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[AIDS Resource Center - San Antonio, TX] [loose]

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AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

August 9, 1993

Ms. Kristine Gebbie
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
National AIDS Policy Office
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Number 73-G HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201

*Be sure he's
included in my
Texas outgrowth
we schedule -
K.*

Dear Ms. Gebbie:

Thank you, very much, for your prompt response to my letter of July 14, 1993 concerning our situation in South Texas.

I thought I would follow my letter up with a map of Texas showing the three significant areas for medical and social services for those with HIV/AIDS, as well as a few back up documents about the AIDS Resource Center.

We greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of those children, women, and men living with HIV/AIDS and look forward to great strides under your leadership.

I wish you great strength and many victories!

With Faith and Hope,



Bill R. Bearden
Executive Director

encls:

BILL R. BEARDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

800 Lexington, P.O. Box 12088
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210) 222-2437
(210) 222-2385 Fax
650-2046 Pgr.

P.O. Box 12088
800 Lexington
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Office # (210) 222-2437
Fax# (210) 222-2385



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

ANN W. RICHARDS
GOVERNOR

June 18, 1993

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to congratulate the administrators, staff, and supporters of the AIDS Resource Center of San Antonio on the opening of your new facility.

This new facility represents a major step in providing effective AIDS education and counseling to the people of San Antonio. In addition, it will provide a wide variety of necessary services such as day-care respite, legal assistance, housing and job bank programs, a food bank, support groups, emergency transportation, and advocacy. These services are invaluable to people with AIDS and their families, and I commend everyone involved in making this new facility a reality.

Best wishes!

Sincerely,


ANN W. RICHARDS
Governor





Texas Department of Health

David R. Smith, M.D.
Commissioner

Bureau of HIV & STD Control
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-9987
(512) 458-7463
Fax # (512) 458-7434

Robert A. MacLean, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner

HIV Division - (512) 458-7209
Pharmacy Division - (512) 458-7500

STD Control Division
(512) 458-7225

November 30, 1992

Mr. Bill R. Bearden
2515 McCullough, Suite 101
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Dear Mr. Bearden:

I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation for Mr. Bill R. Bearden.

I have known Mr. Bearden for three years and during this time he has worked in various capacities with the San Antonio AIDS Foundation. He was the driving force in leading the Foundation into the new decade and he provided the new leadership with a clear vision of the goals that needed to be accomplished. He has devoted countless hours of hard work and dedication to providing access to health and social services to the HIV infected population of San Antonio. I admire his dedication and strength in dealing with such difficult issues as limited resources, increasing client needs and numbers, and the political complications that arise in his community dealing with HIV/AIDS related issues.

I would strongly support Mr. Bearden's nomination to the board of any state agency that is involved in strengthening and promoting equality for all individuals and increasing access of health and social services to the citizens of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. E. Bell, M.D.".

Charles E. Bell, M.D.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of HIV and STD Control



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

NELSON W. WOLFF
MAYOR

November 23, 1992

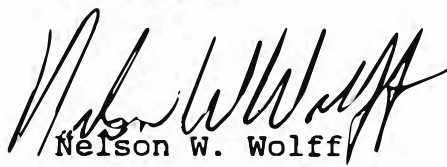
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have known Bill Bearden for several years and know of his commitment to human rights and the dignity of those affected with HIV/AIDS. Bill has served on the Board of Trustees of the San Antonio AIDS Foundation for several years and is currently chairperson of the Board. He also serves as Executive Director of the Alamo Area Resource Center, an HIV/AIDS Services organization. He has co-chaired an event in three acts for 1992, the Names Project, AIDS Memorial Quilt-1990, and HEART STRINGS 1989 Tour.

I feel he would be an asset on the Commission for Texas Department of Human Services, the Texas Commission on Human Rights, or the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Thank you, in advance for your consideration of Bill.

Sincerely,


Nelson W. Wolff
Mayor

NWW:jrb

SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

332 W. Commerce Street
San Antonio, Texas 78285-5201
(512) 299-8780



November 25, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned offers the following observations of Mr. Bill Bearden with whom he is well acquainted in a variety of endeavors and efforts that are closely tied to Public Health concerns related to the AIDS epidemic in San Antonio, Texas.

In my position as Director of Health, I have consistently been impressed with Mr. Bearden's leadership and diplomacy in keeping the many diverse groups and vested interests working together and resolving conflict in programs and services for persons living with AIDS, as well as education and prevention efforts.

He is most creative and skillful in fundraising efforts, program startups and has served with distinction as the Chairperson of the local Heartstrings program and the San Antonio AIDS Foundation Board. In addition, for several years, he has taken an important leadership role in the AIDS Quilt Project and many special events related to promoting greater awareness about the HIV/AIDS condition in our community and all who are affected with AIDS.

Mr. Bearden currently serves as the Director of the AIDS Activity and Resource Center and is a member of the AIDS Consortium. He brings great credit to himself, to our community and the groups of individuals in the Gay and Lesbian community and all who are affected with AIDS.

I am most pleased to offer my support and endorsement to Mr. Bearden's consideration for future appointment to the Human Right's Commission or the Health Policy Task Force.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fernando A. Guerra", is positioned above the typed name.

Fernando A. Guerra
Director of Health

6 July 1993
9702 Valley Crest
San Antonio, Texas 78250

The Honorable Christine Hernandez
Texas State Representative
301 South Frio Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Dear Representative Hernandez,

I would like to take a moment of your time to express my appreciation for fundings that have been directed to AIDS and HIV+ programs. There is one organization that I would like to bring to your attention; the Alamo Area Resource Center, 800 Lexington, San Antonio.

As a person living with HIV for 5 years now, I have had the benefits and the services from time to time of the San Antonio Aids Foundation (SAAF). I have also devoted time, energy and services/goods to them in years past. The current climate at SAAF however, appears to be somewhat unsteady. Attitudes have seemingly declined over the last year or so, and it has become more of a bureaucratic institution bent on paperwork rather than assisting PWA's

Thankfully, (regrettably) the internal problems of SAAF have forcibly created a rift that spawned the emergence of AARC. This organization, with Bill Reardon and Fran Mendez at the helm, has made my life more 'copable'. They have counselled and informed me of social, medical, and economy programs that have made my life more stable, and a smile from staff goes a long way. Though this organization is yet in its infancy, please note that the work AARC does is especially encouraging to those of us who are well enough still to be functional and productive, yet require assistance from time to time.

Finally, allow me to encourage you to strongly consider additional funding to this VITAL service organization for those of us who depend on the outstanding volunteers who selflessly devote themselves to assisting others with HIV. Since I am recently unemployed, without their help, my rent and utility bills would have overwhelmed me by now. No organization has so effectively assisted so quickly and timely since its inception as has AARC. The fiscal budgeting by the administration allows for much to be done with their limited funds, for those they service. THEY CAN REMAIN THE NEW QUALITY-OF -LIFE LINK and can become the NEW AIDS HERO ORGANIZATION with your voice, encouragement, and your positive consideration of additional funds at the next opportunity. The Texas Dept. of Health will be reviewing recently proposed allocations later this month, to confirm or re-align monies. Any assistance you could be for this fledgling organization would be justly deserved and I am sure, GREATLY appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Laramie
Greg Laramie

*Bill,
Keep up the
good work!
Christine*

JUL 12 '93 16:19



BY DAN MEDINA

SAN ANTONIO'S AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

Meeting the Needs of PWAs with Faith and Dedication

Immediacy was what I sensed when I walked into the AIDS Resource Center at one o'clock in the afternoon recently. An immediacy borne of trying to meet the needs of those living with AIDS. I'd come to talk with Executive Director Bill Bearden about the Center's recent move to its new 6,500-square foot facility, which is six times larger than the agency's previous address. Fran Mendez, Case Management Director, had one client in her office and several more waiting to see her. Outwardly, at least in the lobby, the atmosphere among clients was jovial.

I announced myself to the receptionist, who told me Bearden would see me shortly. The receptionist was trying to eat his lunch while manning the phones. Another volunteer walked up and offered to take his place. I smelled barbecue cooking somewhere and heard the sounds of children playing down the hall, their innocent peals of laughter further enlivening the place. I opened my newspaper to catch up on the events of the world and wait.

After a few minutes, the new receptionist asked, "Who are you waiting for?" Unaware that he was addressing me, I kept my face buried in the newspaper. Finally, one of the clients said, "Hey, Mr. Newspaper!" I looked up; yes, it was me the receptionist was addressing. We all laughed. I was told Bearden could see me now.

I walked into Bearden's office. "Sorry to keep you waiting," he said as we shook hands, "but it's been a rough week."

I learned that the Center had suffered the loss of 13 clients in the past week. All of us familiar with the loss of friends and loved ones would be understandably shaken, but to this tall, deep-voiced, friendly man, the loss of 13 clearly had had a serious effect.

"What keeps you going?" I asked. "Faith," he said, "pure and simple."

It seemed a most appropriate and logical answer. The AIDS Resource Center was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) charitable trust in 1990 to serve as a day care/respite center. It also provides transportation, a meals on wheels service, pro-bono legal assistance, utility, rental and housing subsidies, a food bank, nutritional guidance, support groups, a job bank, prescription and funeral assistance, HIV prevention and education as well as field trips and other recreational activities. The Center has seen its client load grow in the past six months from 88 to 327. A client load of 500 is anticipated by mid-year.

"How many hours a week do you estimate you put into the Center?" He broke into a grin and said, "Anyone (on the staff) who works less than 80 hours per week is jokingly considered part-time."

The AIDS Resource Center is not Bearden's only commitment to the battle against AIDS. Having previously served on the Board of Directors of the San Antonio AIDS Foundation, he is currently an active member of the Bexar County HIV/AIDS Consortium and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and was recently nominated by Gov. Ann Richards to serve on the

Texas Human Rights Commission. Assisting him and working as Director of the Pro Bono Legal Services Department is Scott Gambutti, while Mendez serves as Case Management Director and Sylvia Widell is Respite Center Coordinator, in charge of planning field trips, the Monday-through-Friday lunches served at the Center and other recreational activities.

Whatever their titles, all staff members are involved in direct client services. Whatever needs to get done gets done, because the clients need it. There is a sign in each office which reads: "There is no limit to what can be accomplished...as long as no one gives a damn who gets the credit or the blame." All this was emphasized as I sat in Bearden's office and he answered his telephone or fielded questions from staff and volunteers. He apologized as he interrupted our discussion to go about the task of finding someone to deliver a wheelchair and bedpan to a client.

I excused myself and went out into the lobby. It was raining outside. I walked into the activity room, where a woman and her two small children were eating burgers. I returned to Bearden's office. He again apologized for the interruptions.

I commented on the number of women and youngsters I had seen in the Center. Bearden spoke of his organization's commitment to women and children living with AIDS, noting that one of the Center's coordinating agencies in this area is the Women's AIDS Task Force. The Resource Center has plans for a nursery and playground to accommodate the growing numbers of women and children among its clients.

It was raining very hard now and the office was practically empty except for staff and volunteers. I asked Bearden how he had gotten involved in this line of work.

"I've counted 96 deaths of people I've known from AIDS." He stood up and pulled out a photo album, and for a moment I thought he was going to show me their pictures. The album, however, was full of photos of gourmet-style buffet tables covered with elegantly arranged foods and ice sculptures. The album was a reminder of his earlier career as a caterer.

For years, Bearden owned and operated a party house called "The Black Swan" which was housed in a Georgian-style mansion.

"We lived upstairs and rented out the bottom floor. I had great success. Money was the least of my problems." Success and money came to mean less and less,

though, as Bearden witnessed friends dying from AIDS. One Christmas, he went back to West Texas to visit his mother (a retired RN who today does AIDS education in her small community) and stepfather. It is their custom for Bill and his stepfather (a self-educated man who can converse in several languages) to spend one day alone, a sort of country retreat with his father.

During this particular visit, Bill expressed his unhappiness with his inability to stop the suffering and deaths of so many in the midst of his own success. He felt guilty and wanted to do something. His stepfather walked over to the bookshelf and pulled down an edition of Thomas Mann. He pointed to a line which said: "Be ashamed to die, until you have won some victory for humanity." That was the turning point for Bearden. Shortly thereafter, he sold his interest in the catering business and enlisted in the army of men and women fighting to win a victory over AIDS.

The San Antonio AIDS Resource Center is not alone in its efforts. Its allies include Ric Marmolejo and the staff of R. Marmolejo Hair Salon, who operate Project First Monday. The entire salon donates proceeds from the first Monday of every month to the Center. Then there's Julie French of the Nite Owl club, who recently held a raffle whose proceeds went toward the purchase of a 28-passenger bus for field trips for clients.

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association was especially instrumental in assisting with the acquisition of the new building, and has also helped the Center's food bank. This year, Ray Chavez and the Cornyation—a Fiesta spoof of King Antonio's coronation—donated all their profits for direct client services. The River City Living MCC has co-sponsored the Center's Meals on Wheels program.

Of course, none of what the AIDS Resource Center does would be possible without the dedicated volunteers who donate their time and efforts in a wide range of areas, as well as the private donors whose contributions of money and other items help keep the agency functioning.

The AIDS Resource Center held grand opening ceremonies at its new facility at 800 Lexington last Tuesday. A volunteer orientation session is planned next Tuesday, May 18. To learn more about the agency and any of its services, call (210) 222-1379.



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER
Nurturing seeds of assistance and compassion
in the gravity of AIDS

(210) 222-2437
(210) 222-2385 Fax

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Day-Care Respite	M - F Saturday Sunday	9:00 - 5:00 10:00 - 3:00 12:00 - 4:00	Sylvia Widell
Legal Assistance	M - F	9:00 - 5:00	Robert Aaron
Utility Rental Assistance	M - F	9:00 - 5:00	Fran Mendez
Housing and Job Bank	M - F	9:00 - 5:00	
Food Bank	Tuesday - Friday (Call for emergency food bank)	11:00 - 4:00	Cortney Balboa
SUPPORT GROUPS			
a. HIV+ Support Group	Monday	6:30	Scott Gambuti
b. Sign Language	Saturday	6:00 - 7:00	Fran or Sylvia
c. Coffee House	Saturday	7:00 - 9:00	Fran or Sylvia
d. A/A and N/A Meetings	Wednesday	7:00 - 8:00	Fran or Sylvia
Prescription & Funeral Assistance	M - F Saturday & Sunday (by beeper *)	9:00 - 5:00	Bill Bearden or/ Fran Mendez
HIV/Prevention and Education (Speaker's Bureau)	By Appointment		Bill, Fran or Scott
Emergency Transportation	On Call		Sylvia Widell
HIV/AIDS Advocacy	On Call		Bill, Fran & Scott

* Medical Emergency and Other	Digital Pager / 871-1592 Digital Pager / 650-2046		Fran Mendez Bill Bearden



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER
P.O. BOX 12088
800 LEXINGTON
(CORNER OF LEXINGTON AND EUCLID)
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212

PHONE: (210) 222-AIDS 222-2437
FAX: (210) 222-2385

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 10:00 TO 3:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 12:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

SERVICES: THE AIDS Resource Center was incorporated as a 501-C-3 charitable trust in 1990 to serve as a Daycare-Respite Center which also provides transportation, meals on wheels, pro-bono legal assistance, utility, community newsletter, rental and housing subsidies, food bank, nutritional guidance, support groups, case management, job bank, prescription and funeral assistance, speakers bureau, HIV prevention and education for the HIV infected individual; man, woman, or child without regard to race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, or financial status.

FEES: None



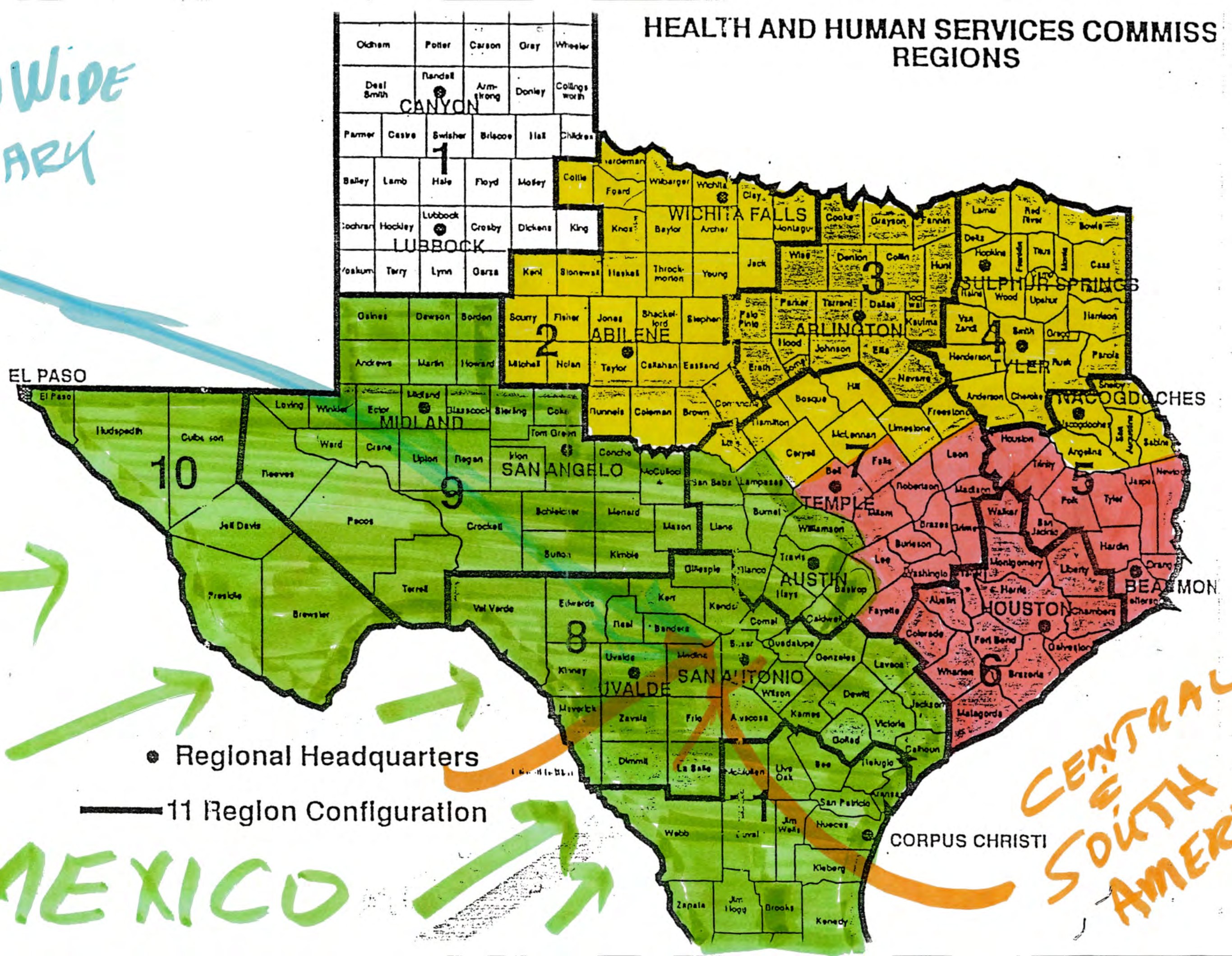
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Nurturing seeds of assistance and compassion
in the gravity of AIDS

800 Lexington
P.O. Box 12088
San Antonio, Texas 78212

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World Wide
Military

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISS REGIONS



● Regional Headquarters

— 11 Region Configuration

MEXICO

CENTRAL
SOUTH
AMERICA