WHO HAS TOUCHED US ALL IN REMARKABLE WAYS. WE HAVE COME TO SUPPORT HER AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK – EVER REMINDED OF THEIR MISSION OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN.

WHILE MANY STILL THINK OF AIDS AS A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS MOSTLY MEN -- HALF OF ALL NEW INFECTIONS IN THE US ARE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 – AND HALF OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WOMEN. THE CDC ESTIMATES THAT SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 120,000 AND 160,000 AMERICAN

WOMEN ARE NOW LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS. WHILE THE DEATH RATE FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH AIDS IN AMERICA IS DOWN , THE INFECTION RATE – ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN – IS NOT. IF, AS THE CDC REPORTS, THERE ARE 40-50,000 NEW INFECTIONS ANNUALLY HERE IN AMERICA, BETWEEN A QUARTER AND A HALF OF THOSE ARE NOW WOMEN.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP 13% OF THE NATION'S POPULATION, IN 1998 THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 37% OF AIDS CASES AND 49% OF AIDS DEATHS. OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WOMEN WITH AIDS HERE AT HOME ARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN. AND IN AFRICA, AIDS IS DEVESTATING FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ENTIRE NATIONS. FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, AIDS IS A PLAGUE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS – AND SOMETHING THAT WE AMERICANS -- NO, WE HUMANS, CAN NO LONGER IGNORE. WE ARE A GLOBAL COMMUNITY – AND OUR SHARED BATTLE AGAINST AIDS MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR US ALL. SO, I WANT TO PAY A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU, MARY, FOR AGAIN SHINING YOUR LIGHT ON AN ASPECT OF OUR FIGHT THAT SO DESPERATELY CALLS OUT FOR ATTENTION.

IN EXTRAORDINARY MOMENTS, LEADERSHIP OFTEN COMES FROM PEOPLE OF EXTRAORDINARY FAITH.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER IN MCLEAN, VIRGINIA, HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF MARY AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK. IT WAS THE PASTOR OF THIS CHURCH WHO BROUGHT TOGETHER THE “N STREET VILLAGE” AND THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR MULTIPLY-DIAGNOSED WOMEN. A BROCHURE DESCRIBING THIS PROGRAM IS ON YOUR TABLES.

FOLLOWING A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE MILITARY, INCLUDING SERVICE AS CHAPLAIN OF THE US MARINE CORPS, PASTOR GEORGE EVANS WENT INTO CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY. WHILE SERVING IN THE LANCASTER,

PENNSYLVANIA AREA, HE CREATED AND LED AN INTER-FAITH CORPORATION THAT SPONSORED "THE RAINBOW HOUSE," A HOSPICE FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS. HIS MINISTRY TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO TO THIS ISSUE HAS NEVER ENDED. PASTOR EVANS, WILL YOU HONOR US WITH AN INVOCATION?

**12.05p          Pastor Evans takes stage and provides the invocation. Sandra Thurman steps to the side.**

**12.06p          REV. GEORGE EVANS    "INVOCATION"**

**12.09p          At the completion of the invocation, Pastor Evans is seated and Sandra Thurman returns to the podium to announce that lunch is now served.**

**12.27p          Sandra Thurman takes stage.**

**12.28p          SANDRA THURMAN -- FOR SOME MONTHS KAREN VAGLEY AND JANET CRUMP HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH A TASK FORCE OF EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE TO CREATE TODAY'S EVENT. THE HOST COMMITTEE FOR THE 2000 WASHINGTON EVENT ON WOMEN AND AIDS IS LISTED IN YOUR PROGRAM. BUT WE WOULD LIKE THE COMMITTEE TO PLEASE STAND SO THAT WE MIGHT EXPRESS TO YOU OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS.**

**DON'T BE BASHFUL. PLEASE STAND. AND ON BEHALF OF THE NETWORK, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS. [Applause]**

**WHEN STEVE GUNDERSON BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK HE ENCOURAGED MARY TO HOLD THIS ANNUAL EVENT. HE THOUGHT THE LUNCHEON COULD ACCOMPLISH TWO PURPOSES. FIRST, IT COULD HELP RAISE FUNDS AND, SECOND, IT COULD OFFER A PLATFORM FROM**

WHICH TO REACH THE NATION'S POLICY MAKERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AIDS.

MARY HAS SPOKEN AT NUMEROUS EVENTS IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PAST YEAR – FROM A SERMON AT THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL TO SPEECHES FOR POLICY AND ADVOCACY GROUPS. AND THE NETWORK ITSELF HAS SPONSORED THE “N STREET PROGRAM” AND A COMMUNITY “GOSPEL AGAINST AIDS” PROGRAM. SUPPORT FROM YOU AND OTHERS HAVE MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE.

THIS LUNCH PROVIDES AN OCCASION TO SPUR A DIALOGUE ABOUT AIDS WITH YOU, POLITICAL LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS. WE'RE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO RECOGNIZE THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE JOINED US TODAY -- PLEASE STAND FOR A MOMENT TO BE RECOGNIZED:

(List to be provided, but with the snowstorm I expect very few to have arrived in Washington)

WHEN THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S LUNCHEON WAS MADE, THE CHOICE FOR TODAY'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER WAS AUTOMATIC. THERE IS NO ONE BETTER ABLE TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF AIDS, ESPECIALLY AS THEY AFFECT COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, THAN RON DELLUMS. TODAY RON BRINGS TO THIS DISCUSSION NOT ONLY A CONCERN FOR THOSE FACING THIS CHALLENGE, BUT HERE AT HOME, BUT ALSO FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN AFRICA.

RON DELLUMS WAS ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IN 1970. UNIVERSALLY LAUDED AS ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING AND ARTICULATE SPEAKERS TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE, DELLUMS OCCUPIED MANY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS INCLUDING CHAIR OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, AND BEFORE THAT CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE.

WHILE A MAN OF STRONG CONVICTIONS AND DEEP COMPASSION, RON DELLUMS HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO BUILDING BRIDGES AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN HIS EFFORTS TO BRING HOPE AND HELP TO THOSE MOST IN NEED. HE BUILT A STRONG PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE NETWORK'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DURING THEIR SERVICE TOGETHER IN THE CONGRESS WHICH RESULTED IN RON DELLUMS VISITING THE SMALL FAMILY FARMS OF WESTERN WISCONSIN WITH STEVE. LIKE MARY, RON HAS ALSO SPENT TIME RECENTLY IN AFRICA. IT IS THE RAVAGES OF AIDS IN AFRICA WHICH CAUSED RON TO MAKE THIS CAUSE A PRIORITY IN HIS LIFE.

TODAY, RON SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF HEALTHCARE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY. HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR "CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA," AND HE SERVES ON THE BOARD OF AIDS ACTION. HIS RESUME IS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED, BUT HIS ELOQUENCE IS FORCEFUL AND COMPELLING..

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE HONORABLE RON DELLUMS:

**12.32p        Ron Dellums approaches the stage, embraces Sandra Thurman. Sandra exits stage.**

**12.33p        HON. RON DELLUMS:    "KEYNOTE ADDRESS"**

**12.48p        At the conclusion of the address, Mary Fisher and Sandra Thurman join and embrace Mr. Dellums. Mr. Dellums exits. Sandra and Mary remain on stage for awards presentation.**

**12.49p        SANDRA THURMAN – RON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

LET ME READ A BRIEF EXCERPT FROM MARY FISHER'S MOST RECENT BOOK, A CAREGIVERS' JOURNAL IN PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES ENTITLED *ANGELS IN OUR MIDST*. THIS IS FROM THE OPENING PAGES OF MARY'S JOURNAL ON CAREGIVING:

(Reading) I WAS RAISED IN A HOME WHERE POWERBROKERS WERE FATHER'S FRIENDS, WHERE MY MOTHER CHARMED MOVIE STARS AND DIGNITARIES. I HAD TRAVELED WITH A PRESIDENT AS HE WRESTLED WITH GLOBAL ISSUES. I'D SEEN EGOS OF SPECTACULAR DIMENSIONS AND EVEN MET A FEW SAINTS. BUT FOR PURE, HUMAN POWER, NO SET OF PEOPLE ARE AS EXTRAORDINARY AS THE CAREGIVERS.... THEY ARE, COLLECTIVELY, AN ALMOST ENTIRELY INVISIBLE ARMY OF COMPASSION....

(Reading) WHEN I ASK IF I MAY TAKE THEIR PICTURES, THEY WONDER WHY. WHEN I SAY THEY ARE THE ANGELS IN OUR MIDST, THEY SHAKE THEIR HEADS IN DISBELIEF. THEY WOULD BE THE LAST, THE VERY LAST, TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS HEROIC.

IT IS NOW OUR PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK'S 2000 ANGEL AWARDS TO TWO AMERICANS WHO HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY IT. TO MAKE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK, STEVE GUNDERSON.

**[12.52p      Steve joins Mary and Sandra on stage as Sandra Thurman continues:]**

TO BE ELECTED TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS IS A HIGH HONOR, NEVER TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. BUT IT IS ALSO, AS I RECALL EACH TIME I HEAR MARY SPEAK OF PUBLIC POLICY, A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU WHO ARE MEMBERS – AND THOSE OF YOU WHO CLOSELY ADVISE THEM -- ARE GRANTED, BY VIRTUE OF YOUR TRUSTED POSITION, THE POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL SHAPE THE LIVES AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND STRANGERS. IN OUR WORST NATIONAL MOMENTS, YOU CONSIDER ARTICLES OF WAR. IN OUR BEST MOMENTS, YOU MOVE BEYOND POLITICS TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING TRULY WORTHY OF THE COMMON GOOD.

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE ANGEL AWARDS HAVE BEEN MOVED BY MORE THAN POLITICAL INTERESTS -- NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO AIDS, BUT WITH REGARD TO THEIR OWN CAREERS.

IF ANGELS ARE INDEED THOSE WHO DO GOD'S WORK AMONG US, THEN IT IS NO EXAGGERATION TO REGARD THIS WOMAN AND THIS MAN AS ANGELS IN OUR MIDST.

**12.53p**        **STEVE GUNDERSON** -- IT WAS MARY FISHER WHO SAID FAMOUSLY IN 1992, "AIDS DOES NOT ASK US IF WE ARE REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, BLACK OR WHITE, MAN OR WOMAN, GAY OR STRAIGHT. ALL THAT MATTERS TO THIS DISEASE IS THAT WE ARE HUMAN." AMEN, MARY.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE AT THE NETWORK HONOR ONE REPUBLICAN AND ONE DEMOCRAT EACH YEAR WITH THE "ANGEL AWARDS."

WE WANT TO HONOR THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, NOT BECAUSE IT MAKES FOR GOOD PUBLICITY BUT BECAUSE TO THEM -- IT IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IN 1997, WE HONORED JOHN DINGELL AND NANCY JOHNSON. LAST YEAR WE HONORED NANCY PELOSI AND MARK FOLEY. IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO ANNOUNCE THE RECIPIENTS FOR THIS YEAR.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT THE FIRST ANGEL AWARD TO A FRIEND FROM THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA. IT IS EVIDENT OF THE BI-PARTISAN COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS THAT LAST YEAR THE REPUBLICAN RECIPIENT WAS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA, AND THIS YEAR'S DEMOCRATIC RECIPIENT IS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA.

CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK IS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN ELECTED TO CONGRESS FROM FLORIDA SINCE THE DAYS OF RECONSTRUCTION. BUT HER SERVICE IN CONGRESS IS ONLY PART OF A LIFE GIVEN TO PUBLIC SERVICE AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

BORN IN TALLAHASSEE -- THE GRANDAUGHTER OF A SLAVE -- CARRIE MEEK HAS COMMITTED HERSELF TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL PEOPLE. WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE IN BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, HER EDUCATION WORK HAS RANGED FROM COACHING A COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM TO SERVING IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

TODAY WE HONOR CARRIE MEEK FOR HER WORK IN PUBLIC POLICY. WHILE MUCH OF HER ENERGY IS FOCUSED TO BEBUILDING THE ECONOMY OF HER HOMESTEAD/NORTH DADE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, SHE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL ITS CITIZENS INCLUDING HATIAN REFUGEES. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WHO CONSISTENTLY ADVOCATES FULL FUNDING FOR DISEASE-RELATED PROGRAMS. AS AIDS HAS MOVED INCREASINGLY INTO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, CARRIE MEEK HAS BEEN A FORCEFUL, ARTICULATE LEADER IN SHAPING THE PUBLIC-POLICY RESPONSE.

WHEN THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK BROUGHT THEIR GOSPEL AGAINST AIDS TO MIAMI TWO YEARS AGO, CARRIE MEEK WAS THERE. STANDING WITH MARY FISHER AT THE GREATER BETHEL AME CHURCH, SHE RAISED HER VOICE OF COMPASSION AND POWER TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE, PLEDGING THAT THEY WILL NEVER, NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

“FOR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN AMERICAN AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE,” I AM HONORED TO RECOGNIZE CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 ANGEL AWARD.

**12.56p        Come to the Stage: The Honorable Carrie Meek. Steve Gunderson, Mary Fisher, and Sandra Thurman present the award, pose for picture, and step back to allow Carrie Meek to make her response.**

**12.58p        CONGRESSWOMAN CARRIE MEEK (UNSCRIPTED REMARKS)**

**1.02p        Steve Gunderson goes to the podium during applause for Carrie Meek.**  
AT THE CLOSE OF THE 106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS THIS NATION WILL LOSE ONE OF THE GREAT WARRIORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. FIRST AS THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LABOR, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE, JOHN PORTER HAS LED THE EFFORT TO FUND THE RYAN WHITE CARE ACT, THE AIDS INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, AIDS RESEARCH THROUGH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH.

JOHN IS COMPLETING HIS ELEVENTH TERM IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. HIS TENURE ON BEHALF OF ILLINOIS' 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT HAS BEEN MARKED BY HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

AMERICANS. HE IS ONE OF ONLY FIVE HOUSE MEMBERS EVER APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENNEDY CENTER, RECOGNIZING HIS LOVE OF THE ARTS. HE IS ALSO A FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, RIGHTFULLY REGARDED AS A CHAMPION OF THE NATION'S ENVIRONMENT – THE NATURAL, PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO THE HUMAN, MORAL ENVIRONMENT. AND TODAY WE REMEMBER HIM FOR HIS CONSTANT SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. HIS ADVOCACY OF GREATER RESEARCH FUNDING HAS EXTENDED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS. HIS SUPPORT FOR RYAN WHITE AND DRUG ASSISTANCE MONIES HAVE MADE SUCH LIVES BEARABLE. EVERY FAMILY IN AMERICA TOUCHED BY AIDS OWES JOHN PORTER DEEP APPRECIATION – INCLUDING THE FAMILY GATHERED HERE, TODAY.

“FOR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, AND COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN AMERICA AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE,” I AM HONORED TO RECOGNIZE JOHN PORTER AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 ANGEL AWARD. .

**1.06p            Come to Stage: The Honorable John Porter. Steve Gunderson, Mary Fisher, and Sandra Thurman, present the award, pose for a picture and then step back to allow John Porter to make remarks.**

**1.08p            CONGRESSMAN JOHN PORTER (UNSCRIPTED REMARKS)**

**1.11p            At the completion of John Porter's remarks all but Sandra Thurman depart stage.**

**1.12p            SANDRA THURMAN – ONE OF THE GREAT REWARDS OF MY SERVICE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORM**

A CLOSE AND LASTING FRIENDSHIP WITH MARY FISHER. WITH COURAGE AND COMPASSION– WITH DIGNITY AND DETERMINATION – MARY HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

FOLLOWING HER FAMOUS 1992 CONVENTION SPEECH, IN THE MIDST OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL WRITER PRAISED HER POISE AND POWER, AND THEN ADDED, “IF THE REPUBLICANS COULD WISH FOR A SINGLE VOICE BY WHICH THE NATION WOULD HEAR THEM, IRONICALLY, THIS IS THE ONE THEY SHOULD WISH FOR.”

IT’S A VOICE THAT STILL MOVES US ALL, AND SHOULD.

ASK HER WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HER, AND SHE’LL QUICKLY ANSWER, “MY SONS, MAX AND ZACH.” BUT ASK HER HOW SHE HAS SPENT THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF HER LIFE, AND SHE’LL SAY, “TRAVELING TO AFRICA WITH KATE CARR, RON JOHNSON, MICHAEL ISKOWITZ, AND MYSELF, TO JOIN WITH THOSE IN THE STRUGGLE IN FOUR AFRICAN NATIONS.

WITH GRACE, ELOQUENCE, AND GOOD HUMOR – MARY MACRHESES ON. SHE NEVER GIVES UP AND SHE NEVER GIVES IN. WITH A CLEAR VISION AND AN OPEN HEART MARY CONTINUES TO MAKE MAGIC WHEREEVER SHE GOES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, MARY FISHER.

**1.13p            Mary Fisher returns to the stage, embraces Sandra. Following the embrace, Sandra exits the stage.**

**1.14p            MARY FISHER -- “PUSHING THROUGH THE CLOSED DOOR”**

**1.25p** At the conclusion of Mary's speech, Mary returns to her seat. Sandra Thurman returns to the stage.

**1.26p** SANDRA THURMAN - MARY, I – ALL OF US HERE TODAY – WANT TO TELL YOU THAT WE NOT ONLY ADMIRE YOU. WE LOVE YOU. DON'T GIVE UP. WE'RE RIGHT HERE BEHIND YOU.

DR. ERIC HUNTER IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN BIRMINGHAM. HE REPRESENTS THE FUTURE OF MARY'S WORK, AND THE ORGANIZATION THAT WILL SOON TAKE OVER ALL TASKS OF THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK.

AS A LEADER IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY'S FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, DR HUNTER HAS FACED SUCCESSFULLY MANY CHALLENGES. BUT I SUSPECT FEW HAVE BEEN AS CHALLENGING AS FOLLOWING MARY FISHER TO THIS PODIUM TODAY.

DR. HUNTER IS GOING TO RESPOND TO MARY'S PROMISE THAT THE DOOR TO HOPE WILL OPEN IN THE DAYS BEFORE US, AND THAT A DOORWAY TO THE MOST CRITICAL RESEARCH IS NOW BEING BUILT IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

PLEASE WELCOME DR. ERIC HUNTER.

**1.27p** Dr. Hunter approaches the stage. Sandra Thurman exits stage.

**1.28p** DR. ERIC HUNTER - "RESPONSE"

**1.32p** At the conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Hunter leaves stage. Sandra Thurman and Pastor Evans return to stage.

**1.33p        SANDRA THURMAN** - WHAT SHALL WE TAKE FROM THIS LUNCHEON TODAY BESIDES MEMORIES? WE COULD TAKE THE CONVICTION THAT THERE IS NO SPECIES OF HUMAN BEING WHICH IS LESS WORTHY THAN ANY OTHER.

WE COULD GO OUT, CONVINCED, THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR RACE OR OUR GENDER, LESS WORTHY; THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR AGE OR OUR ORIENTATIONS, LESS DESERVING; THAT WE ARE NOT, FOR OUR HEALTH OR OUR ILLNESS, JUDGED TO BE LESS HUMAN.

IF WE ARE HUMAN, WE ARE WORTHY -- WORTHY OF DIGNITY, WORTHY OF CARE, AND WORTHY OF COMPASSION.

WE SHOULD LEAVE KNOWING THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS IS NOT OVER. IT SO MANY WAYS, IT HAS JUST BEGUN.

THIS IS THE THIRD "WASHINGTON LUNCHEON ON WOMEN AND AIDS" SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK. BUT IT CANNOT BE THE FINAL LUNCHEON -- BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE DO, AND HOW MUCH WE PRAY, AND HOW MUCH WE HOPE, THE BATTLE AGAINST AIDS WILL STILL BE RAGING IN JANUARY OF NEXT YEAR. I HOPE TO BE HERE. I PRAY MARY WILL BE WITH US. AND I ASK YOU TO RETURN AS WELL -- NEXT YEAR, TO AN EVENT WHOSE SPONSOR WILL BE THE MARY FISHER INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL AIDS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, SOON TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARY FISHER INSTITUTE FOR C.A.R.E.

WILL YOU PLEASE STAND AS PASTOR EVANS BESTOWS UPON US THE BLESSING, BEFORE WE ALL DEPART THIS LUNCHEON.

**1.35p            PASTOR GEORGE EVANS   "BENEDICTION"**

**1.37p            SANDRA THURMAN   THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. SEE YOU  
NEXT YEAR!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

TRANSMISSION OK

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| PGS.           | 19               |          |
| RESULT         | OK               |          |

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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Steve Gunderson, Managing Trustee  
1601 N. Kent Street, Suite 1003  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Ph: 703-243-8276  
Fax: 703-243-8377

T- 1/26/00  
Luncheon

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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Phillip W. Fisher, *Treasurer*  
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[www.familyaidsnet.org](http://www.familyaidsnet.org)

July 30, 1999

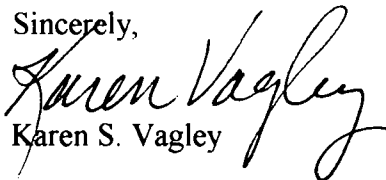
Ms. Cheryl Bauerle  
Office of National AIDS Policy  
736 Jackson Place  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Cheryl:

Thank you for your help with our Family AIDS Network Luncheon that is scheduled for January 26, 2000. I have enclosed the packet of information that we have sent to our Host Committee. I hope this is useful and if you have any questions please call me.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to assist us in making this event a success.

Sincerely,

  
Karen S. Vagley

Enclosure (1)

**Family AIDS Network's  
Washington Event 2000 Host Committee  
July 27, 1999**

**Hon Donna M. Christian-Christensen**  
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**Total: 22 members**

Updated 7/20/99  
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Mr. Amir A. Morgan, Program Director

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***Third Annual Washington Event on Women and AIDS***  
***January 26, 2000***

**Timeline**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 18          | First WE2000 Host Committee Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| July             | Committee takes contact assignments and makes additions to corporate/organizational target list<br><br>Send packets to <i>past</i> and <i>potential</i> Underwriters & Sponsors containing "Save the Date – January 26, 2000" and "put us in your budget" letter<br><br>When date, location & speaker of <i>September</i> luncheon are available, send announcements to past Underwriters and Committee<br><br>Committee begins contacts |
| August           | Send invitations to September luncheon to past Underwriters<br><br>Committee continues contacts<br><br>Recruit honorary co-chairs of event<br><br>Send "Save the Date" letter to remainder of Washington list                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| September        | Past Underwriters' Luncheon with Host Committee members<br><br>Committee continues contacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| October          | Name Angel Award recipients<br><br>Send letter to potential Congressional Sponsors<br><br>Committee accelerates remaining contacts with assigned underwriters/sponsors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| November         | Prepare letters and invitation to Event 2000<br><br>Committee finalizes all contact assignments<br><br>Possible Committee meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| December 1       | Mail letters and invitations for Event 2000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| January 26, 2000 | Third Annual Washington Event on Women and AIDS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

## *Board of Directors*

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*Illinois*

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*Illinois*

Amber Dunleavy  
*Virginia*

Morgan Fairchild  
*California*

Lauren Thomas Fisher  
*Michigan*

William C. Fletcher  
*Iowa*

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*Washington, DC*

Deborah Roberts  
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*New York*

Amy Saag  
*Alabama*

Michael S. Saag, M.D.  
*Alabama*

Patricia Snyder  
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## “MINORITY WOMEN AND AIDS”

### THE NEED

- With the torrent of “good news” stories in recent years, and the reality of new drugs and their efficacy especially for men, it’s become increasingly hard to convince America that infection rates continue to increase, especially in the young and minority female populations.
- Women are one of the fastest growing groups infected with HIV. From 1985 to 1997, the proportion of total new AIDS cases reported annually in women in the United States increased from 7 percent to 22 percent.
- Women of color are the hardest hit. By 1997, 80 percent of women diagnosed with AIDS were African American and Latinas. Compared with white women, the HIV incidence was 19 times higher for African American women and 7 times higher for Latinas. Infected minority women tend to be low income and young.
- Seventy-nine percent of AIDS cases reported among women in 1996 occurred among African-American and Hispanic women, while these two groups comprise only 21 percent of all women in the U.S.
- In 1996, AIDS became the third leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and the number one cause of death for African American women of that age.
- Since 1994, half of all new infections have been among people under the age of 25.
- The greatest increase in AIDS cases in 1997 were among heterosexually infected women born between 1970-1974.
- 20% of all homeless women nationally are HIV positive.
- Since access to life-prolonging drugs has been least available to these communities, the death rates for these groups are sobering:

- AIDS-related death rates for African Americans fell only two percent in 1996, compared to a 21 percent decline for Caucasians.
- In 1996, death rates for men decreased 15 percent, while death rates for women — typically African-American women of poverty — *increased* by three percent.

These realities are overlooked in the face of the gains made in battling this disease. We all desperately want to believe that the AIDS crisis is over, or at least that it does not affect our communities. That desire makes it even more difficult to draw our attention to a significant barrier in the fight against AIDS; the culture in communities of color can make it difficult for people with HIV/AIDS to bring the reality of their infection into the open.

## THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK

- **Mary Fisher** founded the Family AIDS Network in 1992, just a few months after she discovered she was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. This mother of two young sons had been infected by her husband, who since has died of AIDS.

Ms. Fisher established the Family AIDS Network first to help her bring messages of hope and prevention to communities, visit AIDS service organizations and honor AIDS caregivers. Over the last few years, the Network has evolved to become an organization supporting communication efforts and programs that teach communities and physicians the best ways to prevent HIV/AIDS and care for those already infected and affected by the disease.

- The Network is among the few national organizations focusing intensely on *women* with HIV/AIDS.

## THE NETWORKS INITIATIVES

- The Network has developed and supports local and national projects. In D.C., we sponsor a comprehensive program of care for women at risk at the “N Street Women’s Shelter.”
- Nationally, we continue to work with major events, media, and a series of “Gospel Against AIDS” programs. A few years ago, Mary Fisher saw that communities of color were quietly being devastated by HIV/AIDS. She also recognized that faith-based organizations were powerful opinion and behavior leaders in these communities. The message of the Gospel Against AIDS is directed to four audiences: those at risk, those already infected, families touched by AIDS, and those in the faith community.
- Development of a Partners Handbook for Local HIV/AIDS Organizations.

- “Women and AIDS—What are the Best Practices?” Conference sponsored by the Family AIDS Network and the Harvard AIDS Institute. This is now being converted to a user-friendly guide for women with HIV/AIDS.
- Mary Fisher’s focus in speeches and community visits is women and minorities. She has addressed many conferences and workshops on Women and HIV/AIDS.

## **GOALS:**

- Create and expand programs aimed at increasing local community awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Foster community compassion for those already most affected by the illness—women in the African American and Hispanic communities.
- Develop and model compassionate care programs to be implemented at the local level.
- Provide funding for capacity building and seeding local programs at the community level.
- Encourage research on the effects life-prolonging drugs have on women—particularly minority women.
- Design, produce and distribute appropriate education, prevention and care materials for all women with HIV/AIDS.

“When spiders unite, they can tie up a lion”

Ethiopian Proverb

**Family AIDS Network**  
***“Washington Event on Women and AIDS”***

**Past Underwriters**

Aetna  
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Bell Atlantic  
Bristol-Meyers Squibb  
Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.  
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**Past Sponsors**

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# THE FAMILY AIDS NETWORK

## A Review of 1998

### A Memorandum to Current and Potential Donors

**History:** The Family AIDS Network was incorporated in May 1992, just prior to founder Mary Fisher's appearance at the 1992 National Republican Convention. Initially, Mary focused her energy on persona, appearances and publications as mechanisms for creating awareness of the need to fight AIDS. The goals of the organization were to promote community awareness, caregiver recognition and research.

**Purpose:** The mission of the Family AIDS Network is embodied in the following Mission Statement:

*"The Family AIDS Network is a voice for all families touched by HIV/AIDS. Through public-private partnerships and community-based initiatives, the Network enables communities and families to jointly address the new realities of HIV/AIDS."*

Recognizing the new realities of AIDS in 1997 and 1998, the Network targeted its mission and activities to address the misnomers, the incomplete communications and the needs of the groups being hardest hit by the epidemic. The Network began operating to address two broad objectives:

1. **Providing a Leadership Voice for HIV/AIDS.** Mary Fisher, who is herself infected, has the celebrity, compassion and personal experience to keep the focus of the media, policy makers, legislators and government entities on how we, as a nation, address the infection. A variety of activities have been undertaken in pursuit of this objective, including continued public appearances/speeches, publications, consultations to government leadership and policy makers, and collaborative research projects.
2. **Facilitating Community-Based Program Development.** The communities of color, of women, and of the young are hard-pressed to muster the resources to fight this disease. Research by the Harvard AIDS Institute suggests there are no models for providing prevention and treatment for these groups. In addition, it's clear that, in most cases, the delivery systems created to serve the primarily white, gay community do not work for these groups. The network responded by facilitating local community-based programs. Our two major efforts are the Program of

Comprehensive Care for Women at Risk (at the N Street Ministries for Homeless Women in Washington, D.C.) and the endeavor to engage faith-based institutions to respond to this epidemic (through our program commonly called "The Gospel Against AIDS.")

### **1998 Operating Budget**

#### **Revenues:**

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Basic Operations:              | \$516,010 |
| Special Programs:              | 90,392    |
| In-kind Donation by Greystone: | 51,857    |
| Total:                         | \$658,259 |

#### **Expenses:**

|                                                      |           |       |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Administration, Board,<br>and Expenses of the Chair: | \$82,727  | 12.5% |
| Program Design and Implementation:                   | 54,712    | 8.3%  |
| Community Service:                                   | 65,653    | 10.2% |
| Staff and Media:                                     | 68,115    | 10.3% |
| Books:                                               | 9,692     | 1.5%  |
| Gospel Against AIDS:                                 | 87,087    | 13.2% |
| *Best Practices Conference:                          | 16,692    | 2.5%  |
| Program of Comprehensive Care:                       | 79,855    | 12.2% |
| Events:                                              | 76,923    | 11.6% |
| Fundraising:                                         | 116,803   | 17.7% |
| Total:                                               | \$658,259 | 100%  |

## **Explanation of Revenues and Expenses**

### **Revenues:**

**Basic Operations:** The \$516,010 is the amount of money raised through general donations for the basic operations of the Network. This includes all monies raised through the New York and Washington fundraisers, direct mail and other support.

**Special Programs:** Some monies raised in 1998 were specifically targeted for special programs. They include revenues for the Miami Gospel Program, the Best Practices Conference, and the Program of Comprehensive Care for Homeless Women.

**In-kind donation by Greystone:** The Family AIDS Network is administered through a professional services contract with The Greystone Companies, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Washington, D.C. Each year, an in-kind donation of staff services is included as part of the contract.

### **Expenses:**

**Administration, Board, and Expenses of the Chair:** \$82,727 was spent on all travel, lodging, and communications associated with the Board meetings; all travel and other expenditures incurred by the Chair and not related to specific events; and basic administration of the Network.

**Program Design and Implementation:** \$54,712 was spent on program design and implementation. This includes staff work with the Harvard AIDS Institute and the University of Alabama-Birmingham in designing the Best Practices Conference for Women and HIV/AIDS, technical support in working with local partners to design the Gospel programs, and other technical assistance to event organizers before an appearance by Mary Fisher.

**Community Service:** \$65,653 was spent on direct community support in the fight against AIDS by professional staff other than Mary Fisher. This would include former Congressman Steve Gunderson speaking to groups on AIDS public policy issues, staff representing the Network at AIDS events, staff giving speeches at events on behalf of the Network, and the answering of mail and telephone requests for information.

**Staff and Media:** \$68,115 was spent on direct staff services related to media, speech writing for Mary Fisher, scheduling and other support functions for the organization.

**Books:** In 1997, Mary Fisher published her latest book *Angels in Our Midst*. This \$9,692 represents continuing expenses in the sale and distribution of the book.

**Gospel Against AIDS:** In 1998, \$87,087 was spent on the Gospel Programs. This included the remaining costs from the December 1997 Gospel Program in Jackson, Mississippi, implementing the Gospel Program in Miami, Florida, along with communications and planning for similar programs in other cities. This also represents the money needed to revise the Gospel Against AIDS Manual for local churches and their Care Teams.

**Best Practices Conference:** In October of 1998, the Network and the Harvard AIDS Institute produced the first conference on Best Practices for Women and HIV/AIDS. This three-day conference was held outside of Boston, Massachusetts. You should know that \$20,000 for this conference was actually appropriated in 1999 upon receipt from the CDC. This means the total cost of the Conference from the Network's perspective was \$36,692, of which \$16,692 was paid in 1998.

**Program of Comprehensive Care for Women at Risk:** \$79,855 was spent in 1998 on the design and implementation of this program, which provides AIDS prevention, education and care services to homeless women through the N Street Ministries in Washington, D.C. This pilot project, which began in 1998, is continuing through 1999 and hopefully beyond.

**Events:** Two of the Network's major events in 1998 served both a program and a fundraising function. They were the First Annual Washington Event for Women and AIDS, and a Broadway Event, the proceeds of which were directed to the Network. Numerous public policy and AIDS policy makers, including many Members of Congress, attended the Washington Event. The event featured the presentation of the first "Angel Awards," which went to Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and Congressman John Dingell, and Dr. Michael Saag presented a major speech on women and AIDS.

**Fundraising:** A total of 17% of our budget was spent on direct fundraising costs in 1998. This reflects the Network's first attempts at new programs, such as the Best Practices Conference and the Program of Comprehensive Care for Homeless Women, and the realities of AIDS fundraising in the late '90s, which is much more difficult.

**To contact us:**

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**We encourage you to use e-mail to communicate with us about those contacts you will take on as assignments, new leads, progress on your contacts, updates or changes in information which you discover through your contacts.**

**Family AIDS Network's  
Washington Event 2000 Committee  
Committee Member Bios**

**Andrew A. Barrer, Ph.D.**

Andrew has more than 20 years experience in health care policy issues, business development, operations and management. For the last ten years, Andrew has worked in various roles dealing with AIDS issues. He has held a senior advisor position in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, and currently is a consultant on public-private partnerships in health care for The World Bank.

**Deborah Insley Dingell**

Deborah began her career with General Motors in 1977, and has since worked her way up to president of the General Motors Foundation. She also serves as executive director of national corporate activity for General Motors. Deborah is active in civic and community issues in both Washington, D.C., and Michigan, and has received a number of awards for her leadership in the arts, ethical issues, health care concerns and social responsibility campaigns.

**Phyllis E. Greenberger, MSW**

As executive director of the Society for Women's Health Research in Washington, D.C., Phyllis works to improve women's health through scientific advances. She is a member of many organizations, including the Research Committee of the Presidential HIV/AIDS Advisory Council. *The Medical Herald* selected Phyllis as one of the 20 most influential women in medicine today.

**Rosemary Haas**

Rosemary has worked in the government relations field since 1970, and has been with Abbott Laboratories for the past 15 years. In her current position as regional director of federal government affairs, Rosemary represents and supports Abbott's interests before the U.S. Congress. She previously held positions with the State Department and served as assistant director of a non-profit organization lobbying on children's issues.

**Karen M. Hendricks, JD**

Karen holds a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law. Currently she is assistant director in the Department of Federal Affairs for the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Washington legislative coordinator for five pediatric academic and research societies. Prior to her current position, she was the director of government affairs for the Association of Junior Leagues International.

**Karen Ignagni**

Karen is the nation's leading authority on public policy, legislative and public affairs issues challenging the managed care industry today. Her position as president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Health Plans is the latest in a long and distinguished career in health care issues. Karen is featured regularly on national television and radio programs on a wide range of managed care industry issues.

**William R. Pitts, Jr.**

As the vice president of government relations for the Walt Disney Company, Bill serves as a congressional specialist on all issues affecting the company. Prior to this, Bill held one of the most powerful staff positions in the House of Representatives as floor assistant to Republican Leader Bob Michel (R-Ill.). Because of his 25 years of work behind the legislative scene, Bill is considered an expert on House rules and parliamentary procedure.

**Hilary B. Rosen**

In 1998, Hilary was named president and chief executive officer of the Recording Industry Association of America, a Washington, D.C., trade group representing the U.S. sound recording industry. A veteran lobbyist on Capitol Hill, Hilary is highly respected for her knowledge of the political and legislative process. She also serves on many boards, including Rock the Vote, an organization that encourages young people to become more involved in the political process.

**W. Edward Senn**

As the assistant vice president of government relations for Bell Atlantic, Ed spends much of his time as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill. He is the chief administrator for Bell Atlantic's Federal Political Action Committee and works with the company's grass-roots team to develop third party support for its public policy positions. Ed is a native of South Carolina and graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa.

**Tuckie Westfall**

With a new husband and two new step-children, Tuckie splits her time between her job and her family. Currently she is the director of federal government affairs for Kraft Foods, Inc., located in Washington, D.C. Her responsibilities at Kraft include dairy, commodities, WIC Program and military commissary resale issues.

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# • Mary Fisher

• her courage

• her compassion

• her voice

• and her Family AIDS Network



Dear Friends:

This book invites you to become a vital part of your community's battle against AIDS with the support and encouragement of Gospel Against AIDS, a program designed to bring hope and healing through dynamic organizations such as yours.

The need has never been greater: While African Americans make up 13 percent of the population, they comprised 57 percent of new infections and 58 percent of pediatric AIDS cases in 1998. One out of 50 of the nation's black men is believed to be infected with HIV. And the disease is disproportionately infecting African-American women — the annual AIDS case rate among those women is 16 times that of white women.

The fear also is real in the lives of those not infected. In a recent survey by the Henry R. Kaiser Family Foundation, half of the African-American respondents said they were "very concerned" about becoming infected with HIV.

We need to educate these groups about how to prevent being infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. And we need to lovingly care for and counsel those already infected or affected by AIDS.

That is the focus of Gospel Against AIDS. Depending on the needs of your community and desires of your organization, Gospel Against AIDS can include some or all of the following elements: an Evening of Hope concert, workshops, special worship services and Care Teams.

This manual describes ways your church or AIDS service organization can be a partner in Gospel Against AIDS. It helps you discover what services might be lacking in your community. It lists a series of resources to help you learn about AIDS and minister to those infected and affected by this disease. And it walks you through the steps necessary to plan your own Gospel Against AIDS event in partnership with the Family AIDS Network.

Your level of involvement is up to you — you are encouraged to adopt, redesign, interpret, or add to the Family AIDS Network's suggestions as your individual needs demand. We are excited that you are joining us for this challenging and rewarding initiative. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Steve Gunderson  
Managing Trustee  
Family AIDS Network

Lynne Ferrell  
National Project Director  
Gospel Against AIDS

## **I. Gospel Against AIDS: What It Is, What It Does, and How It Got Started**

**Mary Fisher** founded the Family AIDS Network in 1992, just a few months after she discovered she was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. This mother of two young sons had been infected by her husband, who since has died of AIDS.

Ms. Fisher established the Family AIDS Network first to help her bring messages of hope and prevention to communities, visit AIDS service organizations and honor AIDS caregivers. Over the last few years, the Network has evolved to become an organization supporting communication efforts and programs that teach communities and physicians the best ways to prevent HIV/AIDS and care for those already infected and affected by the disease.

One of those programs is Gospel Against AIDS. Ms. Fisher saw that communities of color were quietly being devastated by HIV/AIDS. She also saw that faith-based institutions were powerful opinion and behavior leaders in these communities. She decided to work with these institutions to overcome the fear and stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS. The first Gospel Against AIDS event was held October 1997 in Detroit, Ms. Fisher's home town.

The word "gospel" in the program's name stems from the program's original focus on gospel music as a tool for reaching out to communities of color. In more recent Gospel Against AIDS events, local gospel choirs have shared the stage with Broadway artists, creating a memorable concert that reaches a broad audience.

Involving and empowering faith-based institutions help create a culture of openness, where fear and hesitation are replaced with knowledge and action. Through events such as workshops and the gospel concerts, the following four audiences receive these critical messages:

- **Those Most At-Risk:** African Americans, including women and youth, are the most rapidly growing segments of the AIDS community today. The need to share prevention messages and urge testing for these groups is critical.
- **The Infected:** Those already infected with HIV need to know that they are not despised, that there is hope (both spiritual and physical), and that they have an opportunity to live full and responsible lives in their communities.
- **Families Touched by AIDS:** Each day, families of color are stitching new panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt for their loved ones. Those left behind by AIDS — partners, children and loved ones — are the unseen casualties. They need support and ministry.

- **Faith-based Organizations as Partners:** These organizations have the resources of love, tolerance, faith, and many helping hands. The people they represent have begun to embrace those with this illness. No other institutions have earned the community's trust as these have. But they need relevant information, partnerships and strategies to translate their resources into effective action.

The ultimate goal of any AIDS program is to save lives, prolong lives, and promote understanding and support. Gospel Against AIDS hopes to contribute to these goals by focusing on this simple reality: The earlier the intervention, the greater the possibility that those with this disease will enjoy prolonged and productive lives, and the less likely the virus will be spread.

## **II. Challenges to Participating in a Gospel Against AIDS Program**

While we don't want to discourage any church or organization from planning a Gospel Against AIDS program, we realize that even the most effective new programs can be risky. We want to be clear about the challenges involved in bringing Gospel Against AIDS to your city.

- **Raising funding can be difficult**  
Some who have funded HIV/AIDS programs in the past are hesitant now to continue that funding, due to good news headlines that lead the public to believe AIDS is over. (While many have had success with life-prolonging drug regimens, these drugs still are not available to many people, and they still are not a cure.) In addition, many who might be willing to fund an AIDS program don't want to fund a church-based program, and vice-versa.
- **Finding willing faith-based institutions to participate can be difficult**  
The key to making Gospel Against AIDS work is involving the pastors and congregations of many churches. At the very least, one church must be willing to host the Evening of Hope Concert. But finding faith-based organizations willing to participate in programs about HIV/AIDS is more difficult than one might hope.
- **Attendance is difficult to predict**  
At each of the Gospel Against AIDS programs so far, crowds consistently have been smaller than projected. Of course, that doesn't mean that the people who most needed to hear the messages weren't there, but it does mean that publicizing the event and making people feel comfortable with it requires much effort. For a variety of reasons — many of them having to do with the social stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and the traditional judgment of many churches — it can be very uncomfortable and risky for people to attend such an event.

### **III. Why We Need Your Help: A Profile of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

The AIDS epidemic has been monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since the first reports of AIDS cases in 1981. As of June 31, 1998, state and local health departments had reported 665,357 AIDS cases to the CDC.

HIV/AIDS increasingly is becoming a disease of youth, of women and of communities of color. Consider the following statistics:

- While the rate of new AIDS cases is decreasing, it is not decreasing equally among demographic lines. From 1996 to 1997, the decrease was smaller among women (eight percent) and African Americans (nine percent) than among men (16 percent).
- Among men, African Americans and Hispanics accounted for 60 percent of all reported HIV infections between July 1997 and June 1998. Among women, African Americans and Hispanics accounted for 78 percent of all reported HIV infections during the same time period.
- Since 1994, half of all new infections have been among people under the age of 25.
- Fifty-seven percent of new infections in 1998 were among African Americans.
- Seventy-nine percent of AIDS cases reported among women in 1996 occurred among African-American and Hispanic women, while these two groups comprise only 21 percent of all women in the U.S.
- For babies infected at birth, 80 percent were born to African-American mothers.

Since access to life-prolonging drugs has been least available to these communities, the death rates for these groups are sobering:

- AIDS-related death rates for African Americans fell only two percent in 1996, compared to a 21 percent decline for Caucasians.
- Death rates for men decreased 15 percent, while death rates for women — typically African-American women of poverty — *increased* by three percent.

These realities are overlooked in the face of the gains made in battling this disease. We all desperately want to believe that the AIDS crisis is over, or at least that it does not affect our communities. That desire makes it even more difficult to draw our attention to a significant barrier in the fight against AIDS; the culture in communities of color can make it difficult for people with HIV/AIDS to bring the reality of their infection into the open.

This hushed denial has significant and deadly consequences. The fear of being tested and the hesitation to seek medical attention means that, for many, the news of being infected comes much too late for new medical technologies to help. For these communities, earlier intervention is an imperative. That imperative can be achieved only by overcoming fear and hesitation.

#### **IV. Gospel Against AIDS: How You Can Be Involved**

The success of Gospel Against AIDS in your community rests on the foundation of joint partnerships between the Family AIDS Network and a local facilitator(s). The facilitator will vary from community to community. In some places, it will be a local congregation. In other cases, it will be a local AIDS service organization. And in some communities, churches and organizations may band together in a unique coalition to bring Gospel Against AIDS to their city.

It is important to remember, however, that this program will often use the historically African-American church, inspirational music and the motivational words of Mary Fisher and others. Anyone facilitating Gospel Against AIDS must feel comfortable with, and be willing to support, this basic premise. After reviewing the following list of ways to be involved, consider how your organization or congregation can best contribute to the fight against AIDS.

##### **A. Facilitating and Hosting the Evening of Hope Concert**

A local congregation, an AIDS service organization or a coalition of churches and service organizations will host a free evening concert and program of awareness and compassion. The concert will bring together diverse community members and will inspire personal and collaborative action. In most cities, musicians include local gospel choirs and Broadway talent.

Eloquent messages of awareness and compassion also are an imperative part of the event. We have found that the most touching part of every Gospel Against AIDS program has been the testimony of local people touched by AIDS, whether they are struggling with AIDS or have lost a child or sibling to the disease. Finding the right people to share their stories is key to the program's message. In addition, evening programs usually include messages from a local leader (such as the mayor) or a professional athlete, a church leader in the community, and a leader in the local AIDS community.

##### **B. Gospel Against AIDS Workshops**

Educating your congregation and other community members is the first step to eradicate fear and prejudice, and to offer acceptance and care. In order for the workshops to be effective, presenters must be qualified to address the topic of their presentation and skilled at facilitating discussion. This is often a good first step in relationship building between the local AIDS service organization and the churches in your community. For many people, it will take great courage to attend these HIV/AIDS workshops. Therefore,

presenters also must provide information in a manner that is comfortable, educational and easily understood. They also must be able to keep information confidential, if necessary, to protect the privacy of those attending!

If the congregation or someone in the church already is educated about HIV/AIDS and/or has knowledgeable community contacts in the field of HIV/AIDS, facilitating these workshops is an excellent way to be involved in Gospel Against AIDS. Workshop topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Opening Doors to the Community: How local AIDS organizations are providing AIDS education, prevention, testing and treatment, and what prevention and care needs your community still has
- Issues of Bereavement and Grief
- Words From Our Youth: Teen-to-teen HIV/AIDS education programs
- Empowering Women for Relationships: Breaking dependencies and becoming self-reliant
- Living with HIV/AIDS: Advice and counsel from people with AIDS
- Parent to Child: How to talk about HIV/AIDS

### **C. Individual Worship Services with a Focus on AIDS**

In some cities, Mary Fisher will speak at a special service of a local congregation on the Sunday after the Saturday night Evening of Hope concert. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

If we are unable to schedule Ms. Fisher for the Sunday morning service, you are encouraged to focus on HIV/AIDS awareness and education during the service. An appendix in this guide contains, for your use, sample liturgies and other references. Also, the Family AIDS Network encourages you to make similar special services a regular part of the church calendar.

### **D. Care Teams**

If Gospel Against AIDS has any particular theme, it is to live the love of God by caring for one's neighbors. By breaking down the barriers and facades that separate us, and by encouraging compassion, we hope to empower everyone in the community to help the individuals and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Family AIDS Network is very committed to the formation of Care Teams. When individuals or a congregation make the decision to form Care Teams, training sessions must be held to equip them. We hope that these sessions will teach people not only about the basic scientific facts of HIV/AIDS, but also about the scriptural passages that may offer support to those who are suffering and encouragement to those who want to care for people with HIV/AIDS. We want people to understand that their faith is much more about grace, love and support than it is about judgment.

Some ideas for AIDS ministries led by Care Teams include:

- Invite people living with AIDS and their caregivers to go out to dinner, to a movie, to church, to a concert or a sports event.
- Offer to help with basic tasks, such as house cleaning and grocery shopping.
- Offer transportation to doctor appointments.
- Deliver meals to people with AIDS during periods of recuperation.
- Volunteer at a local HIV/AIDS service organization or serve in a local AIDS Buddy volunteer program.
- Open church daycare programs to serve the needs of children and families affected by AIDS.

## **E. Other Opportunities for Service**

### **Educate your faith community, and combat the fear and prejudice around AIDS**

- Include AIDS awareness in youth group and Sunday school curriculum.
- Keep a supply of AIDS brochures in your literature rack.
- Organize a special day of prayer and remembrance for those with AIDS.
- Set up a panel of people who have been touched by AIDS to talk about their experiences, or print their stories in your church bulletin or newsletter.
- Obtain books or videos on AIDS for your church library.
- Partner with the Balm in Gilead in their National Day of Prayer and Healing for People with AIDS.

### **Create a welcome environment for people with AIDS**

- Declare your community to be a center of openness, where people who have been affected by HIV/AIDS can talk about their needs and find support.
- Offer space at the church for support group meetings of people with AIDS and their caregivers.
- Ask people with AIDS to be involved in your worship service.

## **V. The Essential Components**

We believe there are five essential partners needed to organize and implement Gospel Against AIDS. They are:

### **Family AIDS Network**

The Family AIDS Network will partner with a select number of cities each year for Gospel Against AIDS events. When partnering with the Family AIDS Network in creating an Evening of Hope concert, the Network will provide the leadership and technical support in designing and implementing that event. In addition to Mary Fisher, key players include Steve Gunderson, who has been a long-time advocate for open acceptance and inclusion in the battle against AIDS; and Lynn Ferrell, who has a wealth of experience in designing services and programs for people with AIDS and their families.

**Local Sponsor/Steering Committee**

A city-wide AIDS organization or inter-faith-based coalition would serve as an ideal sponsor. The local sponsor is responsible for forming a steering committee to assist in the planning and execution of the events. The committee should consist of leaders of churches and faith-based organizations, community leaders and activists, and representatives from AIDS service organizations and other groups. This committee will create an action plan for Gospel Against AIDS events in your city, following guidelines provided in this manual.

**The Host**

To keep the focus on the faith-based nature of Gospel Against AIDS, we recommend that the events be hosted at a church or other faith-based institution with a central location and community-focused reputation. Although the host church is not sponsoring the event, it is important that the pastor and other staff and congregation members are willing to participate and back the program in some way, in addition to the use of their space.

**Community Partners**

Reaching out to the community for other partners is essential to the success of Gospel Against AIDS. Partnerships should be sought with churches and faith-based organizations, AIDS service organizations, public health agencies, alcohol and drug abuse programs, and schools.

**Media and Public Relations Partners**

Making contacts with media and other key governmental and advocacy offices is crucial to publicize the events and make information available to people beyond the events. Perhaps the most significant impact of Gospel Against AIDS will come from the media coverage, which will reach more people than the event itself can. Media exposure also generates dialogue and action in your community.

**VI. The Budget**

In each city, a budget should be developed for that particular Gospel Against AIDS program. Each budget will be different, based on individual circumstances, such as the amount of funding available to support that specific program; logistics (such as transportation and lodging costs); and other events held in conjunction with this program.

It is always important to funders, the media and others to see a commitment above and beyond the money directed to the program. We at the Family AIDS Network provide in-kind services for the program. It is our hope that the local sponsor will do the same. We anticipate that you might provide the following types of in-kind services:

- Staff assistance through the local program director
- Staff planning and follow-up time
- Staff time for orientation and assistance
- Mailings to your membership

- Office support staff
- Telephone, fax, postage, and supplies
- Office space, equipment use
- Similar services, as mutually agreed upon

## **VII. Your Primary Responsibilities**

### **Organization**

- Work in partnership with the Family AIDS Network staff to coordinate and implement the entire Gospel Against AIDS event, from the concert to follow-up workshops and the formation of Care Teams.
- Form a steering committee; assign tasks; schedule and conduct meetings.

### **Liaison to local churches**

- Contact pastors, churches, and other communities of faith to enlist their participation in Gospel Against AIDS events.
- Identify congregations and/or pastors particularly committed to the cause and enlist their involvement in follow-up workshops, Care Teams, and AIDS support/care ministries.

### **Liaison to local AIDS organizations**

- Notify local AIDS organizations about the weekend and follow-up events.
- Request AIDS prevention and education literature to make available at the concert, worship services and workshops.

### **Publicity and promotion**

- Display posters, brochures and other advertising in strategic locations.
- Work with churches to publicize the events in newsletters and during announcement time.
- Work with the Network staff to place paid advertising in print and radio, and to arrange for free public service announcements on local radio.
- Work with reporters to arrange pre-event articles, which can serve as promotion.

### **Media relations**

- Prepare a list of local media and contacts.
- Prepare and mail press releases and media packets (samples are provided) for radio, television and print media.
- Have a staff member serve as the local media contact for questions, arranging interviews.

- Place follow-up phone calls to key media/reporters as appropriate.
- Assist in the planning of a press conference.
- Schedule interviews and appearances with the media and a spokesperson from your organization; phone interviews with Mary Fisher and others (e.g.: local government officials, pastors and AIDS experts) before and during the event.

### **Follow-up**

- Collect information/evaluation cards; compile data, mailing list, etc.; respond with information as requested.
- Develop a plan for training and education appropriate to the needs and interests of your community (through workshops, Care Teams, etc.)
- Keep media informed of follow-up events (workshops, Care Teams, etc.)
- Organize meetings with involved pastors/community leaders, as needed, for planning or trouble shooting.

### **VIII. Media Relations Guide**

Utilizing the media is one of the most effective ways to promote a Gospel Against AIDS event and to get the main messages across to those who don't attend the event. It is also very cost effective, and we've had great success generating media interest in Gospel Against AIDS events in other cities.

A sample media kit will be forwarded as we get closer to the date of the event.

## **IX. Timeline/Checklist**

We encourage the steering committee and local sponsor to begin working at the earliest date possible. The following schedule demonstrates working with a minimal eight-week timeline.

### **Eight weeks before event**

- ☐ Sign any partnership agreements between the local sponsor and host
- ☐ Organize steering committee and set first meeting as soon as possible
- ☐ Go through Planning Committee Manual and assign tasks
- ☐ Set the dates and locations for the event (concert on Saturday and special services on Sunday)
- ☐ Begin gathering information for printing of brochures, print ads and programs

### **Seven weeks before event**

- ☐ Send letters inviting pastors to a breakfast or lunch briefing on Gospel Against AIDS (to be scheduled for four weeks before the event)
- ☐ Distribute brochures/fliers at churches and organizations across your city
- ☐ Arrange free publicity in church and community newsletters, and with newspapers and radio stations that do free calendar/public service announcements
- ☐ Invite local leaders and celebrities to participate in the Evening of Hope concert (governor or mayor, musicians, athletes, etc.)

### **Six weeks before event**

- ☐ Arrange for equipment rental
- ☐ Arrange for necessary hotel accommodations and in-town transportation
- ☐ Confirm participation and arrangements for briefing with local pastors
- ☐ Compile list of local and state media contacts

### **Five weeks before event**

- ☐ Hold breakfast or lunch briefing with pastors
- ☐ Arrange for any catering that is needed for the event weekend (this might include cookies and coffee at the press conference, a light meal before the concert for those participating in the program, a VIP reception before or after the concert, etc.)

### **Four weeks before event**

- ☐ Work with hosting church, your organization and other local service organizations to arrange for any needed volunteers (ushers, parking lot security, nursery workers and others)
- ☐ Determine dates, location, and potential speakers and topics for workshops (recommendation is to hold workshops within one month of concert)
- ☐ Reserve ad slots if advertising budget has been established

### **Three weeks before event**

- ☐ Finalize participation in/order of Evening of Hope program

- ☐ Prepare media kits according to sample; mail to those on media list
- ☐ Begin weekly conference call meetings: discuss any changes in budget, program or other details
- ☐ Meet with host church representative/committee; review all details of concert, facilities and equipment needed, etc.
- ☐ Continue publicity of event with brochures, fliers and radio public service announcements
- ☐ Make final staff and volunteer assignments for day of event

#### **Two weeks before event**

- ☐ Make follow-up calls to media contacts who received media kits; make sure they received the kits, talk up the event and offer to arrange pre-event interviews with key people
- ☐ Call local AIDS organizations and request appropriate brochures about prevention, testing, help lines, etc. to be made available at concert and select churches
- ☐ Assist in the development of necessary signage for concert (for parking lot, directional signs to sanctuary and any meals/receptions, seat reservation signs for special guests at concert, etc.)
- ☐ Assist in the development of the printed program for Evening of Hope concert
- ☐ Assist in the planning of the press conference (participants, location, time, agenda — should be day before or day of concert, depending on when musicians and speakers are available)

#### **One week before event**

- ☐ Distribute an updated press release regarding the press conference; call key media and those who have shown an interest to confirm their participation (do this no more than one week before press conference)
- ☐ Confirm volunteers and assignments

#### **Week of event**

- ☐ Confirm schedule and other details with host church
- ☐ Confirm equipment rentals
- ☐ Confirm catering
- ☐ Develop final logistics plan with those responsible for each task
- ☐ Continue scheduling/conducting pre-event interviews
- ☐ Assist in the preparation of additional media packets in folders for press conference and event (about 20)

#### **Day of event**

- ☐ Work with church contacts and planning committee to assure all pieces are in place (facilities, equipment, people, etc.)
- ☐ Participate in the press conference
- ☐ Work with media to find locations for interviews and to help keep them on schedule
- ☐ Organize/direct volunteers as they arrive

- ☐ Help hang necessary signage
- ☐ Assist in the creation of Gospel Against AIDS name tags for volunteers, staff, special guests, etc.
- ☐ Organize/display AIDS brochures, programs, evaluation forms, etc. for concert

**Within one week after event**

- ☐ Process evaluations and share information with other sponsors
- ☐ Create mailing list from evaluation forms
- ☐ Finalize workshop topics and speakers
- ☐ Fax press release about workshops, including topics and speakers
- ☐ Mail follow-up info about workshops and Care Teams to those on compiled mailing list
- ☐ Follow up with media as necessary
- ☐ Follow up with host church
- ☐ Collect clippings/tapes of all media coverage
- ☐ Write necessary thank you notes

**Within one month after event**

- ☐ Publicize workshops
- ☐ Arrange media interviews with workshop speakers
- ☐ Host local workshops
- ☐ Assist in development of the final event report

**Appendix**

To be forwarded.

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current Jan 2000  
January 2000

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

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July 19, 1999

Ms. Sandra Thurman  
Director of the White House Office  
of National AIDS Policy  
736 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Sandy:

It was very nice to meet you and I thank you for spending so much time with me discussing the work of the Family AIDS Network. I appreciate your willingness to assist in our efforts. Mary, too, is thrilled that you are willing to help.

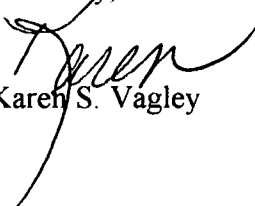
As we continue to prepare for our Annual Luncheon fund raiser, it would be really helpful if you could send me the list of individuals and corporations that you mentioned that might be willing to support our effort with its particular focus on "Minority Women and AIDS." We continue to add people to our host committee and to target potential donors. Anything you can do would be really helpful.

Also, I was interested in what reaction you got from the First Lady's office in response to our invitation. I received a note from Pattie Solis Doyle, indicating that they could not yet commit the First Lady but would be in touch if it could be accommodated. Anything you can do to give us a hand in securing Mrs. Clinton as our speaker would be great. We are anxious to use her participation in our mailings.

Again, thank you for your time and I look forward to working with you on this and other projects.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
Karen S. Vagley



OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Karen Vagley

FROM: Cheryl / Sandy Thurman

COMPANY:

DATE:

FAX NUMBER:

403-243-8377

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

PHONE NUMBER:

RE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Attached is the list I spoke of in my voice mail. We'll let you know if we hear anything further ~~at~~ from the First Lady's Office.

Please call me with any questions. (202-456-2959)

Thanks!

Cheryl

736 Jackson Place  
Washington, DC 20503  
(202) 456-2437  
(202) 456-2438 (fax)

|                       |                                                                  |                                                          |              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| LaVerne Alexander     | Director, Government Relations, Girl Scouts of the USA           | 1025 Connecticut Ave, NW, Ste 309 W DC 20036             | 202-659-3780 |
| Veronica Biggins      | Partner, Heidrick & Struggles                                    | 303 Peachtree, Ste 3100, Atlanta, GA 30308               | 404-577-2410 |
| Ingrid Saunders Jones | Vice President Corporate External Affairs, The Coca-Cola Company | Post Office Drawer 1734 Atlanta, GA 30301                | 404-676-3525 |
| Prema Mathai-Davis    | CEO, YWCA of the U.S.A.                                          | Empire State Bldg., 350 5th Ave., Ste. 301, NY, NY 10118 | 212-273-7801 |
| Dr. Marjorie Muedee   | President, The Ford Foundation                                   | 320 East 43rd St. NY, NY 10017                           | 212-573-4961 |
| Ester Silver-Parker   | President, AT&T Foundation                                       | 32 Avenue of the Americas, Rm 2606 NY, NY 10013          | 212-387-4113 |

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-AIDS POLICY -

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

|                          |                                     |
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NOTES/COMMENTS:

Attached is the list I spoke of in my voice mail. We'll let you know if we hear anything further ~~the~~ from the First Lady's Office.

Please call me with any questions. (202-456-2959)  
Thanks!  
Cheryl

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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Hilary Rosen  
Washington, DC

May 11, 1999

Mrs. Hilary Clinton  
The First Lady  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20502

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

Staff of the Family AIDS Network just told me you actually considered attending our June 7 event in New York. I am almost grateful not to have you among those who are embarrassing me already with this "Tribute." In so many ways, as you and I know far too well, we do these silly things for important causes – because we can't think of a better path to the goal. In any event, it was gracious of you to entertain the idea.

And with this note is another request, also from the Network staff, asking your help with something I consider a bit more substantial.

The Network is among the few national organizations focusing intensely on *women* with HIV/AIDS. With the torrent of "good news" stories in recent years, and the reality of new drugs and their efficacy especially for men, it's become increasingly hard to convince America that infection rates continue to increase, especially in the young and minority female populations.

The Network has developed and supports local and national projects. In D.C., we sponsor the "N Street Women's Shelter." Nationally, we continue to work with major events, media, and a series of "Gospel Against AIDS" programs. We fund this and our other work through, among other things, an annual luncheon in D.C. Our third such luncheon will be held January 26 (2000) under the theme, "Minority Women and AIDS."

By now you know what's coming: Would you consider being our honorary guest and speaker? For so many years I've argued that AIDS is "not a political disease," and your appearance with me would underscore

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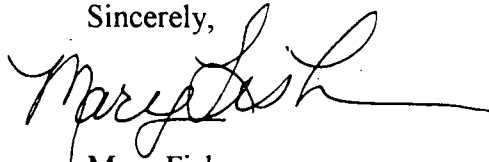
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that message in ways my speeches cannot. Besides, your dedication to women's issues and the AIDS campaign would lend great credence to your voice and our event.

I hope your schedule and needs will permit you time to join us. Karen Vagley in our Washington office can manage any of the necessary arrangements (703 243-8242).

No matter your response, of course, this comes with deep respect and more affection than you might know.

Sincerely,



Mary Fisher

# Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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## *Administrative Center*

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May 11, 1999

Ms. Patti Solis Doyle  
Office of the First Lady – Scheduling  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Doyle:

As a result of my conversation with Eric Woode, I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mrs. Clinton from Mary Fisher containing an invitation for January of 2000. As you may know, Mary Fisher is the founder of the Family AIDS Network and is herself infected with HIV. We had invited President and Mrs. Clinton to join President and Mrs. Ford for a New York event in June of this year, which unfortunately Mrs. Clinton was unable to do. Melanne Verveer had helped with that invitation which is what led to my follow-on conversation with Eric. Mary, when we learned of all this, mentioned how much she would appreciate Mrs. Clinton's participation in our next annual luncheon in Washington scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2000.

The letter is self-explanatory. The annual event garners a fair amount of regional and national press coverage (last year CNN, The Washington Post, and others). Mary's hope for a "bipartisan" showing certainly matches her staff's strongest desire.

On behalf of those of us who work with Mary, I can only add that her dedication to this cause is what motivates others of us, even when we begin to wonder if there's reason for hope.

I will act as the contact person here in Washington and, if you have any questions at all, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

*Karen S. Vagley*  
Karen S. Vagley

*Patti: I thank you for any this  
you can do. Karen*