

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19406

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Mothers' Voices

Stack:

S

Row:

66

Section:

6

Shelf:

7

Position:

1

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Amy Slemmer to Sarah Holewinski re: Lunch participants [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	01/05/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 19406

FOLDER TITLE:

Mothers' Voices

2018-0764-F

jm2118

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Amy Slemmer to Sarah Holewinski re: Lunch participants [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	01/05/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National AIDS Policy Office

OA/Box Number: 19406

FOLDER TITLE:

Mothers' Voices

2018-0764-F

jm2118

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®



January 5, 1998

Ms. Sarah Holewinski
Queen of Many Things
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 17th Street, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20503

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Trish Moylan Torruella

VIA FACSIMILE: 202/632-1096

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivy Dunier, Chair
Suzanne Benzer, President
Clyde Butler
Shirley Chase, Secretary
Susanna Cunningham-Rundles, Ph.D.
Angela Diaz, M.D.
Brenda Freiberg, Vice President
Barbara Gaynor
David M. Gold
Karen M. Hopkins, M.D.
Ellen Levine
Eileen Mirzman, Vice Chair
David Pearl, Treasurer
Hon. William Frank Perry, III
Kathryn Porter
Lili Rundback
Sheryl Schwarz

Dear Sarah,

The kind woman who answered the phone said that you were swamped with messages so I thought that I would answer your phone call with a fax. Hope you don't mind, but I thought that I could save you a little phone ear.....

Lunch participants for tomorrow will be:

ME - and my relevant statistics are:

(b)(6)

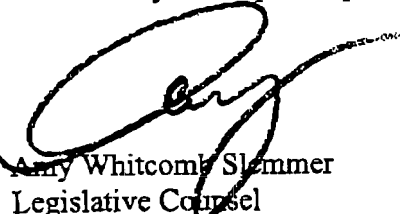
Suzanne Benzer
President of the Board of Mothers' Voices

Trish Moylan Torruella
Executive Director of Mothers' Voices

(b)(6)

[001]

Thanks for your help. I hope that your holidays went well,


Amy Whitcomb Slemmer
Legislative Counsel

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Deeda Blair
Christie Brinkley
Cher
Maria Cuomo Cole
Mary Fisher
Elizabeth Glaser
Whoopi Goldberg
Don Hall
Caroline Kennedy
Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Angela Lansbury
Andrea Marcovici
Patricia Neal
June E. Osborne, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Anna Quindlen
Ardath Rodale
Susan Sarandon
Flo Spier
Elizabeth Taylor
Joan Tisch
Sandra Viseland
Jeanne White-Ginder
Ivori Wiener, Ph.D.
Anna Wintour

*In Memoriam

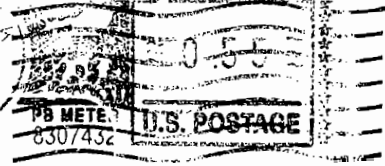
165 West 46th Street
Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

telephone
212.730.2777
facsimile
212.730.4378
internet
<http://www.mvoices.org>



**MOTHERS'
VOICES**
United to end AIDS®

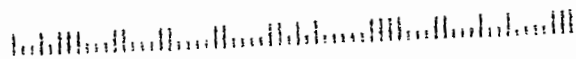
165 West 46th Street, Suite 701, New York, NY 10036
tel 212.730.2777 • fax 212.730.4378
<http://www.mvoices.org>



45945

Ms. Sandra Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
808 17th St NW 8th Fl.
Washington, DC 20006

200006-3910 23



Until every mother's child has the knowledge of how to avoid HIV infection, and everyone with HIV has access to the tools they need to live as long as possible, then Mothers' Voices work is not done.

MOTHERS' VOICES
United to end AIDS



AIDS IS NOT OVER YET. . .

*Your first class stamp helps
further support our programs!*



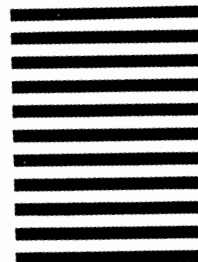
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 464 NEW YORK, NY

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

MOTHERS' VOICES
165 W 46TH ST STE 701
NEW YORK NY 10109-1365



**Together we will make a difference for AIDS education, prevention,
research, and ultimately a cure.**

☐ Please send information about Mothers' Voices work to:

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Thank you.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

☐ Yes, I/we want to support Mothers' Voices efforts. Enclosed is my/our tax deductible contribution for:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ Other _____

☐ My company participates in an employee matching gifts program.

☐ My check made payable to Mothers' Voices is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my contribution to my/our ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express Card

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ TOTAL DONATION _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

12 pgs

AIDS is not over yet!

Mother's Voices

ANNUAL REPORT 1996

MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

August, 1997



Dear Friend:

The enclosed Annual Report reflects what Mothers' Voices has accomplished over the past year as we work towards a world where no one is threatened by HIV and AIDS. While we celebrate recent advances in HIV treatment, we know that information is still our only weapon to prevent new infection.

Until every mother's child has the knowledge of how to avoid HIV infection, and everyone with HIV has access to the tools they need to live as long as possible, then Mothers' Voices' work is not done. Your support is even more critical this year as we work to create a public climate responsive to the continuing urgency of this epidemic.

Your commitment to ending the spread of HIV is truly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ivy Duneier

Chair, Board of Directors

Ann Kurth,
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivy Duneier, Chair
Dorrie Bless, President
Suzanne Benzer
Barbara Corcoran
Susanna Cunningham-
Rundles, Ph.D.
Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Ellen Levine
Eileen Mitelman
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Deeda Blair
Christie Brinkley
Cher
Maria Cuomo Cole
Mary Fisher
Whoopi Goldberg
Caroline Kennedy
Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Angela Lansbury
Andrea Marcovicci
Patricia Neal
June E. Osborn, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Anna Quindlen
Ardath Rodale
Susan Sarandon
Elizabeth Taylor
Joan Tisch
Jeanne White-Ginder
Lori Wiener, Ph.D.
Anna Wintour

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Glaser
Don Hall
Flo Spierer

165 West 46th Street
Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

telephone
212.730.2777
facsimile
212.730.4378
internet
<http://www.mvoices.org>

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

Mothers' Voices

Summer 1997 Vol. 5, No. 2

United to end AIDS

MIV in the News

MOTHERS WOULD RATHER HAVE A CURE FOR AIDS THAN A TAX CUT

Mother's Day Poll asks mothers to rate their AIDS prevention efforts

American mothers would prefer to have a cure for AIDS as a Mother's Day gift, over a tax cut, according to the findings in a survey of 600 randomly selected mothers sponsored by Mothers' Voices. 52% chose a cure for AIDS, followed by less sex and violence on TV (33%), a tax cut (9%), and a reduction in the national deficit (4%).

"Facts of Life"

Report Card:

Mom is doing a better job than Dad, although even Mom finds it easier to talk about drug abuse than sex.

Designed as a "Facts of Life" report card, the second annual Mother's Day poll asked mothers to rate their efforts in sexuality education and HIV prevention. The poll revealed that discussing sex with their kids is not easy for American moms. While half of mothers (51%) thought their children would give them an "A" on how they discuss drug and alcohol abuse with them, only 30% thought they might receive an "A" on the subject of sexuality. And most believed that discussing sex is even more difficult for fathers. When asked

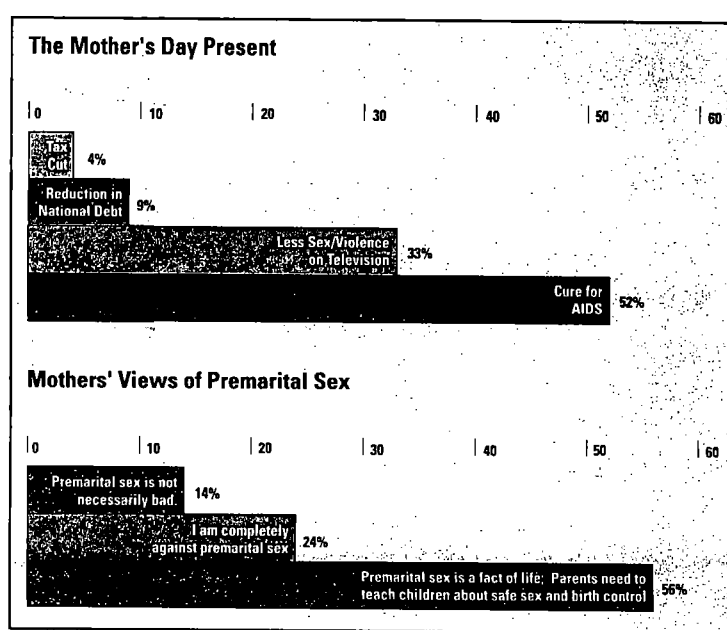
who is doing a better job of talking to their children about sex, "you or the father," 74% of the women said "me."

While admitting that they could do better, the poll reveals that 93% of mothers believe talking to children honestly about sex promotes more responsible sexual behavior among youth. Only 3% of mothers think talking to children about sex encourages them to be sexually active.

When it comes to educating their children about HIV/AIDS, there are serious gaps in the information that mothers provide. In fact, one third (34%) of the respondents gave themselves an "F" in this subject. In addition, in teaching their children about how to use a condom, nearly 3 out of 4 mothers (73%) don't make the grade - over half (55%) admit they haven't discussed condoms at all and the rest give themselves unsatisfactory marks.

Mothers do take a broad view of the epidemic. 53% of the mothers surveyed said they are very concerned about, and do not see an end to, the epidemic in the near future. "Even more mothers would be alarmed if they knew that one in four new HIV infections occurs in youth 21 and younger," said Ann Kurth, Executive Director of Mothers' Voices.

Today's mothers, many of whom came of age in the '60s, are pragmatic about



sex outside of marriage. 56% of the mothers surveyed recognize that premarital sex occurs, and that parents have an obligation to teach children about safer sex and birth control and help children learn when they are ready to have sex. Another 14% said that premarital sex is not necessarily bad and that sexual compatibility, self-esteem, strong communication and decision-making skills can be important to a successful relationship. Twenty-four

percent of the respondents said that premarital sex for their children was out of the question "as long as they lived under my roof."

The poll was conducted by EDK Associates. The results are based upon 600 telephone interviews with mothers between the ages of 18 and 65 nationwide. All interviews were conducted from April 8-10, 1997. Errors due to sampling can be plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Mothers' Voices believes that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. Mothers' Voices will build a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the AIDS epidemic.

We recognize that public and private attitudes toward sexuality inhibit a successful response and threaten progress in the fight against AIDS. Therefore, through a national grassroots network of educated and empowered mothers, we will raise our voices and mobilize our moral authority to promote public policies that advance the efforts for AIDS research, treatment and ultimately, a cure.

AVAILABLE SOON!

Mothers' Voices Parents Guide to HIV/Sexuality Education
(in English & Spanish)
and the two-video set
Raising Healthy Kids: Families Talk About Sexual Health
(Media Works, Inc.)

Mothers' Voices step-by-step guide to HIV prevention and sexuality education in the home. Available separately, or as a kit, the guidebook and two videos offer practical solutions to help make the sexuality education process in your home an enriching experience for you and your child.

To order, visit our website
<http://www.mvoices.org>
or phone us at 1-888-MVOICES.

MOTHERS' VOICES	
Executive Directors Report	2
Contributions	2
Rush to Balance Federal Budget Could Hamper Progress Against AIDS	3
Award Luncheon Honors Real Life Heroes	4
Chapter Updates	5
Profile Volunteer Mom-Tina Escareno	6
National Parents Resource Center	6
Mothers & Sexuality Educators to Share Ideas	6

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®



CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Suzanne Benzer
*President,
Board of Directors*

165 West 46th Street, Suite 701
New York, NY 10036
tel 212.730.2777
fax 212.730.4378
<http://www.mvoices.org>



What you can do about AIDS

Mothers' Voices was founded in 1991 by five people concerned about the growing AIDS crisis.

"Mothers can fight
for everyone.

Mothers can unite
across race,
gender, class and
sexual orientation.

Mothers' Voices
gives me a
measure of power
over AIDS.

I now have hope
that I can make
a difference."

We believe that mothers have the moral authority to challenge the stigma associated with sexuality and HIV disease.

Today, Mothers' Voices is a growing national grassroots organization with chapters across the country.

We are working to enlist the support of mothers nationwide in the fight to end AIDS, empowering mothers to be effective advocates in public and political forums.

Our goals include advocating for AIDS education, promotion of safer sexual behavior, research for better treatments

and a cure, and compassion for every person living with HIV and AIDS.

*"Losing my daughter to AIDS
led me to become involved with Mothers' Voices.
But I wish I had known I needed to take action sooner.
No mother should underestimate the threat
AIDS poses to her child's future.
Please join us in the fight to end AIDS."*

— Eileen Mitzman, Board Member



MOTHERS' VOICES

165 WEST 46TH STREET, SUITE 701 • NEW YORK, NY 10036
212-730-2777 • FAX: 212-730-4378 • <http://www.mvoices.org>

Talking To Your Children About AIDS Prevention

MOTHERS' VOICES

Every child deserves the chance of a lifetime

Why you should talk about AIDS

Every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. But today, with more than 1 million Americans infected with the AIDS virus (HIV), our children's lives are seriously at risk.

Here are the facts you need to know:

- HIV/AIDS is the #1 killer of Americans between the ages 25 and 44.
- HIV/AIDS is occurring fastest among the young — half of all HIV/AIDS occurs in people younger than 25 years old.
- In 1992, heterosexual transmission became the leading cause of HIV infection in women — who accounted for 19% of all new AIDS cases in 1995.
- More than half of all teens are sexually active by age 18.

Mothers' Voices is dedicated to cultivating healthy sexuality as a core element in stemming the rise of new HIV infections and stopping the spread of AIDS.

We believe that mothers are the best hope for nurturing healthy sexuality in their children by communicating age-appropriate information.

The best way to prevent your child from getting HIV infection is to talk to her or him honestly about sexuality and drug use.

What you can say about AIDS

Don't wait for your child to ask you about sex and drug use. Talk to her or him first. It's never too early to start.

Tell your children:

- ▣ There is no cure for AIDS. But AIDS is preventable.
- ▣ While some communities have a higher rate of HIV infection than others, too many people still think that only gay men or intravenous drug users can get AIDS.
- ▣ Anyone who has unprotected sex or uses needles can get AIDS. Even you.
- ▣ Do not make decisions lightly about sex or drug use. You can make choices. Wait until you're ready for sex. Use a condom. Ask for help with a drug problem. Do not use dirty needles.
- ▣ I love you. Even if I don't have all the answers, together we can find the information you need to protect yourself.

For more information about age-appropriate strategies for talking to your children about AIDS:

Call Mothers' Voices at (212) 730-2777 or find us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.mvoices.org>.

Mothers' Voices supports the efforts of parents to guide their children's sexuality development, including understanding of differing sexual orientations. We are committed to building a society where all parents are able to provide the love and support that every child deserves.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

Mothers' Voices

Summer 1997 Vol. 15, No. 2

United to end AIDS

MVoices in the News

MOTHERS WOULD RATHER HAVE A CURE FOR AIDS THAN A TAX CUT

Mother's Day Poll asks mothers to rate their AIDS prevention efforts

American mothers would prefer to have a cure for AIDS as a Mother's Day gift, over a tax cut, according to the findings in a survey of 600 randomly selected mothers sponsored by Mothers' Voices. 52% chose a cure for AIDS, followed by less sex and violence on TV (33%), a tax cut (9%), and a reduction in the national deficit (4%).

"Facts of Life"

Report Card:

Mom is doing a better job than Dad, although even Mom finds it easier to talk about drug abuse than sex.

Designed as a "Facts of Life" report card, the second annual Mother's Day poll asked mothers to rate their efforts in sexuality education and HIV prevention. The poll revealed that discussing sex with their kids is not easy for American moms. While half of mothers (51%) thought their children would give them an "A" on how they discuss drug and alcohol abuse with them, only 30% thought they might receive an "A" on the subject of sexuality. And most believed that discussing sex is even more difficult for fathers. When asked

who is doing a better job of talking to their children about sex, "you or the father," 74% of the women said "me."

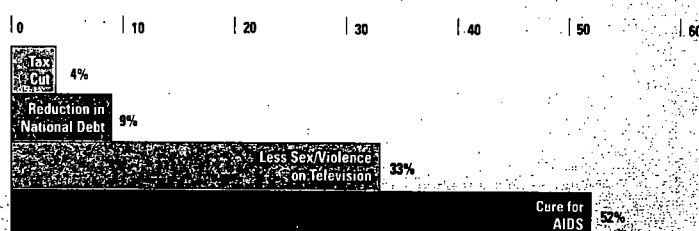
While admitting that they could do better, the poll reveals that 93% of mothers believe talking to children honestly about sex promotes more responsible sexual behavior among youth. Only 3% of mothers think talking to children about sex encourages them to be sexually active.

When it comes to educating their children about HIV/AIDS, there are serious gaps in the information that mothers provide. In fact, one third (34%) of the respondents gave themselves an "F" in this subject. In addition, in teaching their children about how to use a condom, nearly 3 out of 4 mothers (73%) don't make the grade - over half (55%) admit they haven't discussed condoms at all and the rest give themselves unsatisfactory marks.

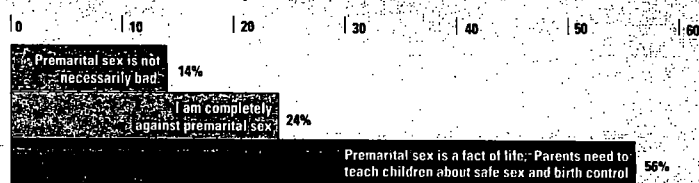
Mothers do take a broad view of the epidemic. 53% of the mothers surveyed said they are very concerned about, and do not see an end to, the epidemic in the near future. "Even more mothers would be alarmed if they knew that one in four new HIV infections occurs in youth 21 and younger," said Ann Kurth, Executive Director of Mothers' Voices.

Today's mothers, many of whom came of age in the '60s, are pragmatic about

The Mother's Day Present



Mothers' Views of Premarital Sex



sex outside of marriage. 56% of the mothers surveyed recognize that premarital sex occurs, and that parents have an obligation to teach children about safer sex and birth control and help children learn when they are ready to have sex. Another 14% said that premarital sex is not necessarily bad and that sexual compatibility, self-esteem, strong communication and decision-making skills can be important to a successful relationship. Twenty-four

percent of the respondents said that premarital sex for their children was out of the question "as long as they lived under my roof."

The poll was conducted by EDK Associates. The results are based upon 600 telephone interviews with mothers between the ages of 18 and 65 nationwide. All interviews were conducted from April 8-10, 1997. Errors due to sampling can be plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Mothers' Voices believes that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. Mothers' Voices will build a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the AIDS epidemic.

We recognize that public and private attitudes toward sexuality inhibit a successful response, and threaten progress in the fight against AIDS. Therefore, through a national grassroots network of educated and empowered mothers, we will raise our voices and mobilize our moral authority to promote public policies that advance the efforts for AIDS research, treatment and ultimately, a cure.

AVAILABLE SOON!

Mothers' Voices Parents Guide to HIV/Sexuality Education
(in English & Spanish)

and the two-video set
Raising Healthy Kids: Families Talk About Sexual Health
(Media Works, Inc.)

Mothers' Voices step-by-step guide to HIV prevention and sexuality education in the home. Available separately, or as a kit, the guidebook and two videos offer practical solutions to help make the sexuality education process in your home an enriching experience for you and your child.

To order, visit our website
<http://www.mvoices.org>
or phone us at 1-888-MVOICES.

Executive Directors Report	2
Contributions	2
Rush to Balance Federal Budget Could Hamper Progress Against AIDS	3
Award Luncheon Honors Real Life Heroes	4
Chapter Updates	5
Profile Volunteer Mom: Tina Escareno	6
National Parents Resource Center	6
Mothers & Sexuality Educators to Share Ideas	6

[Text-only Menu](#)

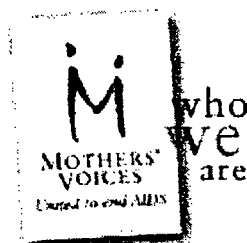
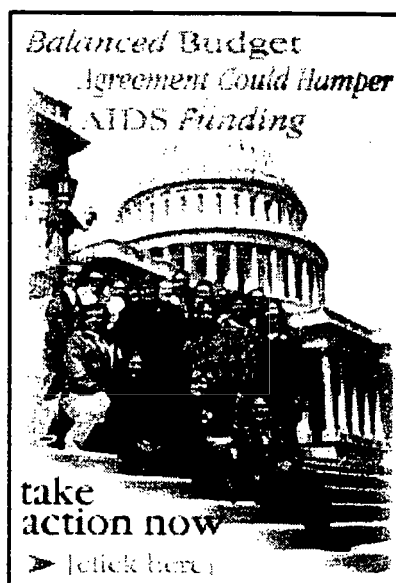
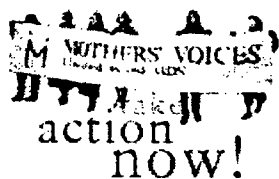
[Website Awards](#)

M MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

..... Every Child Deserves a Chance of a Lifetime

new visitors click :



Mothers Voices' Chapters:
A National Grassroots
Movement

June 27th is National HIV Testing Day.
If you have ever had unprotected sex or shared needles,
then you should consider taking the test.

Outreach
to
Communities of Faith

[home](#) [site index](#) [feedback](#) [join](#) [guestbook](#) [mother-to-mother discussion area](#)

quiz



Test your knowledge of the AIDS Pandemic and HIV Prevention Strategies

Young people do not need to learn about sex before puberty. Starting Sex Ed too early can lead to increased interest and early sexual experimentation.

True
False

Quiz #4 Results

<http://www.mvoices.org/cgi-bin/quizExp.pl>

Your Quiz Results

Young people do not need to learn about sex before puberty. Starting Sex Ed too early can lead to increased interest and early sexual experimentation.

- ☐ Correct answer was: **False**
- ☐ You answered: **False**

This answer was marked correct.

Young people -- children -- need to learn about AIDS prevention before they become sexually active. Studies by the World Health Organization have shown conclusively that talking seriously to young people about sexuality and the risks of HIV transmission does not encourage earlier sexual experimentation; it either leads to a postponement of sexual activity or to an increase in the practice of safer sex, or both.

Anne Grunseit and Susan Kippax, Effects of Sex Education on Young People's Sexual Behavior," World Health Organization, 1994 .

home

 site
index

feedback

join

guestbook

 mother-to-mother
discussion area

Copyright 1996, Mothers' Voices



MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

Need help talking to your children about sex and HIV prevention?

Mothers' Voices can give you support

With the newly provided...

SYLVIA HAGENDORF NATIONAL PARENTS RESOURCE CENTER

Equipping parents of children from infancy through adolescence with listings of Books, Videos, Brochures, & Pamphlets on HIV prevention and sexual health education.

For free listings of publications, titles, and authors, visit our website:

www.mvoices.org or call us at 1-888-MVOICES

The Sylvia Hagendorf National Parents Resource Center is a reference, not a lending library.

Please contact us if you would like more information about how you can get involved in the Mothers' Voices network of activist mothers, and for information about joining or starting a chapter in your area.



MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

165 West 46th Street, Suite 701
New York, New York 10036

Phone: 212-730-2777

Fax: 212-730-4378

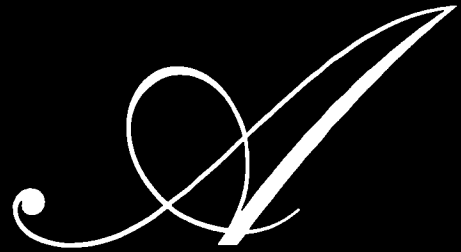
Internet: <http://www.mvoices.org>

Mothers' Voices is the only national, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to mobilizing mothers as educators and advocates to end AIDS. Mothers' Voices provides resources for mothers to educate their children and advocates for more effective HIV prevention programs, the promotion of safer sexual behavior, and increased funding for research to produce improved treatments, a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS.

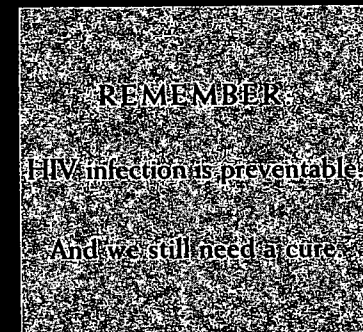
A Mother's Day wish **because** AIDS is still with us.



CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



Almost a million Americans are already infected with the AIDS virus. Millions more may have their lives cut short unless we speak honestly and openly about sex and substance abuse. Today's new treatments are still no cure. The President, Congress, and State leaders must keep hearing how much we want every mother's child to prevail against this epidemic. I'm going to share this message with family, friends, and those in office whose decisions determine who lives and who dies.



For our children to outlive us.



To: Our President, Congress and Governors:

AIDS has ravaged our nation long enough. For the sake of all of our children, we must have honest talk and education about sex and substance use; compassionate support for people living with HIV and AIDS; and expanded research to produce a vaccine and a real cure.

NAME _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ I'm enclosing a tax-deductible donation to support the Mothers' Voices campaign.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

☐ Charge my contribution of \$ _____ to my Visa/Mastercard.

CREDIT CARD NO. / EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to Mothers' Voices,
165 W. 46th St., Ste. 701, New York, NY 10036



Mothers' Voices invites you to participate in our 1997 Mother's Day Campaign to build AIDS awareness, get families talking about AIDS and produce thousands of messages to our President, Congress and Governors.

Please share this card with your family, friends and neighbors. Give the other cards to a friend or use them yourself to collect more signatures.

Please take this opportunity to talk to your own children, other family members and friends about AIDS. Until we have a vaccine and a real cure, honest talk from an early age onward about sex and drug use is our best defense.

It's never too early to start talking to your children. Please contact us for educational materials on how to begin the conversation.

Here are the names and addresses of my family, friends and neighbors who support this message:

NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

*Your stamp can add
to the gift you give.*



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.464 NEW YORK NY
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Mothers' Voices
165 W 46th St Ste 701
New York NY 10109-1365



FTD Supports Mothers' Voices

Now you can send floral arrangements, plants and gourmet gifts, save money, and support Mothers' Voices in the process. FTD, the nation's leading "flower by wire" provider, has joined forces with Mothers' Voices to raise money to support our work.

To order, just dial 1-800-SEND-FTD (1-800-736-3383) and mention Department 4247. You will save 5% on your order, and FTD will donate 5% of the dollar value from your order to Mothers' Voices.

FTD florists design every arrangement individually, using only the freshest, highest-quality flowers and greenery. Orders may be placed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



1-800-SEND-FTD
1-800-736-3383

So this spring, think of Mothers' Voices and FTD, as you plan for Easter and Passover, Secretaries' Week, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and of course – Mother's Day!

FTD backs every order with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.

(Offer not valid in conjunction with any other promotion, and only available by dialing 1-800-SEND-FTD. Minimum order is \$29.95 plus tax and \$9.95 domestic service charge.)

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

12 pgr

AIDS is not over yet!

MOTHERS VOICES

ANNUAL REPORT 1996

MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®



UNITED TO END AIDS

Mothers' Voices is the only national, grassroots, non-profit organization mobilizing mothers as AIDS sexual health educators and advocates. Mothers' Voices provides resources for mothers to educate their children and advocates for more effective HIV prevention programs, the promotion of safer sexual behavior, and increased funding for research to produce improved treatments, a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS.

A NATIONAL MOTHERS NETWORK

Mothers' Voices brings new voices and new resources to the ongoing battle against AIDS. Mothers' Voices was founded in 1991 by five people who felt the urgency of AIDS, and who believed that if mothers were organized, their united voices would be a powerful force to help stop the epidemic. The Mothers' Voices movement is composed of mothers who have been personally affected by AIDS and mothers of healthy children.

Ann Kurth,
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivy Duneier, Chair
Dorry Bless, President
Suzanne Benzer
Barbara Corcoran
Susanna Cunningham-Rundles, Ph.D.
Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Ellen Levine
Eileen Mitzman
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Deeda Blair
Christie Brinkley
Cher
Maria Cuomo Cole
Mary Fisher
Whoopi Goldberg
Caroline Kennedy
Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Angela Lansbury
Andrea Marcovicci
Patricia Neal
June E. Osborn, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Anna Quindlen
Ardath Rodale
Susan Sarandon
Elizabeth Taylor
Joan Tisch
Jeanne White-Ginder
Lori Wiener, Ph.D.
Anna Wintour

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Glaser
Don Hall
Flo Spierer

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Mothers' Voices:

- Supports local chapters in key cities throughout the United States of mothers active in AIDS awareness programs and advocacy work at the community, state, and national levels. (Miami - Los Angeles - Chicago - Houston - Atlanta)
- Provides age-appropriate educational tools for mothers to teach their children HIV prevention in a context of healthy sexuality.
- Conducts annual Mother's Day AIDS awareness campaigns featuring unique Mother's Day cards and events designed to reach out to families and friends, religious, educational, and community organizations to deliver messages to the President and Congress.
- Activates a national "action alert network" through newsletters, mailings, and Internet website to inform and mobilize mothers to press for critical AIDS funding and program issues.

Today, through Mothers' Voices, thousands of mothers across the United States are working in their communities, reminding political leaders and the media that people with AIDS deserve compassion and support. Mothers know that the epidemic is not over and their voices demand increased action to end AIDS.

For more information about Mothers' Voices, including starting a local chapter, contact the national office.

165 West 46th Street
Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

telephone
212.730.2777
facsimile
212.730.4378
internet
<http://www.mvoices.org>

6/17/96

You are more
likely to see
your grown
child die of
AIDS than
from any
other cause.



Public Media Center. Photo Todd Pickering

*S*ome people are living longer, but AIDS is still the biggest killer of American adults 25-44.

Tragically, not everyone can have their lives prolonged by the new treatments you've heard so much about. Nor do they prevent more and more U.S. teenagers from acquiring the virus that causes AIDS through unprotected sex and drug use.

And still there's no cure.

But we don't have to wait for the real answer to AIDS.

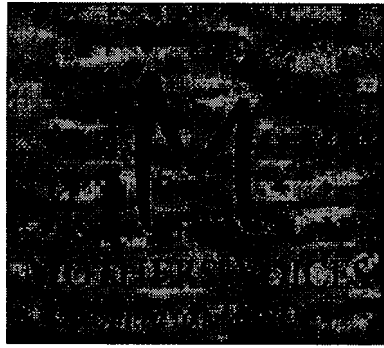
It can already be found in the hearts of parents who care enough to fight for honest, early education, research focused on vaccines and a cure, and support for those living with AIDS.

Parents like you, who truly understand the threat HIV/AIDS poses to all our children. A danger greater than any other disease or accidental cause of death in America.

Less than 20% of American parents know that AIDS is the most common killer of young adults. Now that you know, here's what to do:

Request your free Mother's Day information kit by calling toll-free 1-888-MVOICES (1-888-686-4237.) Or contact Mothers' Voices, 165 West 46th Street, Suite 701, New York, NY 10036; website:<http://www.mvoices.org>





MV Accomplishments: What We Do

■ EDUCATION

- 1997 Card Campaign: 420,000 Cards, Sabbath Outreach Kit to 1000 congregations, Mother's Poll
- Tools for Parents: 120,000 "Talking To Your Children" brochures, award-winning internet site, PSA in People Magazine, National Resource Center, 'Parent's Project' video kit and MV Parents' Booklet, "Moms Curriculum" for use in homes & workplaces
- Founding partner in the United States Conference on AIDS

■ ADVOCACY

- Only organization at all three 1996 Presidential conventions
- Mothers' Platform to End AIDS - MothersVote 96 Voter education drive
- 'Hands Around the Capital' event at AIDS Quilt
- HIV Prevention research luncheon at the National Institutes of Health
- "Comprehensive Sex Ed" and "Access to Clean Needles" HIV prevention statements (grassroots strategies)

■ NATIONAL NETWORK

- Chapters: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami
- "Next": Boston, Baltimore, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Providence, Seattle



Public Media Center photo by M. Halperin

One out of 250 Americans is infected with the HIV/AIDS virus — the #1 killer of Americans age 25–44.

Yet millions of mothers don't see AIDS as a danger.

A recent poll conducted by the Roper organization for Mothers' Voices found that only 17% of mothers correctly identified AIDS as the leading cause of death in this vital age group — but they *do* see AIDS as a national problem and want more prevention education.

That's why we are building a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the AIDS epidemic.

Mothers' Voices is fighting for AIDS education, promotion of safer sexual behavior, expanded research

As mothers, we
are now more
likely to see our
grown children
die of AIDS
than from any
other cause...

for better treatments and a cure, and compassion for every person living with HIV and AIDS.

But until we have a cure and a vaccine, prevention is our best defense.

Please take this opportunity to talk to your own children and

other family members about AIDS.

Contact us if you would like more information about how our programs can help.

Mothers' Voices believes that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime.

There's no time to waste.

If you would like free information, call 1-888-MVOICES, or write: Mothers' Voices, 165 West 46th Street, Ste. 701, New York, NY 10036



**MOTHERS'
VOICES**

United to end AIDS

Visit our new Website: <http://www.mvoices.org>



maybe you think the epidemic is over

maybe you think no one is getting infected any more

maybe you think you can stop using condoms

maybe you think you're not positive for HIV-

maybe you think you are

On June 27, think again.

National HIV Testing Day is sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) in partnership with Mothers' Voices, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, the Academy for Educational Development, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The 1997 campaign focuses on women, youth, and communities of color, populations that continue to see high rates of HIV infection, and has been endorsed by the American Red Cross, the National Council of La Raza, the National Council of Negro Women and the American Medical Association.

Voluntary HIV antibody counseling and testing is a critical step in taking control and responsibility over one's health. The campaign stresses the importance of pre-test and post-test counseling in conjunction with any form of testing. The earlier a person is diagnosed and begins to monitor her or his health, the greater the chance of remaining healthy. HIV counseling and testing is an excellent opportunity for professionals to establish direct dialogue with individuals who are not infected but at high risk, and this counseling can help to create and maintain the behavioral changes needed to prevent infection.

Receiving a positive diagnosis can be devastating. The many medical, social, and psychological components of HIV disease are often difficult to grasp when first diagnosed. However, HIV testing coupled with comprehensive education, protection of legal rights, early health monitoring and access to treatment options, offers people with HIV a real opportunity to take control and lead a longer and healthier life.

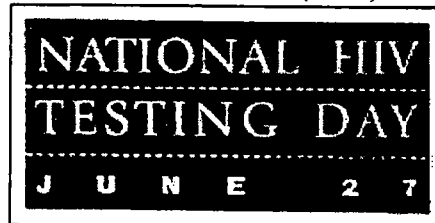
To learn more about voluntary HIV testing and counseling, contact the National AIDS Hotline, your physician, local health clinic, or an AIDS service provider in your area.

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE

1-800-342-AIDS (English)

1-800-344-7432 (Spanish)

1-800-243-7889 (TTY)



● [home](#) ● [site index](#) ● [feedback](#) ● [join](#) ● [guestbook](#) ● [mother-to-mother discussion area](#)

Copyright 1997, Mothers' Voices

Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a Strategy to Foster Healthy Sexuality, and Reduce the Spread of HIV

Mothers' Voices believes that the rise of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections can best be stemmed in a climate of healthy sexuality. Research shows that children are strongly influenced by their parents, and Mothers' Voices acknowledges that mothers are primary educators to promote healthy sexuality and behavioral choices for children. Today, the AIDS epidemic poses an urgent challenge to mothers as they guide their children through this important aspect of human development.

Mothers' Voices believes that sexuality education need not be difficult if started early and as a natural part of parenting. By educating themselves, mothers can take the lead in developing a *positive* approach to communicating a healthy and responsible understanding of sexuality to their children and families.

We believe that sexuality education is a lifelong process and that mothers are in a singularly unique position to impart healthy sexuality by promoting values that positively support the child's understanding of their body, their gender, their sexual orientation, their social role, and their interactions with others.

Mothers' Voices recognizes that information alone is not sufficient to avoid the risks associated with sexual behavior, including HIV infection. To make responsible decisions, children also must be given support in developing self esteem, strong interpersonal skills, and a system of values consistent with personal acceptance of their own distinct gender identity and sexual orientation.

Outside of the home, mothers can be a voice of reason for policies and programs that promote healthy sexuality. Recognizing that development extends beyond the home environment, it is vital that schools, religious and community groups, media, business and government accept responsibility in reinforcing healthy attitudes.

Mothers' Voices supports HIV prevention programs that focus on decision making skills and that address the full spectrum of safer sexual behavior, including the postponing of sexual activity, abstinence, condom accessibility and skills for safer sex practices.

Mothers can have a powerful influence in shaping a public consensus in support of the values embodied in this statement.

Reducing HIV Transmission Among Injecting Drug Users, Their Sex Partners and Children

Drug addiction is a profoundly difficult challenge to society, and has a devastating impact on many communities. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, in the year ending June 30, 1996, 26% of AIDS cases were due to injecting drug use. Approximately one third of all cases among heterosexuals were associated with injecting drug use, and 58% of pediatric cases were due to the mother's use of injecting drugs or sex with an injecting drug user.

Mothers' Voices believes that access to clean needles can significantly reduce HIV infections among injecting drug users, their sex partners and children. Six federally funded studies have concluded that needle exchange programs reduce HIV transmission rates without increasing the amount of drug use by program clients or changing overall community levels of drug use.¹ Nor do these programs increase the number of discarded syringes in the environment. Community based programs have been shown to reach injecting drug users with long histories of drug use and who remain at significant risk for HIV infection.

We believe that well designed needle exchange programs enable substance users to avoid HIV infection, while providing encouragement to enroll in drug treatment programs and links to other important health services.

Thus, we support lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange programs² and revoking or modifying state prescription and paraphernalia laws that limit access to sterile syringes.³

Programs providing clean needles are best when they offer comprehensive services, including referrals to addiction treatment. In too many instances, however, there are long waits for those who wish to enter programs. Mothers' Voices strongly advocates for increased investment in addiction prevention and treatment programs.

Needle exchange programs cannot begin to solve the problems of those addicted to drugs, nor the larger constellation of problems faced in poor and disenfranchised communities. However, when properly designed and when community support is forthcoming, such programs can have a major impact on reducing the leading cause of HIV transmission among injecting drug users, thus creating an opportunity for many to live long enough to overcome their addiction.

Mothers' Voices supports access to clean needles and expanded access to addiction treatment as important components of a comprehensive approach to reducing HIV infection among injection drug users, their sexual partners and children.

¹ The National Commission on AIDS, 1991; University of California, 1993; The Centers for Disease Control, 1993; The National Academy of Sciences 1995; General Accounting Office, 1993; and Office of Technology Assessment, 1995.

² Federal law currently prohibits funding needle exchange until "the Surgeon General of the United States [determines] that such programs are effective in preventing the spread of HIV and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs."

³ Ten states and the District of Columbia prohibit the purchase of a syringe without a prescription. Paraphernalia laws exist in 46 states and the District of Columbia precluding the possession or distribution of syringes except for "legitimate medical purposes."

Adopted November 16, 1995

Expanded Bio-Medical Research

Introduction

Mothers depend on scientific progress in all areas of child rearing. From the safety of fire-retardant infant clothes, to well designed and tested car seats, to the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and baby formulas, mothers expect full support and commitment from society. With AIDS threatening families everywhere, American mothers count on our nation to make its most solemn commitment to conquering this disease.

Recent estimates of HIV infection are alarming. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 18.5 million adults and more than 1.5 million children worldwide are infected with HIV, the virus that is believed to cause AIDS. In North America, 1.1 million people may be infected with HIV.

The United States is recognized as a world leader in science and technology. In the field of bio-medical research, the U.S. has a vital role to play on behalf of its own citizens and for the benefit of the world community.

Mothers' Voices views biomedical research as an investment in the future of children everywhere. We seek to promote a better understanding of the scientific process, recognizing that the practical applications of science are best achieved through wide-ranging and imaginative inquiry. Progress depends on creative experimentation and does not always proceed in a direct manner. In fact, advances in one area often create unanticipated insight into other areas of investigation.

As mothers, we nurture our children, encouraging them to be cooperative and sharing with their brothers, sisters, classmates and friends. As women, we are often called upon to make peace in our families. We are deeply distressed when we see one disease pitted against another. There is nothing productive to be gained by comparing an infectious epidemic disease such as AIDS with other non-infectious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes. We oppose this divisive practice and we will rally all Americans to value and support the full range of bio-medical research. Increased support for research will advance the efforts against AIDS and provide a framework for dealing with other life threatening diseases. Expanded bio-medical research has the potential to prevent early deaths and prolong millions of lives.

Bio-medical Research is an Investment in Our Children's Health

Mothers' Voices supports increased federal spending on all bio-medical research. We believe that the future of scientific research holds great promise for conquering disease and that AIDS research is both dependent on, and inter-related to, a broad spectrum of bio-medical inquiry, including immunology, virology, microbiology, molecular biology, infectious diseases, genetic research, nutrition, oncology, neurology, hematology, and pulmonary medicine.

Since AIDS is not a single disease, but a syndrome of diseases, AIDS-related research is producing insights into the progression and treatment of many diseases, including auto-immune disorders and many forms of cancer. In addition, AIDS research has increased insights into the mechanisms of dementia and multiple sclerosis, and improved understanding of the development of children's immune systems.

AIDS research has vastly increased our understanding of viruses and, perhaps most importantly, the immune system. Advances against HIV and AIDS have the potential to be replicated in a wide field of pharmaceutical progress. Since AIDS was first recognized, there have been great advances in the new field of bio-technology. Utilizing state-of-the-art techniques such as recombinant DNA technology and gene splicing, medical science is now on threshold of a new era. Advanced pharmacology has now entered the realm of *rational drug design*. Drugs can now be manipulated at the molecular level to have the desired actions and effects. This approach may soon replace the "try-everything-and-see-if-anything-works" methods of the past.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Discoveries about the dynamics of HIV and of the human immune system provide opportunities for new therapeutic strategies.

Expanded research is needed in five areas:

1. More effective and less toxic anti-virals for HIV.
2. Improved treatments and preventions for HIV-related opportunistic infections and cancers.
3. Immune system restoration.
4. Advanced study of holistic strategies, including nutrition, vitamins, herbs and other natural therapies.
5. Vaccine development.

In addition, since AIDS is a new and rapidly spreading infectious disease, the epidemic warrants specific expenditures for surveillance, infection control/prevention, and population and natural history studies not required of chronic, non-infectious, "endemic" diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

Mothers' Voices supports the expansion of basic bio-medical research, clinical research, vaccine research and behavioral research. Basic research is needed to better understand the disease progression of AIDS. Expanded clinical research is needed to develop better treatments including the use of natural therapies and holistic approaches. Vaccine research and innovative behavioral research is needed to prevent HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

We believe that each of these areas warrant increased investment and we oppose any proposals to neglect one area in favor of another.

A Call to Action

Today, mothers are joining the ranks of AIDS activists, speaking up and demanding a voice in national policy decisions. Mothers' Voices will support and enhance this natural leadership.

While we expect the pharmaceutical industry to act responsibly by increasing its commitment to research and development, we also demand that our government act as a full partner by supporting innovative basic and clinical research.

AIDS will not be the last deadly virus to confront humanity. It is our goal to build a more profound appreciation for science and the scientific method. We will build on the past successes of the AIDS activist movement by adding a strong, clear and loving voice. By involving and supporting mothers, we will create a model for activism that will serve the health and well being of families now and in the future.

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT OF MOTHERS' VOICES

THE ISSUE

The full implications of world events of the 1980's will not be known for decades to come. The will to be free triumphed over long standing oppression, forcing a redefinition of the contours of world geography. Cyberspace technology illuminated the infinite horizons of the future. But if the 1980's was the age of liberation and hope, for some—they were also the years in which our lives were indelibly changed by one of the most virulent epidemics in modern history to burst forth upon the world's population. The decade of possibilities revealed the deadly force of nature in the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

By the time the disease was recognized in 1981, it was too late to avert suffering and the loss of young people whose lives were snuffed out. More than 2.5 million people worldwide have succumbed to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is estimated that AIDS deaths will increase tenfold, to between 12 million and 18 million by the end of the 1990's. It is during this period that we will see the ultimate devastation of a virus carried by over 1 million people in our country alone, for AIDS is now the #1 killer of Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. The early deaths of so many people, in the prime of their lives, will increasingly become a destabilizing force in the world.

In the United States the AIDS epidemic is a public health emergency. With approximately 1 in 250 Americans estimated to be infected with HIV, it is impossible to underestimate the impact of the epidemic, for we are probably seeing only the tip of the iceberg.

- **Gay Men:** The gay community suffered the greatest loss in the first wave of the disease. By the mid 80's however, the community recognized the epidemic and aggressively developed strategies to curb its spread. The result has been a decrease in the transmission of HIV among men who have sex with men.
- **Drug Users:** From 1994 - 1995, 24% of reported AIDS cases were attributed to needle sharing associated with injecting drugs.
- **Women:** In 1992 heterosexual transmission became the leading cause of HIV infection in women, accounting for 18% of all new AIDS cases in 1994. The disease is spreading almost six times as quickly among women.
- **Adolescents:** AIDS cases among adolescents (ages 13-19) grew by 88% in 1992 and 1993. It is now the sixth leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 24.
- **Children:** By the year 2000, it is estimated that 300,000-400,000 children will be orphaned as a result of the loss of their parents to AIDS.

This epidemic is not someone else's problem. It is not the problem for people of a particular sexual orientation, race or class. It is a challenge for each of us. The numbers are a proxy for the loss to our society from the decimation of human potential. Directly or indirectly, this disease threatens us all. Its debilitating impact must be slowed if lives are to be saved. We must redouble our efforts to prevent the transmission of the virus, to find better treatments for those already living with it, and for the discovery of a cure, so that the future of our children will not be clouded by it.

The deaths now predicted to occur before the year 2000 may, indeed, be unavoidable. Although at this stage of its evolution, the scientific knowledge of HIV and AIDS exceeds the understanding of other epidemics, much is still unknown. The capacity of research to keep pace with what appears to be the infinite metamorphosis of the disease will require substantial funding increases above today's levels. Furthermore, much about the socio-behavioral aspects is inadequately understood. But, if the 1990's is the decade of AIDS mortality, it can also be the years of containment; the high water mark of the AIDS epidemic and the beginning of the end.

Every sector of our society that denies the threat and refuses to admit that the disease endangers each of us must be challenged. Indifference to and ostracism of people living with HIV and AIDS heightens the urgency of the crisis. The battle against HIV and AIDS is more often than not a battle against sexism, homophobia, racism and class bigotry. Harassment of those who promote change in behaviors that open us to risk, must stop. Opposition to institutions critical to interrupting the life-cycle of the disease must be countered. Our ability to succeed in accomplishing the task will depend on our capacity to connect with real people. While the proportions of the epidemic are apocalyptic, individual stories are powerful and compelling.

I was in denial about my son being gay. All the signs were there when he was in high school, but I feared what it meant for him to be gay in the 1980's. When he went off to college and returned home for the summer, he took a job as a waiter in New York. He met a young man from Alaska at his job. My son, Bobby, told me that his friend was sick and confided, 'I think he has prostate cancer.' One night I received a frantic call from Bobby. David had committed suicide. I found him in the hotel room,' he cried. I still had no idea that Bobby was gay or sexually involved with David.

After the funeral, David's mother called and asked to speak with Bobby, 'I'm sorry about David. I didn't know that he was so ill,' I offered in sympathy. 'Didn't you know? David had AIDS!' I was dumbstruck. Numb. The room whirled. 'My child,' I blurted. David's mother retorted, 'He was my son.' I started to cry. I didn't know what to do.

After the initial shock of learning of the reasons for David's death, I made a pact with God. I would care for AIDS babies. If I helped other people's children, my child would be spared. When Bobby refused to get tested for HIV, I went along with his denial.

Four years ago my husband came home and said, 'Sit down. I need to tell you something. Bobby tested positive for HIV. He was afraid to tell you. He wants to come home.' People were coming to my home for dinner that night. Somehow I got through the evening. I was physically sick.

When Bobby moved home from California, he looked like my son, but I knew that the deadly virus lived within his body. I tried to find the best doctors in the country. I went to support groups with him. I tried to take over his life. When he started using drugs and alcohol, the pain to our family was even more profound. Oddly, I was so involved in trying to save his life that I denied that he was on drugs. I still could not integrate our reality.

Finding Mothers' Voices gave me power to regain control of my life. Determined not to give up, I not only realized that I could do something to save my child, but also try to prevent other mothers from experiencing my pain. Mothers can fight for everyone. Mothers are not split along color, gender, class or sexual orientation lines. Mothers' Voices gives me a measure of power over AIDS. I now have hope that I can make a difference.

Another mother speaks:

I will never forget the day, when my husband, Neil, called from the doctor's office to say that our daughter had been diagnosed with a pneumonia associated with HIV infection and AIDS. I remember what I said, too. 'Neil, don't be ridiculous. Girls don't get AIDS. Marni was only 24 when doctors diagnosed her with HIV infection. Two years later she died of AIDS. I was paralyzed with grief. My heart broke and I felt so helpless. I did not know that our beautiful, smart, joyful daughter could ever have been at risk.

When Marni died Mothers' Voices was just forming. I got involved as an advocate and educator to help other mothers and families in this fight against AIDS. I may have lost the battle but I don't intend to lose the war. I don't feel helpless and hopeless anymore. Mothers' Voices has the potential to empower everyone.

For our children, adequate resources must be assured, so that promising leads do not go unfunded. In the past four years, the societal and financial commitment to advance AIDS prevention, treatment and research has leveled off, even as the epidemic spreads.

If the dollars reflect the will to conquer this epidemic, the current situation must not be tolerated. Given the hostile climate to people with HIV and AIDS in Congress, the progress that the Federal government had begun to make, could be in jeopardy.

Weary of the uncertainty of the outcome in HIV and AIDS research, the private sector has also throttled back on the ambitious efforts of the early phase of the epidemic. The investment in understanding the human dynamics of successful prevention strategies is unspeakably inadequate.

Mothers and families need a resource for tools to educate their children and guide them in the development of healthy sexuality and the avoidance of behaviors that will place them at risk of the virus.

THE ORGANIZATION

Disturbed by the nation's wavering commitment, stagnant resources and fragmentation within the AIDS movement, five individuals decided that they wanted to know more about how they could join the battle against the enlarging epidemic. In so doing, they concluded that it was time to bring together a group who had not been engaged, in an organized way, in the battle against the killer. They decided mothers needed to join together as a united voice. In 1991, the founders produced a Mother's Day card that was distributed to hundreds of organizations with a simple message to Washington: ***On this Mother's Day help us fight for what we care most about in our lives, the health and well being of our children...It's time to find a cure!*** Letters and unsolicited financial support poured in. The response from thousands of individuals from all over the country was overwhelming.

Realizing that they had struck a responsive cord, Mothers' Voices was launched in a restaurant in lower Manhattan. Over 200 women, concerned with ending the plague came together in the belief that the sense of fear, loss and grief could be transformed to hope and empowerment. They pledged to build a nationwide constituency of mothers to work for increased government funding for prevention, treatment and a cure.

For the past four years Mothers' Voices has dedicated its resources to pursuing the mission: *that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. Mothers' Voices will build a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the HIV and AIDS epidemic. We recognize that public and private attitudes towards sexuality inhibit a successful response and threaten progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Therefore, through a national grassroots network of educated and empowered mothers, we will raise our voices and mobilize our moral authority to promote public policies that advance the efforts for HIV and AIDS education, prevention, research, treatment, and ultimately, a cure.*

WHAT MOTHERS' VOICES HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Mothers' Voices' achievements in our brief history affirm the resonance of our mission:

- The Mothers' Day card campaign has grown. In 1994, 250,000 individual signatures were delivered in a petition to Congress, calling for greater federal commitment. In 1995, the campaign reached 95% of the congressional districts.
- The first luncheon has grown to an annual awards event that was attended by approximately 1,000 mothers and supporters in the spring of 1995.
- Quarterly newsletters are produced to inform 25,000 mothers about the latest developments in AIDS prevention and research and to educate them on the actions that they can take to press elected officials for increased funding.

- Mothers' Voices' messages have been carried in the *New York Times*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook*, *Prevention*, *The New York Daily News*, *POZ Magazine*, *AIDS Treatment News*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *CBS This Morning*, and the *Sally Jesse Raphael Show*.
- An 800 telephone number was installed to connect with mothers all over the country.
- Mothers' Voices has become an annual sponsor of a spring Washington mobilization of mothers to educate members of Congress. We have established on-going contact with the leadership of the House and Senate.
- Having met with President Clinton to urge him to increase funding for HIV and AIDS prevention and research, Mothers' Voices is now regularly consulted by the White House.
- Mothers' Voices has developed a donor base of over 5,000 individuals.
- Grants for research and education include support to: the Pediatric AIDS Foundation; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; North Shore University Hospitals Peer to Peer Education Programs and other AIDS/HIV related activities.
- Mothers' Voices worked in coalition with other AIDS organizations, and is a participating member of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA).
- Received special recognition for accomplishments from the American Foundation for AIDS Research, AIDS Action Council, and City of San Francisco.

WHAT MOTHERS' VOICES PLANS TO ACCOMPLISH

Because of the complexity of this disease and its many ramifications, there must be a high level of sustained commitment to conquer its ever elusive agent. Given the growing shift of federal responsibilities to the state levels, a national grassroots movement of mothers dedicated to this purpose, by promoting the importance of education, and pushing for better treatment and greater support for research, will greatly strengthen the focus to assure that further momentum is not lost in attacking this national emergency.

As successful as our work has been in our brief history, we cannot rest on our laurels. The challenge of quelling a scourge for which we can yet see no end, will require an even greater effort.

This past spring, the national board of Mothers' Voices undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process to set our goals and objectives for the next three years (1996-1998). Seeking the counsel of organizations working on HIV and AIDS issues, other advocacy groups and legal advisors, we have developed the blueprint that will guide our programs and allocation of resources.

Goal I

Increase Mother's Voices influence in the formulation and establishment of HIV and AIDS public policy.

- A. Establish 10 chapters strategically located to amplify Mothers' Voices at local, state and national levels.
- B. Implement a national direct marketing campaign to convert 150,000 Mothers' Voices donors to Mothers' Voices' advocates.
- C. Establish a national interactive alert network, with the technological capacity to rapidly inform, educate and mobilize mothers to press for critical legislation and advance other Mothers' Voices initiatives.
- D. Establish a Washington, D.C. media and public policy presence.
- E. Implement a national voter education program during the 1996 campaigns.
- F. Produce training programs to give mothers the skills to become effective activists on HIV and AIDS issues.

Goal II

Establish a national sexuality education resource center for mothers.

- A. Prepare age-appropriate materials (including printed and audiovisual products) for use by mothers to educate their children. (The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) and other professional organizational endorsements will be sought.)
- B. Participate in national conferences of organizations with large constituencies of mothers or professionals who work with them (i.e. National PTA, Junior League, American Academy of Pediatrics).

Goal III

Increase awareness of the continuing HIV and AIDS national emergency.

- A. Re-vamp the card campaign as a vehicle to promote awareness and knowledge and support in the general public.
- B. Implement annual Mothers' Voices Awards luncheon.
- C. Utilize the Internet to produce on-line features for mothers, policy makers and related organizations.
- D. Produce and distribute quarterly newsletter to Mothers' Voices mailing list.
- E. Produce and distribute quarterly editorial briefing packages for selected media outlets.
- F. Produce and place selected advertising to support Mothers' Voices initiatives.
- G. Produce recorded monthly information on AIDS issues via in-house 800 line.
- H. Exploit opportunities for broadcast features on radio and television.

Goal IV

Educate the public about scientific opportunities and the scientific process, and press for increased investment in HIV and AIDS research in the private pharmaceutical community.

- A. Organize and convene national convocation of behavioral scientists and experts to explore barriers to HIV prevention.
- B. Publish and distribute to mothers and policy makers findings of conference and recommendations for facilitating HIV and AIDS research.
- C. Through personal contacts, press pharmaceutical industry leaders to accelerate investment in AIDS research.
- D. Analyze unmet need for socio-behavioral research and fund one research project on this aspect of the barriers to prevention.

Goal V

Strengthen Mothers' Voices governance structure to support the rapid expansion of the organization's programs.

- A. Enlarge the board to 13 members to reflect the diversity of the country and to enable board committees to be fully operational.
- B. Recruit and hire staff to achieve the goals and objectives of Mother's Voices.
- C. Relocate to larger office facilities.
- D. Produce an annual report for distribution to donors, supporters and policy-makers.
- E. Install advanced communications equipment that will facilitate implementation of the organization's programs in a manner that maximizes cost-efficient technologies.

Goal VI

To meet the challenges of its goals and objectives, funding will be secured from a diverse base of support.

- A. A total of \$2,009,500 in 1996.
 - \$1,575,000 unrestricted
 - \$ 434,500 restricted
- B. Establish a direct marketing fund raising program to recruit and acquire 150,000 small gift donors.
- C. Recruit major donor support through publication of a luncheon journal.
- D. Launch a direct marketing program of products that supports the public's awareness of Mothers' Voices' mission.

MOTHERS' VOICES PLATFORM TO DEFEAT AIDS

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IS NOT OVER

As American mothers, we have renewed hope for an end to AIDS. The recent XI International Conference on AIDS affirmed investment in the campaign against AIDS:

- Prevention works; sustained efforts have led to stabilization of new infections in some groups in the U.S.
- A new class of antivirals have been able to reduce HIV levels in the blood and bears further investigation.

As mothers, we celebrate these advances even as we recognize that much work remains ahead. *The epidemic is far from over.* Too many Americans view AIDS as a disease affecting others. Difficulty in addressing sexuality, as well as substance abuse, inhibits a full and productive public dialogue on the most effective ways of preventing AIDS.

History shows that eradicating infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, requires continuing vigilance, and that premature reduction of efforts can lead to unexpected resurgence of even more serious disease.

Today, AIDS is the leading killer of Americans aged 25-44, with one in four new HIV infections occurring in young people between the ages of 13 and 21. New infections in women continue to rise, and among young gay men the rate is as high as three percent - not seen since the early 80's.

We cannot accept this loss of productive life from AIDS. Mothers, knowing the impact of AIDS on the young, and the devastation that AIDS brings to families, are uniting across boundaries of race, class, and sexual orientation to bring an end to the AIDS epidemic.

For the sake of our children, our nation, and our world let us *now more than ever redouble the fight to end AIDS.* Since AIDS is a global pandemic, we call upon our nation to work with the G7 nations to combat AIDS in the developing world, and to make a substantial contribution to the United Nations AIDS Program.

Mothers, united to create a future without AIDS, hereby call upon all Presidential and Congressional candidates to:

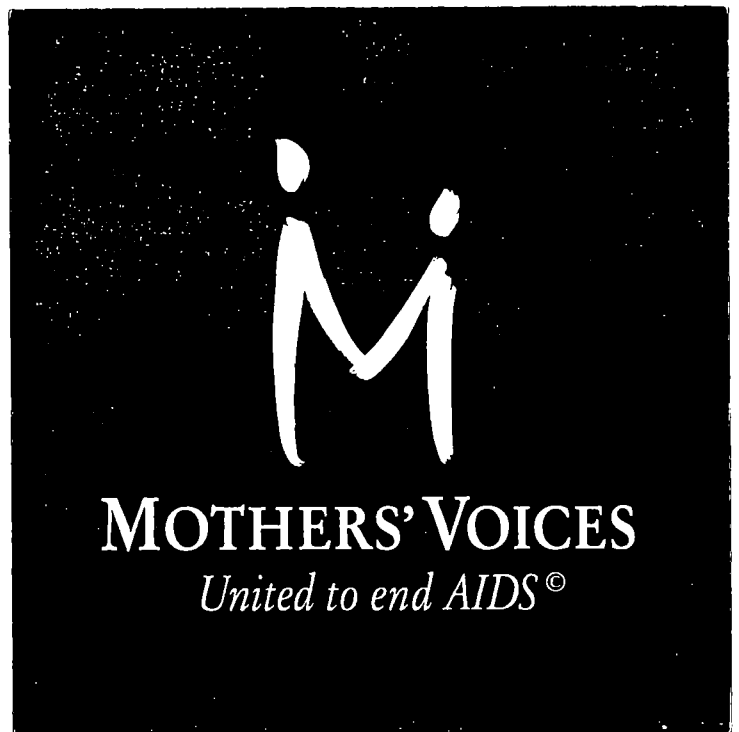
1. Increase financial and political commitment to the eradication of AIDS.
2. Expand both biomedical and behavioral research; develop vaccines and microbicides for prevention.
3. Support the consolidated budget authority of the Office of AIDS Research and implementation of the NIH AIDS Research Program Evaluation Working Group recommendations (Levine panel).
4. Foster public and private sector collaboration to develop improved and accessible therapies.
5. Increase funding for AIDS-related research at the NIH by \$157 million for FY 1997.¹
6. Support sexuality education and prevention targeted for all communities, and all ages, including children, and increase the CDC budget by \$154 million for FY 1997.²
7. Support programs designed to reduce the risks of infection associated with drug addiction.
8. Support high quality health care and services for people with HIV/AIDS and end discrimination in housing, employment, insurance, and travel.

¹ Funding recommendation of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), 1996

² NORA, 1996

Keep on
Site -
good progress

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY





CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Ann Kurth
Executive Director

165 West 46th Street, Suite 701
New York, NY 10036
tel 212.730.2777
fax 212.730.4378
akurth@mvoices.org.
<http://www.mvoices.org>



**MOTHERS'
VOICES**
United to end AIDS®

What you can do about AIDS

Mothers' Voices was founded in 1991 by five people concerned about the growing AIDS crisis.

"Mothers can fight
for everyone.

Mothers can unite
across race,
gender, class and
sexual orientation.

Mothers' Voices
gives me a
measure of power
over AIDS.

I now have hope
that I can make
a difference."

We believe that mothers have the moral authority to challenge the stigma associated with sexuality and HIV disease.

Today, Mothers' Voices is a growing national grassroots organization with chapters across the country.

We are working to enlist the support of mothers nationwide in the fight to end AIDS, empowering mothers to be effective advocates in public and political forums.

Our goals include advocating for AIDS education, promotion of safer sexual behavior, research for better treatments

and a cure, and compassion for every person living with HIV and AIDS.

*"Losing my daughter to AIDS
led me to become involved with Mothers' Voices.
But I wish I had known I needed to take action sooner.
No mother should underestimate the threat
AIDS poses to her child's future.
Please join us in the fight to end AIDS."*

— Eileen Mitzman, Board Member



MOTHERS' VOICES

165 WEST 46TH STREET, SUITE 701 • NEW YORK, NY 10036
212-730-2777 • FAX: 212-730-4378 • <http://www.mvoices.org>

Talking To Your Children About AIDS Prevention

MOTHERS' VOICES

Every child deserves the chance of a lifetime

Why you should talk about AIDS

Every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. But today, with more than 1 million Americans infected with the AIDS virus (HIV), our children's lives are seriously at risk.

Here are the facts you need to know:

- HIV/AIDS is the #1 killer of Americans between the ages 25 and 44.
- HIV/AIDS is occurring fastest among the young — half of all HIV/AIDS occurs in people younger than 25 years old.
- In 1992, heterosexual transmission became the leading cause of HIV infection in women — who accounted for 19% of all new AIDS cases in 1995.
- More than half of all teens are sexually active by age 18.

Mothers' Voices is dedicated to cultivating healthy sexuality as a core element in stemming the rise of new HIV infections and stopping the spread of AIDS.

We believe that mothers are the best hope for nurturing healthy sexuality in their children by communicating age-appropriate information.

The best way to prevent your child from getting HIV infection is to talk to her or him honestly about sexuality and drug use.

What you can say about AIDS

Don't wait for your child to ask you about sex and drug use. Talk to her or him first. It's never too early to start.

Tell your children:

- There is no cure for AIDS. But AIDS is preventable.
- While some communities have a higher rate of HIV infection than others, too many people still think that only gay men or intravenous drug users can get AIDS.
- Anyone who has unprotected sex or uses needles can get AIDS. Even you.
- Do not make decisions lightly about sex or drug use. You can make choices. Wait until you're ready for sex. Use a condom. Ask for help with a drug problem. Do not use dirty needles.
- I love you. Even if I don't have all the answers, together we can find the information you need to protect yourself.

For more information about age-appropriate strategies for talking to your children about AIDS:

Call Mothers' Voices at (212) 730-2777 or find us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.mvoices.org>.

Mothers' Voices supports the efforts of parents to guide their children's sexuality development, including understanding of differing sexual orientations. We are committed to building a society where all parents are able to provide the love and support that every child deserves.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

Mothers' Voices

Spring 1997 Volume 10 Number 1

United to end AIDS®

Advocacy

1997 MOTHER'S DAY CARD CAMPAIGN

IT'S THAT TIME OF
YEAR AGAIN, WHEN
WE ENROLL YOUR
HELP AND THE
VOICES OF TENS
OF THOUSANDS
TO SAY, "WITH
AIDS—EVERY DAY
IS MOTHER'S DAY"
AND THIS EPIDEMIC
IS NOT OVER.

In the past year, there have been many news reports of exciting breakthroughs in treating HIV and AIDS. As anyone living with HIV, or anyone who loves them can point out, progress does not mean the epidemic is over.

The new drug therapies: 1. do not work for everyone; 2. have difficult dosing schedules; 3. often produce intolerable side effects; 4. are very expensive; 5. have uncertain long-term benefits; and 6. could result in drug-resistant strains of HIV, which could worsen the epidemic.

While we all hope that further research can address these issues, we must continue to educate the public and our political leaders.

We must demand:

- sustained, well-funded bio-medical research to produce improved treatments, an effective vaccine, and a real cure.

- innovative behavioral research and HIV prevention programs promoting safer sexual behavior.

Please join us in a massive call for sustained commitment to ending AIDS.

In 1997, as we have for the past six years, Mothers' Voices is using Mother's Day to continue to educate the public and the politicians.

We have produced a powerful Mother's Day card which delivers our urgent message to our President, Congressional leaders and Governors. Cards are packaged in sets of two, with space for you to sign and room to collect additional signatures. You can use the second card or give it to a friend.

As always, the Mother's Day card kits are available free of charge.

Just use the order form on page 7 or phone us at 1-888-MVOICES

and let us know how many card kits you can use.

When your card kits arrive, circulate the cards among family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and at schools, religious groups, hospitals, community organizations, and friendly retailers. The signed cards are returned to us for delivery to the White House, Congress, and the Statehouses.

Your participation will help to assure an impressive showing of grassroots support to our elected leaders! In the past, volunteers working at the grassroots have generated more than a million messages supporting life saving AIDS prevention and research. Please order as many cards as you wish. Your part in spreading the word is critical.

Mothers' Voices believes that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. Mothers' Voices will build a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the AIDS epidemic.

We recognize that public and private attitudes toward sexuality inhibit a successful response and threaten progress in the fight against AIDS. Therefore, through a national grassroots network of educated and empowered mothers, we will raise our voices and mobilize our moral authority to promote public policies that advance the efforts for AIDS research, treatment and ultimately, a cure.

A Mother's Day wish ~~because~~ AIDS is still with us.



Card not shown actual size

See page 7 to order your Mother's Day Cards!

In This Issue

	Executive Director's Report	2
	Behavioral Summit '97 Mothers' Voices! Luncheon at NIH HIV Prevention Conference	2
	More Progress Needed	2
	Bolton Raises a Father's Voice	4
	Sex Education/HIV Prevention Why Ignorance does not work	5
	AIDSWatch '97	5
	Clean Needle Access An effective prevention strategy	5
	Chapter Updates	6
	Contributions	7



Contact: Florence Quinn, Quinn & Co., 212.366.1900

MOTHERS WOULD RATHER HAVE A CURE FOR AIDS THAN A TAX CUT THIS MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 11

"Facts of Life" Report Card:

**Mom is doing a better job than Dad, although even Mom
finds it easier to talk about drug abuse than sex.**

**93% of mothers believe talking to children about sex promotes
responsible sexual behavior, but when it comes to teaching them
how to use a condom, 65% don't make the grade.**

NEW YORK, April 30, 1997 -- This Mother's Day, American mothers would prefer to have a cure for AIDS as a Mother's Day gift over a tax cut, according to the findings in a survey of 600 randomly selected mothers sponsored by Mothers' Voices, a national grassroots non-profit organization of mothers dedicated to mobilizing mothers as AIDS and sexual health educators. After a cure for AIDS (52%), moms choose less sex and violence on TV (33%), followed by a tax cut (9%), then a reduction in the national deficit (4%).

However, discussing sex with their kids is not easy for American moms. While half of mothers (51%) thought their children would give them an "A" on how they discuss drug and alcohol abuse with them, only 30% thought they might receive an "A" on the subject of sexuality. And, if it's challenging for mom, it's even more difficult for dad. When asked who is doing a better job of talking to their children about sex, "you or the father," 74% of the woman said "me."

The poll reveals that 93% of mothers believe talking to children honestly about sex promotes more responsible sexual behavior among youth. Only 3% of mothers think talking to children about sex encourages them to be sexually active.

Even though mothers long for a cure for AIDS, which is the leading cause of death among young adults in the U.S., when it comes to educating their children about HIV/AIDS, one third (34%) of the respondents graded themselves an "F". In addition, in teaching their children about how to use a condom -- the best HIV/AIDS prevention -- over half (55%) admit they haven't discussed condoms and one in ten give themselves failing grades.

Mothers of younger children (under the age of 10) feel they do a good job giving children permission to say "no" if someone wants to touch them and they do not like it (88%), identifying the proper names for body parts (63%), and explaining how babies are made (56%).

...more...

However, mothers of younger children fall short in talking about AIDS (46%). They also graded themselves low in talking about sexual orientation (39%) and masturbation (24%).

Perhaps these low grades in discussing HIV/AIDS are not surprising. While mothers wish for a cure for AIDS and 53% said they are very concerned and do not see an end to the epidemic in the near future, only 26% of the respondents correctly identified AIDS as the leading cause of death among Americans ages 25 to 44. More mothers (36%) incorrectly answered accidents, followed by cancer (15%) and suicide (13%).

This poll reveals that American mothers are still very concerned about AIDS. "Even more mothers would be alarmed if they knew that over one in four new HIV infections occurs in youth by the age of 21," said Ann Kurth, executive director of Mothers' Voices. "All the hopeful news about treatment advances has led to increasing complacency about the epidemic," added Kurth. "As we have begun to see, this can undermine HIV prevention, safer sexual behavior, and a commitment to improve HIV/AIDS treatment."

What about when the children reach puberty? Today's mothers, many of whom came of age in the '60s, are pragmatic about sex outside of marriage: 56% recognize that premarital sex occurs, and that parents have an obligation to teach children about safe sex and birth control and help children learn when they are ready to have sex. Another 14% said that premarital sex is not necessarily bad and that sexual compatibility, self-esteem, strong communication and decision-making skills can be important to a successful relationship. Twenty-four percent of the respondents said that premarital sex for their children was out of the question "as long as they lived under their roofs."

"Mothers take a strong interest in preventing AIDS, and they realize parents have the responsibility to educate their children about sex," said Kurth. "But they need help in becoming well-informed about health sexuality and about how to give their children the skills to make appropriate decisions regarding sexual activity."

For a full report, call Mothers' Voices at 212.730.2777.

The poll was conducted by EDK Associates. The results are based upon 600 telephone interviews with mothers between the ages of 18 and 65 nationwide. All interviews were conducted from April 8-10, 1997. Errors due to sampling can be plus or minus 4 percentage points.

###



MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

Need help talking to your children about sex and HIV prevention?

Mothers' Voices can give you support

With the newly provided...

SYLVIA HAGENDORF NATIONAL PARENTS RESOURCE CENTER

Equipping parents of children from infancy through adolescence with listings of Books, Videos, Brochures, & Pamphlets on HIV prevention and sexual health education.

For free listings of publications, titles, and authors, visit our website:

www.mvoices.org or call us at 1-888-MVOICES

The Sylvia Hagendorf National Parents Resource Center is a reference, not a lending library.

[Text-only Menu](#)

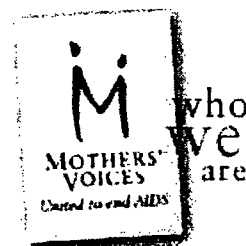
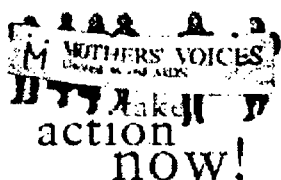
[Website Awards](#)

M MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

Every Child Deserves a Chance of a Lifetime

new visitors click >



Mothers Voices' Chapters:
[A National Grassroots Movement](#)

June 27th is National HIV Testing Day.
[If you have ever had unprotected sex or shared needles, then you should consider taking the test.](#)

Outreach to Communities of Faith

[home](#)
[site index](#)
[feedback](#)
[join](#)
[guestbook](#)
[mother-to-mother discussion area](#)

quiz



Test your knowledge of the AIDS Pandemic and HIV Prevention Strategies

Young people do not need to learn about sex before puberty. Starting Sex Ed too early can lead to increased interest and early sexual experimentation.

True
False

Quiz #4 Results

<http://www.mvoices.org/cgi-bin/quizExp.pl>

Your Quiz Results

Young people do not need to learn about sex before puberty. Starting Sex Ed too early can lead to increased interest and early sexual experimentation.

- ☐ Correct answer was: **False**
- ☐ You answered: **False**

This answer was marked correct.

Young people -- children -- need to learn about AIDS prevention before they become sexually active. Studies by the World Health Organization have shown conclusively that talking seriously to young people about sexuality and the risks of HIV transmission does not encourage earlier sexual experimentation; it either leads to a postponement of sexual activity or to an increase in the practice of safer sex, or both.

Anne Grunseit and Susan Kippax, Effects of Sex Education on Young People's Sexual Behavior," World Health Organization, 1994 .

[home](#) [site index](#) [feedback](#) [join](#) [guestbook](#) [mother-to-mother discussion area](#)

Copyright 1996, Mothers' Voices

MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®



Mothers' Voices Mission Statement

Ann Kurth,
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivy Duncier, Chair
Dorry Bless, President
Suzanne Benzer
Barbara Corcoran
Susanna Cunningham-
Rundles, Ph.D.
Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D.
Ellen Levine
Eileen Mitzman
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Deeda Blair
Christie Brinkley
Cher
Maria Cuomo Cole
Mary Fisher
Whoopi Goldberg
Caroline Kennedy
Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Angela Lansbury
Andrea Marcovicci
Patricia Neal
June E. Osborn, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Anna Quindlen
Ardath Rodale
Susan Sacandon
Elizabeth Taylor
Joan Tisch
Jeanne White-Ginder
Lori Wiener, Ph.D.
Anna Wintour

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Glaser
Don Hall
Flo Spierer

Mothers' Voices believes that every child deserves the chance of a lifetime. Mothers' Voices will build a movement of mothers to create a public climate responsive to the urgency of the AIDS epidemic.

We recognize that public and private attitudes toward sexuality inhibit a successful response and threaten progress in the fight against AIDS. Therefore, through a national grassroots network of educated and empowered mothers, we will raise our voices and mobilize our moral authority to promote public policies that advance the efforts for AIDS education, prevention, research, treatment and ultimately, a cure.

165 West 46th Street
Suite 701
New York, NY 10036

telephone
212.730.2777
facsimile
212.730.4378
internet
<http://www.mvoices.org>

Please contact us if you would like more information about how you can get involved in the Mothers' Voices network of activist mothers, and for information about joining or starting a chapter in your area.

A Mother's Day wish **because** AIDS is still with us.



MOTHERS' VOICES

United to end AIDS®

165 West 46th Street, Suite 701
New York, New York 10036

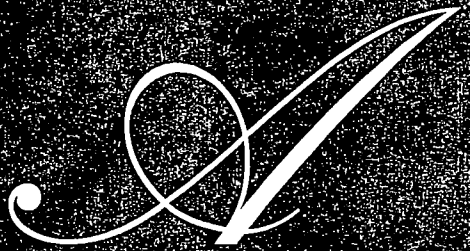
Phone: 212-730-2777

Fax: 212-730-4378

Internet: <http://www.mvoices.org>

Mothers' Voices is the only national, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to mobilizing mothers as educators and advocates to end AIDS. Mothers' Voices provides resources for mothers to educate their children and advocates for more effective HIV prevention programs, the promotion of safer sexual behavior, and increased funding for research to produce improved treatments, a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS.



Almost a million Americans are already infected with the AIDS virus. Millions more may have their lives cut short unless we speak honestly and openly about sex and substance abuse. Today's new treatments are still no cure. The President, Congress, and State leaders must keep hearing how much we want every mother's child to prevail against this epidemic. I'm going to share this message with family, friends, and those in office whose decisions determine who lives and who dies.

REMEMBER:

HIV infection is preventable.

And we still need a cure.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

To: Our President, Congress and Governors:

AIDS has ravaged our nation long enough. For the sake of all of our children, we must have honest talk and education about sex and substance use; compassionate support for people living with HIV and AIDS; and expanded research to produce a vaccine and a real cure.

NAME _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

[] I'm enclosing a tax-deductible donation to support the Mothers' Voices campaign.

[] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$100 [] Other _____

[] Charge my contribution of \$ _____ to my Visa/Mastercard.

CREDIT CARD NO. / EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

*Make your tax-deductible check payable to Mothers' Voices,
165 W. 46th St., Ste. 704, New York, NY 10036*

For our children to outlive us.



Mothers' Voices invites you to participate in our 1997 Mother's Day Campaign to build AIDS awareness, get families talking about AIDS and produce thousands of messages to our President, Congress and Governors.

Please share this card with your family, friends and neighbors. Give the other cards to a friend or use them yourself to collect more signatures.

Please take this opportunity to talk to your own children, other family members and friends about AIDS. Until we have a vaccine and a real cure, honest talk from an early age onward about sex and drug use is our best defense.

It's never too early to start talking to your children. Please contact us for educational materials on how to begin the conversation.

Here are the names and addresses of my family, friends and neighbors who support this message:

NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

*Your stamp can add
to the gift you give.*



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 464 NEW YORK NY

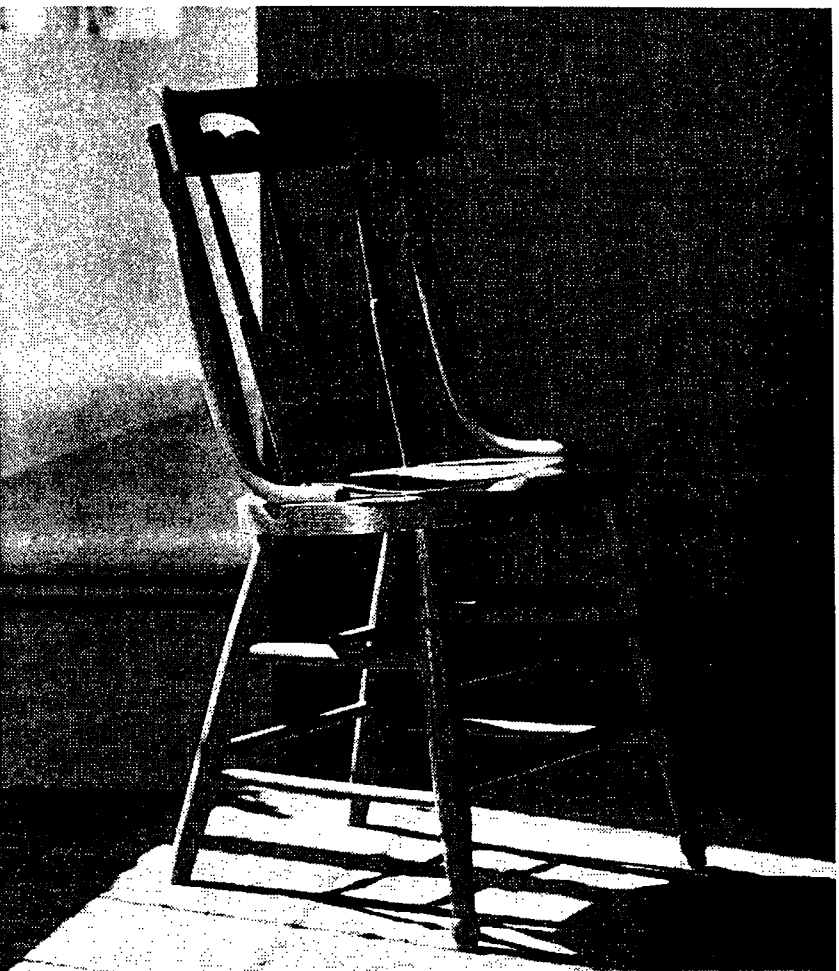
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Mothers' Voices
165 W 46th St Ste 701
New York NY 10109-1365



You are more
likely to see
your grown
child die of
AIDS than
from any
other cause.



Public Media Center Photo: Todd Pickering

*S*ome people are living longer, but AIDS is still the biggest killer of American adults 25-44.

Tragically, not everyone can have their lives prolonged by the new treatments you've heard so much about. Nor do they prevent more and more U.S. teenagers from acquiring the virus that causes AIDS through unprotected sex and drug use.

And still there's no cure.

But we don't have to wait for the real answer to AIDS.

It can already be found in the hearts of parents who care enough to fight for honest, early education, research focused on vaccines and a cure, and support for those living with AIDS.

Parents like you, who truly understand the threat HIV/AIDS poses to all our children. A danger greater than any other disease or accidental cause of death in America.

Less than 20% of American parents know that AIDS is the most common killer of young adults. Now that you know, here's what to do:

Request your free Mother's Day information kit by calling toll-free 1-888-MVOICES (1-888-686-4237.) Or contact Mothers' Voices, 165 West 46th Street, Suite 701, New York, NY 10036; website: <http://www.mvoices.org>





maybe you think the epidemic is over

maybe you think no one is getting infected any more

maybe you think you can stop using condoms

maybe you think you're not positive for HIV-

maybe you think you are

On June 27, think again.

National HIV Testing Day is sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) in partnership with Mothers' Voices, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association, the Academy for Educational Development, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The 1997 campaign focuses on women, youth, and communities of color, populations that continue to see high rates of HIV infection, and has been endorsed by the American Red Cross, the National Council of La Raza, the National Council of Negro Women and the American Medical Association.

Voluntary HIV antibody counseling and testing is a critical step in taking control and responsibility over one's health. The campaign stresses the importance of pre-test and post-test counseling in conjunction with any form of testing. The earlier a person is diagnosed and begins to monitor her or his health, the greater the chance of remaining healthy. HIV counseling and testing is an excellent opportunity for professionals to establish direct dialogue with individuals who are not infected but at high risk, and this counseling can help to create and maintain the behavioral changes needed to prevent infection.

Receiving a positive diagnosis can be devastating. The many medical, social, and psychological components of HIV disease are often difficult to grasp when first diagnosed. However, HIV testing coupled with comprehensive education, protection of legal rights, early health monitoring and access to treatment options, offers people with HIV a real opportunity to take control and lead a longer and healthier life.

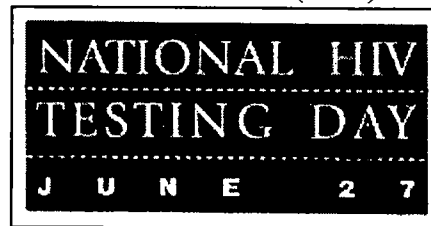
To learn more about voluntary HIV testing and counseling, contact the National AIDS Hotline, your physician, local health clinic, or an AIDS service provider in your area.

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE

1-800-342-AIDS (English)

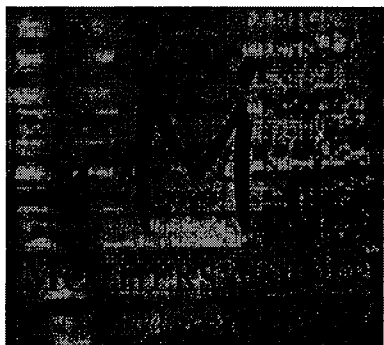
1-800-344-7432 (Spanish)

1-800-243-7889 (TTY)



[home](#) [site index](#) [feedback](#) [join](#) [guestbook](#) [mother-to-mother discussion area](#)

Copyright 1997, Mothers' Voices



MV Accomplishments: What We Do

■ EDUCATION

- 1997 Card Campaign: 400,000 Cards, Sabbath Outreach Kit to 1000 congregations, Mother's Poll
- Tools for Parents: 120,000 "Talking To Your Children" brochures, award-winning internet site, PSA in People Magazine, National Resource Center, 'Parent's Project' video kit and MV Parents' Booklet, "Moms Curriculum" for use in homes & workplaces
- Founding partner in the United States Conference on AIDS

■ ADVOCACY

- Only organization at August political conventions
- Mothers' Platform to End AIDS - MothersVote 96 Voter education drive
- 'Hands Around the Capital' event at AIDS Quilt
- HIV Prevention research luncheon at the National Institutes of Health
- "Comprehensive Sex Ed" and "Access to Clean Needles" HIV prevention statements (grassroots strategies)

■ NATIONAL NETWORK

- Chapters: Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami
- "Next": Boston, Baltimore, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Providence, Seattle

Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a Strategy to Foster Healthy Sexuality, and Reduce the Spread of HIV

Mothers' Voices believes that the rise of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections can best be stemmed in a climate of healthy sexuality. Research shows that children are strongly influenced by their parents, and Mothers' Voices acknowledges that mothers are primary educators to promote healthy sexuality and behavioral choices for children. Today, the AIDS epidemic poses an urgent challenge to mothers as they guide their children through this important aspect of human development.

Mothers' Voices believes that sexuality education need not be difficult if started early and as a natural part of parenting. By educating themselves, mothers can take the lead in developing a *positive* approach to communicating a healthy and responsible understanding of sexuality to their children and families.

We believe that sexuality education is a lifelong process and that mothers are in a singularly unique position to impart healthy sexuality by promoting values that positively support the child's understanding of their body, their gender, their sexual orientation, their social role, and their interactions with others.

Mothers' Voices recognizes that information alone is not sufficient to avoid the risks associated with sexual behavior, including HIV infection. To make responsible decisions, children also must be given support in developing self esteem, strong interpersonal skills, and a system of values consistent with personal acceptance of their own distinct gender identity and sexual orientation.

Outside of the home, mothers can be a voice of reason for policies and programs that promote healthy sexuality. Recognizing that development extends beyond the home environment, it is vital that schools, religious and community groups, media, business and government accept responsibility in reinforcing healthy attitudes.

Mothers' Voices supports HIV prevention programs that focus on decision making skills and that address the full spectrum of safer sexual behavior, including the postponing of sexual activity, abstinence, condom accessibility and skills for safer sex practices.

Mothers can have a powerful influence in shaping a public consensus in support of the values embodied in this statement.

Reducing HIV Transmission Among Injecting Drug Users, Their Sex Partners and Children

Drug addiction is a profoundly difficult challenge to society, and has a devastating impact on many communities. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, in the year ending June 30, 1996, 26% of AIDS cases were due to injecting drug use. Approximately one third of all cases among heterosexuals were associated with injecting drug use, and 58% of pediatric cases were due to the mother's use of injecting drugs or sex with an injecting drug user.

Mothers' Voices believes that access to clean needles can significantly reduce HIV infections among injecting drug users, their sex partners and children. Six federally funded studies have concluded that needle exchange programs reduce HIV transmission rates without increasing the amount of drug use by program clients or changing overall community levels of drug use.¹ Nor do these programs increase the number of discarded syringes in the environment. Community based programs have been shown to reach injecting drug users with long histories of drug use and who remain at significant risk for HIV infection.

We believe that well designed needle exchange programs enable substance users to avoid HIV infection, while providing encouragement to enroll in drug treatment programs and links to other important health services.

Thus, we support lifting the ban on federal funding for needle exchange programs² and revoking or modifying state prescription and paraphernalia laws that limit access to sterile syringes.³

Programs providing clean needles are best when they offer comprehensive services, including referrals to addiction treatment. In too many instances, however, there are long waits for those who wish to enter programs. Mothers' Voices strongly advocates for increased investment in addiction prevention and treatment programs.

Needle exchange programs cannot begin to solve the problems of those addicted to drugs, nor the larger constellation of problems faced in poor and disenfranchised communities. However, when properly designed and when community support is forthcoming, such programs can have a major impact on reducing the leading cause of HIV transmission among injecting drug users, thus creating an opportunity for many to live long enough to overcome their addiction.

Mothers' Voices supports access to clean needles and expanded access to addiction treatment as important components of a comprehensive approach to reducing HIV infection among injection drug users, their sexual partners and children.

¹ The National Commission on AIDS, 1991; University of California, 1993; The Centers for Disease Control, 1993; The National Academy of Sciences 1995; General Accounting Office, 1993; and Office of Technology Assessment, 1995.

² Federal law currently prohibits funding needle exchange until "the Surgeon General of the United States [determines] that such programs are effective in preventing the spread of HIV and do not encourage the use of illegal drugs."

³ Ten states and the District of Columbia prohibit the purchase of a syringe without a prescription. Paraphernalia laws exist in 46 states and the District of Columbia precluding the possession or distribution of syringes except for "legitimate medical purposes."

Adopted November 16, 1995

Expanded Bio-Medical Research

Introduction

Mothers depend on scientific progress in all areas of child rearing. From the safety of fire-retardant infant clothes, to well designed and tested car seats, to the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and baby formulas, mothers expect full support and commitment from society. With AIDS threatening families everywhere, American mothers count on our nation to make its most solemn commitment to conquering this disease.

Recent estimates of HIV infection are alarming. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 18.5 million adults and more than 1.5 million children worldwide are infected with HIV, the virus that is believed to cause AIDS. In North America, 1.1 million people may be infected with HIV.

The United States is recognized as a world leader in science and technology. In the field of bio-medical research, the U.S. has a vital role to play on behalf of its own citizens and for the benefit of the world community.

Mothers' Voices views biomedical research as an investment in the future of children everywhere. We seek to promote a better understanding of the scientific process, recognizing that the practical applications of science are best achieved through wide-ranging and imaginative inquiry. Progress depends on creative experimentation and does not always proceed in a direct manner. In fact, advances in one area often create unanticipated insight into other areas of investigation.

As mothers, we nurture our children, encouraging them to be cooperative and sharing with their brothers, sisters, classmates and friends. As women, we are often called upon to make peace in our families. We are deeply distressed when we see one disease pitted against another. There is nothing productive to be gained by comparing an infectious epidemic disease such as AIDS with other non-infectious diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes. We oppose this divisive practice and we will rally all Americans to value and support the full range of bio-medical research. Increased support for research will advance the efforts against AIDS and provide a framework for dealing with other life threatening diseases. Expanded bio-medical research has the potential to prevent early deaths and prolong millions of lives.

Bio-medical Research is an Investment in Our Children's Health

Mothers' Voices supports increased federal spending on all bio-medical research. We believe that the future of scientific research holds great promise for conquering disease and that AIDS research is both dependent on, and inter-related to, a broad spectrum of bio-medical inquiry, including immunology, virology, microbiology, molecular biology, infectious diseases, genetic research, nutrition, oncology, neurology, hematology, and pulmonary medicine.

Since AIDS is not a single disease, but a syndrome of diseases, AIDS-related research is producing insights into the progression and treatment of many diseases, including auto-immune disorders and many forms of cancer. In addition, AIDS research has increased insights into the mechanisms of dementia and multiple sclerosis, and improved understanding of the development of children's immune systems.

AIDS research has vastly increased our understanding of viruses and, perhaps most importantly, the immune system. Advances against HIV and AIDS have the potential to be replicated in a wide field of pharmaceutical progress. Since AIDS was first recognized, there have been great advances in the new field of bio-technology. Utilizing state-of-the-art techniques such as recombinant DNA technology and gene splicing, medical science is now on threshold of a new era. Advanced pharmacology has now entered the realm of *rational drug design*. Drugs can now be manipulated at the molecular level to have the desired actions and effects. This approach may soon replace the "try-everything-and-see-if-anything-works" methods of the past.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Discoveries about the dynamics of HIV and of the human immune system provide opportunities for new therapeutic strategies.

Expanded research is needed in five areas:

1. More effective and less toxic anti-virals for HIV.
2. Improved treatments and preventions for HIV-related opportunistic infections and cancers.
3. Immune system restoration.
4. Advanced study of holistic strategies, including nutrition, vitamins, herbs and other natural therapies.
5. Vaccine development.

In addition, since AIDS is a new and rapidly spreading infectious disease, the epidemic warrants specific expenditures for surveillance, infection control/prevention, and population and natural history studies not required of chronic, non-infectious, "endemic" diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.

Mothers' Voices supports the expansion of basic bio-medical research, clinical research, vaccine research and behavioral research. Basic research is needed to better understand the disease progression of AIDS. Expanded clinical research is needed to develop better treatments including the use of natural therapies and holistic approaches. Vaccine research and innovative behavioral research is needed to prevent HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

We believe that each of these areas warrant increased investment and we oppose any proposals to neglect one area in favor of another.

A Call to Action

Today, mothers are joining the ranks of AIDS activists, speaking up and demanding a voice in national policy decisions. Mothers' Voices will support and enhance this natural leadership.

While we expect the pharmaceutical industry to act responsibly by increasing its commitment to research and development, we also demand that our government act as a full partner by supporting innovative basic and clinical research.

AIDS will not be the last deadly virus to confront humanity. It is our goal to build a more profound appreciation for science and the scientific method. We will build on the past successes of the AIDS activist movement by adding a strong, clear and loving voice. By involving and supporting mothers, we will create a model for activism that will serve the health and well being of families now and in the future.

MOTHERS' VOICES PLATFORM TO DEFEAT AIDS

THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IS NOT OVER

As American mothers, we have renewed hope for an end to AIDS. The recent XI International Conference on AIDS affirmed investment in the campaign against AIDS:

- Prevention works; sustained efforts have led to stabilization of new infections in some groups in the U.S.
- A new class of antivirals have been able to reduce HIV levels in the blood and bears further investigation.

As mothers, we celebrate these advances even as we recognize that much work remains ahead. *The epidemic is far from over.* Too many Americans view AIDS as a disease affecting others. Difficulty in addressing sexuality, as well as substance abuse, inhibits a full and productive public dialogue on the most effective ways of preventing AIDS.

History shows that eradicating infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, requires continuing vigilance, and that premature reduction of efforts can lead to unexpected resurgence of even more serious disease.

Today, AIDS is the leading killer of Americans aged 25-44, with one in four new HIV infections occurring in young people between the ages of 13 and 21. New infections in women continue to rise, and among young gay men the rate is as high as three percent - not seen since the early 80's.

We cannot accept this loss of productive life from AIDS. Mothers, knowing the impact of AIDS on the young, and the devastation that AIDS brings to families, are uniting across boundaries of race, class, and sexual orientation to bring an end to the AIDS epidemic.

For the sake of our children, our nation, and our world let us *now more than ever redouble the fight to end AIDS.* Since AIDS is a global pandemic, we call upon our nation to work with the G7 nations to combat AIDS in the developing world, and to make a substantial contribution to the United Nations AIDS Program.

Mothers, united to create a future without AIDS, hereby call upon all Presidential and Congressional candidates to:

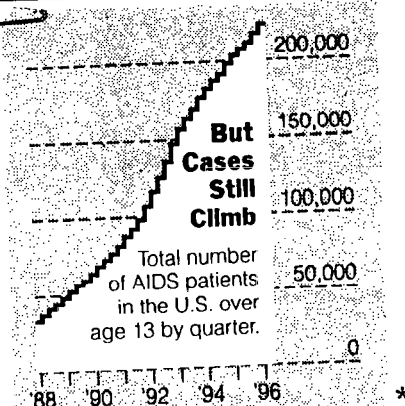
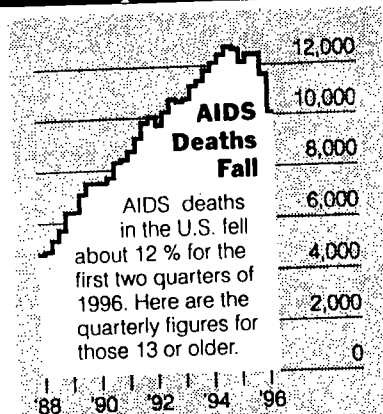
1. Increase financial and political commitment to the eradication of AIDS.
2. Expand both biomedical and behavioral research; develop vaccines and microbicides for prevention.
3. Support the consolidated budget authority of the Office of AIDS Research and implementation of the NIH AIDS Research Program Evaluation Working Group recommendations (Levine panel).
4. Foster public and private sector collaboration to develop improved and accessible therapies.
5. Increase funding for AIDS-related research at the NIH by \$157 million for FY 1997.¹
6. Support sexuality education and prevention targeted for all communities, and all ages, including children, and increase the CDC budget by \$154 million for FY 1997.²
7. Support programs designed to reduce the risks of infection associated with drug addiction.
8. Support high quality health care and services for people with HIV/AIDS and end discrimination in housing, employment, insurance, and travel.

¹ Funding recommendation of the National Organizations Responding to AIDS (NORA), 1996

² NORA, 1996

Feb. 28, 1997: TV, radio and newspapers...

"U.S. Reporting Sharp Decrease in AIDS Deaths"



Good news must not lead to complacency

Please join us in getting this message across. If you have not ordered our free Mother's Day Cards, take a minute to complete the form, and fax or mail to us. You may order the cards by phone at 212-730-2777.

Let us build on the progress made!

* Data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Chart: *The New York Times*