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Unity Healthcare
Us Helping Us...People into Living, Inc.
VA Medical Center Washington Regional AIDS
Program Department of Infectious Diseases
Washington Free Clinic
Washington Urban League
Whitman-Walker Clinic

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

November 3, 1999

Dear Ms. Thurman:

Thank you for the moving presentation you gave at the Gospel Against AIDS Concert, that was held October 23, 1999, at the Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church in Washington, D.C. Your speech helped to make the concert a tremendous success! This was the first concert of its kind in Washington, D.C., and we had an attendance of more than 700 people.

You spoke eloquently and with compassion. Your presentation helped to bring attention to the goals of the concert that were (1) to highlight the state of health emergency around HIV/AIDS and African Americans, and (2) to increase the number of African American churches that are involved with providing HIV/AIDS services to DC residents.

For your information, immediately following the concert, we received a call from Dr. Derrick Hawkins of the 19th Street Baptist Church. He asked for the Consortium's support to create an HIV/AIDS program to be administered by the 19th Street Baptist Church. We expect even more requests. Clearly, your words requesting more involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS did not fall on deaf ears.

We are lucky to have a warrior like you in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Your commitment and strength will help create a light at the end of the tunnel for so many people who are fighting for their lives.

I have no doubt that the concert attendees who are all touched by HIV and AIDS felt reassured by your words of hope. This is the message that we all need to hear, and I thank you for delivering it so well and with sincerity.

We thank God for you, and look forward to continuing to work with you in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

When one community is threatened none of us are safe. Working together we can win the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



Valerie Papaya Mann
Executive Director

Family AIDS Network, Inc.

MARY FISHER, FOUNDER

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703 / 243-8377 fax

Administrative Center
678 Front Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616 / 451-2361
616 / 451-9180 fax

www.familyaidsnet.org

November 19, 1999

Hon. Sandra Thurman
Director, National AIDS Policy Office
736 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Sandra:

Yes, I could apologize for the delay in sending you this note. Then again, I could prove to you that three weeks after the event, we are still remembering your kindness. And of course, I could extend this further by saying that it seemed appropriate during the week of Thanksgiving to remember your many kind and wonderful gestures.

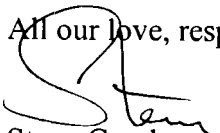
So I want to do all of the above!

When multiple groups cooperate to put on an event like the Washington DC Gospel Against AIDS event there is always a bit of confusion over "who-is-to-do-what." I suspect our event is one of those. But your commitment to the cause, your willingness to adjust your travel plans to be in Washington that evening, your inspirational words to the group, and all that you do in the fight against AIDS mean so much to so many of us.

On behalf of Mary Fisher, and all of us at the Family AIDS Network, thanks so much for your attendance at the concert. We deeply appreciate your participation and your constant support.

One of these days we hope to do a favor for you. Please let us know what they might be, and when we can be of help.

All our love, respect, and appreciation.


Steve Gunderson
Managing Trustee

6 Family AIDS Network Opening prayer & songs

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4:30 PM

October 23, 1999

H: 703/525-9669
C: 703/517-3540

testimonial - Rainy Cheek

MUSIC
G-DCC
MUSIC

testimonial - William Seal
Diagnose
says

Welcome to the "Gospel Against AIDS" concert, hosted by the Family AIDS Network and the DC CARE Consortium. This event marks a critical juncture in our battle against AIDS. Across the nation, our ability to keep pace is challenged by the misperception that AIDS is no longer a lethal threat - a misperception that increasingly places women, youth, and communities of color in jeopardy.

Wid
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solo
Jackie
K... W

When so many of us long to believe that the worst is behind us, we are confronted with the sobering reality of more than 40,000 new infections per year in the United States alone - over 50% of which occur among the African-American community. More and more, we are called to find innovative and creative responses to the growing crisis among those most at risk.

- SET
- MUSIC

"Gospel Against AIDS" stands as a remarkable example of what can be accomplished through partnership and the willingness of organizations to speak out against silence, complacency, and inaction. Your presence here tonight reflects the importance of combating AIDS by joining in the spirit of community and building bridges across old barriers.

MASS
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- Women
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Thank you for supporting this unique and vitally important effort to foster a community built on compassion, awareness and care in the face of AIDS.

- ED. DC
Gates
off...
- 70-90
Gospel
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the
choir
Says

Best wishes for an inspirational evening of song and empowerment.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurman

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

al fof...
DCC/CBC

Michael I.owitz

Angel
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4:30-7 Health
* 7:30 service

Audience, Greater WDC
Community, Black community
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Family AIDS Network, Inc.

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www.familyaidsnet.org

September 30, 1999

Mrs. Tipper Gore
c/o Sandy Thurman
National Office of AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mrs. Gore:

My name is Mary Fisher and I am the Founder of the Family AIDS Network. You might recall my speech to the 1992 Republican National Convention where I disclosed my HIV status to the world as a mother with two sons. Since that time I, like you, have traveled the nation to build bridges of awareness, compassion, and care in the fight against AIDS. Today, as the epidemic moves into communities of women and color, we have changed our vehicles of communication to more effectively reach these audiences.

Today, I would like to ask you to consider one more appearance on behalf of all those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. On Saturday, October 23rd, my Family AIDS Network, in partnership with DC Cares, will host a "Gospel Against AIDS" concert at the Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 610 Rhode Island Avenue, in Washington, DC. We would be deeply touched and honored if you might join us for this evening of powerful music and inspirational words as we encourage this community to open its hearts and hands to those touched by AIDS. We would be honored if you would provide a message to the audience that evening.

The Network developed the "Gospel Against AIDS" as a national initiative to address the dangerous silence around the AIDS epidemic in the Black community. The program challenges the faith community, local grass roots associations, and our policy makers to work more closely together to combat what has been called a state of emergency for people of color.

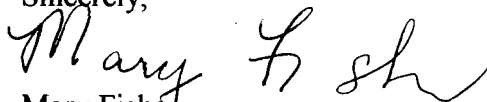
The "Gospel Against AIDS" is a concert that joins local gospel choirs and Broadway artists to create a powerful tool to reach communities of color. The Washington concert is under the direction of Broadway Producer Lee Tannen, and led by Broadway star George Merritt. Involving and empowering faith-based institutions will create a culture of openness, where fear and hesitation are replaced with knowledge and action. This event is designed specifically for these four audiences:

- **Those Most At-Risk:** African Americans, including women and youth, are the most rapidly growing segments of the AIDS community today. Sharing prevention messages and encouraging testing for these groups is critical.
- **The Infected:** Those already infected with HIV need to know 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. They need, however, relevant information, partnerships and strategies to translate their resources into effective action.

The event already has had a powerful impact in Detroit, Miami and Jackson, Mississippi, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Next year we have been invited to produce the event at the national convention of the A.M.E. Church in Cincinnati.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact former Congressman Steve Gunderson, who is the Executive Director of the Network. His number is 703-243-8276. Again, I very much hope you can join us for this inspiring event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Fisher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Mary Fisher
Founder

Fax Transmittal Form

To

Name: Cheryl Baverle
Phone number: 456-2959
Fax number: 456 2439

From

Name: Gerald Davis
Phone: 202-347-8888
Fax: 202-347-0945
TTY: 202-347-0947

- Urgent
 For Review
 Please Comment
 Please Reply

Date sent: 10/15
Time sent:
Number of pages including cover
page:

Message:

Thanks, and if we could
have this back by ~~Sunday~~
Monday, I will appreciate it.

D.C. CARE Consortium

District Of Columbia Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium

733 15th Street N.W., Suite 620
Washington D.C. 20005

Phone: 202-347-8888
Fax: 202-347-0945

PRESS RELEASE

-- For immediate release

CONTACTS: Valerie Papaya Mann: (202) 347-8888 x24

Bruce Weiss: (202) 347-8888 x22

Begin run: A.S.A.P.

Stop date: October 23, 1999

Free Gospel Against AIDS Concert to Focus on Increasing Involvement of African American Churches in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

Washington, DC, September 27 – The DC Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education Consortium (DCCC) in partnership with the Family AIDS Network (FAN) and event co-sponsor the Dwayne S. Brown Foundation, are holding the Gospel Concert Against AIDS on October 23, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, 610 Rhode Island Ave., N.E. This concert is free and open to the public. The goal of this concert is to increase the number of African American churches that are active in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Washington metropolitan area.

A grass-roots Community Health Fair will be held at the same location from 4:30 to 7:00p.m. on October 23. Between 1500 to 2000 people are expected to attend the health fair and concert. Information about HIV/AIDS prevention, social services, and treatment options will be distributed. Other services provided at the Health Fair are; on-site HIV testing and counseling, hypertension screening, diabetes screening, mammogram screening, bone marrow registry screening, and body fat composition analysis will be available at the health fair. Representatives from District of Columbia government agencies, non-profit organizations, church based AIDS ministries, and corporations will participate in the event. In an expression of support for the event, the Names Project will have panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on display during the event.

The concert and health fair are a result of a collaboration between DCCC and FAN. Co-sponsors of the event include, the Dwayne S. Brown Foundation, Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, Motivational Educational Entertainment Productions (MEE), BB&T Bank, Gold's Gyms, Unimed Pharmaceuticals, the District of Columbia Administration for HIV/AIDS and the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

The Gospel Concert will feature recording artist Jacki Ruffin, one of the founding members of the renown gospel group, The Richard Smallwood Singers. Also featured is George Merritt, currently starring in the Broadway hit musical, Jekyll and Hyde at the Plymouth Theatre, and previously starred in the Tony Award winning Broadway musical production of Big River. Joining the entertainment will be the Mass Choir of Hope, a combined choir representing members of numerous church choirs in Washington, DC. These churches include Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church, Union Temple Baptist Church, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Saint Augustine Catholic Church, as well as students from the Duke Ellington School for the Performing

Arts. The Choir will be under the direction of Jon Werking, who is currently playing in the Tony-award winning Broadway show, Fosse.

The Honorable Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton is the invited keynote speaker of the evening. Additional inspirational words and testimonials will be provided by Bishop Alfred Owens of the Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, and local AIDS activist and Bishop Kwabena Rainey Cheeks of the Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church. Pat Nalls, the Executive Director of the Women's Collective will discuss issues for women living with HIV/AIDS and William Beale, the Executive Director of the Dwayne S. Brown Foundation will speak about the loss of his son to HIV/AIDS. The special guest speaker will be Mary Fisher, founder of the Family AIDS Network and a mother living with HIV/AIDS. The evening will be hosted by radio personality Justine Love, the host of the evening radio show "Love Talk and Slow Jams", on WPGC FM.

HIV/AIDS is ravaging African American communities throughout the United States. AIDS is the number one killer of African American men and women between the ages of 25 and 44. Although African Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the nation's population, they accounted for 57 percent of all new HIV infections in 1998. Washington, D.C. has among the highest infection rates of HIV/AIDS in the nation. African Americans are disproportionately represented among HIV/AIDS cases locally and nationally and are under-served. While Federal and local funds are assisting non-profit prevention and care providers in this struggle, the institutions of the African American community, such as our churches, are instrumental in winning this fight. It is with this in mind that the individuals and organizations have come together to create the Gospel Concert Against AIDS. African American churches have a history of fighting battles for our community. They have resources that can be leveraged to help care for people who are already infected with HIV and who are living with AIDS. We must increase the number of churches that are active in the struggle against HIV/AIDS if we are to win this fight. We must also provide our churches with the knowledge of how to provide needed services to our community.

DCCC is committed to building our community and as our motto says, we provide, "Leadership and Support for the HIV/AIDS Community." This Health Fair and Concert are only the beginning. We are devoted to ensuring the participation of African American churches in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. In the coming months, DCCC will provide technical assistance to African American churches, together building church-based community programs that assist persons living with HIV/AIDS. DCCC is an association of over 60 member AIDS service providers, that include hospitals, District government agencies, community based organizations and churches. Our mission is to advocate for and to assure the availability of appropriate HIV/AIDS services in the community, including ensuring the equitable distribution of funding for these services and promoting quality assurance in their delivery.

- end -

in partnership with
Mary Fisher's Family AIDS Network
invite you to the

GOSPEL CONCERT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

**MASS CHOR
OF HOPE**

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JON WERDING
OF THE TONY AWARD WINNING
BROADWAY SHOW **POSSÉ**

JACKI RUFFIN
FORMERLY OF THE
RICHARD SMALLWOOD SINGERS

GEORGE MERRITT
STAR OF THE HIT BROADWAY
MUSICAL **BEYBL AND HYDE**



JUSTINE LOVE

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES
HOST OF WPGC-FM'S
"LOVE TALK AND SLOW JAMS"
RADIO SHOW

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS
AND TESTIMONIALS
ABOUT HIV/AIDS

NAMES PROJECT MEMORIAL
AIDS QUILT
PANELS ON DISPLAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1999

7-9 PM

GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH

610 RHODE ISLAND AVE NE

WASHINGTON DC



GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR 4:30 - 7 PM

WITH ON-SITE HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING

Parking available on the street and at the Rhode Island Ave. Metro Station

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

DC CARE CONSORTIUM

733 15TH STREET NW, SUITE 620, WASHINGTON, DC 20005

(202) 347-8888

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