

FOIA MARKER

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Fenway Community Health Center

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7 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115

Executive Office

Phone: 617/ 927-6170

Fax 617/859-1250

FAX

To: Sandy Thurman, Director
Todd Summers, Deputy Director

From: Henia Handler

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H. Handler", written over the printed name.

Fax: 202/456-2438

Pages: 2

Date: November 10, 1999

Best wishes...thanks for any help you can give..

Jo Dee 224-3254
Harkin - ~~Jody~~ Winterhoff
Jackie Dike

Gore 2000

Des Moines

- 7999
(515) 282-~~4991~~

6-5688



7 Haviland Street
Boston
Massachusetts
02115

617-267-0900
FAX 617-267-3667
TTY 617-859-1256

To: Sandy Thurman, Director
Todd Summers, Deputy Director

From: Eugenia Handler *Eugenia*

Date: November 9, 1999

Re: Vice President Al Gore's Visit to Boston
November 18, 1999

We send our best wishes and deep appreciation for the continuing focus and "transcendent" spirit you bring to the work of the National Office. I just had a chance to read Corretta Scott King's address in Atlanta, and her thanks to you Sandy. The speech was certainly one of the best I've seen lately, it touched all the bases and had that particularly quality of reaching right to one's heart.

■
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Stephen L. Boswell, M.D.
Executive Director

Having heard from friends that Vice President Gore will be visiting Boston, on November 18, I am writing to see if you might assist us in getting the Vice President to visit Fenway Community Health Center while he is in the city.

As you know, our pride in the work of the Center is boundless, we are proud of our history as a community health center and what we have become. We offer a comprehensive array of primary care services, mental health, substance abuse treatment including a walk-in treatment on demand acupuncture detoxification program, health education, clinical trials, research, chiropractic and medical acupuncture. We serve the lesbian and gay communities of greater Boston, and the many residents of the Fenway neighborhood---7,500 individuals have received primary care since the beginning of this year. Our HIV/AIDS patient panel has grown to over 950 individuals, the largest among all the community health centers in the Commonwealth. Over half of our patients live in the nearby communities of the South End, Back Bay, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester.

The Center is one of those unique places, it has an incredible capability in terms of the experience of our staff and the quality of HIV/AIDS care that is offered to patients. We also do significant behavioral research around HIV prevention and risk reduction. We are one of just a few community health centers that participate in vaccine testing. Last October, we began enrolling volunteers as part of the AIDSVAX trial, the first Phase III human HIV vaccine trial in North America. This vaccine if successful, has the potential of helping thousands of people throughout the world. We hope over the next year to create a research link with a community in India. Our hopes are high.

It would be wonderful to have the Vice President visit, to see what we do, who we are and the potential role that community based care can play in ensuring access to quality care while engaging in research that will enhance our knowledge about prevention, vaccines, and treatment.

Be well. I look forward to hearing from you.