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File —
Mother's Voices



Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

150 West 26 Street
Suite 603
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-366-9217
Fax: 212-366-0679

SYLVIA GOLDSSTAB
BERNIE GOLDSSTAB

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Mothers' Voices is an awareness program created in 1992 by people dedicated to ending the AIDS crisis. We seek to mobilize one of the greatest resources of our country, our nation's mothers, together with their families and friends, to advocate for compassion and respect for those living with the AIDS virus, as well as effective AIDS education, access to quality care and accelerated research for a cure.

Mothers' Voices is a program of People Taking Action Against AIDS, a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to raise funds and awareness in the fight against AIDS.

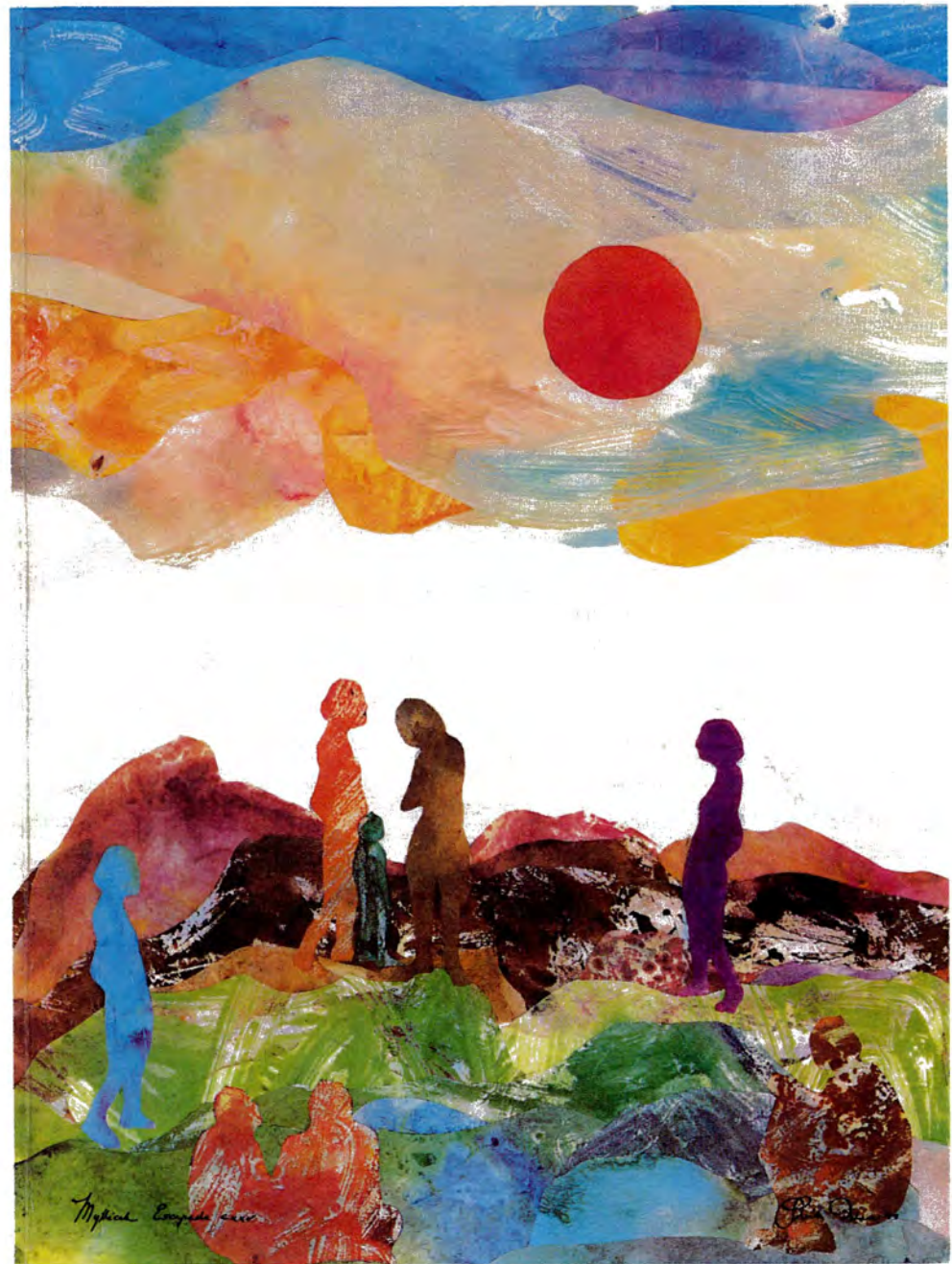


Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES

MYTHICAL ESCAPE SERIES, 1993
Collage on paper by Sheila Isham, donated as part
of her personal contribution to end AIDS

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

ON THIS MOTHER'S DAY,
join our family in the fight to end AIDS.

*The new Administration, committed to
leadership and change, has promised
better funded and better organized AIDS research,
AIDS education programs that recognize the realities of people's lives,
adequate health care for all, and
an end to discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.*

Please, work to fulfill the promise!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES

FOUNDERS

Dorothy Bless
Phyllis Danilow
Ivy Duneier
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

HONORARY COMMITTEE*

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

MOTHERS' VOICES COMMITTEE*

Ellie Barr
Suzanne Benzer
Ruth Bezares
Arlene Binkowitz
Joan Bongiorno
Marrine Denis
Carol DiPaolo
Debra Hope Duneier
Estelle Duneier
Dorothy Feagins
Ruth Finkelstein
Sylvia Goldstaub
Barbara Grudberg
Don Hall
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Eileen Mitzman
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Lori Shabtai
Diane Sims
Gale Sitomer
Flo Spierer
Marilyn Spierer
Robert Starr
Helene Troyka
Karen Vardi
Sandra Isham Vreeland
Fern Zee

*committees in formation

Mothers' Voices is a program
of People Taking Action
Against AIDS

MOTHERS' VOICES

Mothers' Voices seeks to mobilize the hearts and voices of one of the greatest resources of our country, our nation's mothers, together with their families and friends, in a campaign to end the AIDS crisis. Mothers' Voices is a vehicle for mothers and all those concerned about AIDS to channel grief and worry into a national movement to change public attitudes and policies. We welcome families and friends from all communities to advocate for compassion and respect for those affected, as well as urgency in the fight for AIDS education, care, services, medical advances and ultimately, a cure.

THE POWER OF VOICE

Mothers' Voices was organized in late 1991 by four women and one man who had the same idea about how to change the course of the AIDS epidemic.

We recognized that the efforts of private individuals — volunteering for and contributing to AIDS research and service organizations — while important, were not enough. We realized that only with leadership from Washington, and the commitment of the vast resources of our government, could we hope to save the lives of thousands of our friends and loved ones.

So we decided to mobilize the people who politicians cannot ignore. Mothers who've lost a son or daughter. Mothers who worry about their children infected with HIV. Mothers who fear for the future of healthy children. Mothers who may be infected themselves. And not just mothers but all Americans--fathers, sisters, brothers, relatives and friends--who've been touched by AIDS, or who realize if they haven't yet, they soon will be.

PROGRAMS AND GOALS

Our "signature" event is a Mother's Day Card Campaign, in which of hundreds of thousands of families send our special greeting cards with an AIDS awareness message (and often their own personal messages) to their elected officials in Washington. The cards are free of charge and are distributed throughout the country, with the cooperation and assistance of several hundred groups, some directly involved in AIDS research or services, and others affiliated with hospitals, schools, civic organizations, churches and synagogues.

Those who participate in our Mother's Day campaigns form the core of a powerful national network of people committed to ending the AIDS crisis. We are now creating advocacy, awareness and fundraising programs to fully engage our supporters all around the country.



- ## HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Write: Mothers' Voices or Phone: 212-366-9217
150 West 26th St., Suite 603 FAX: 212-366-0679
New York, NY 10001

We hope you'll join us. Together we will make a difference!

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*committees in formation

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1993 UPDATE

Mothers' Voices signature event is our Mother's Day card campaign petitioning the government for the following: sensible AIDS prevention and education programs, an end to discrimination for those living with HIV and AIDS; adequate health care, as well as better organized and increased research. In 1992 we sent over 100,000 cards to President Bush and the Congress, and this year we are proud to say that we distributed close to 500,000 cards, nationwide, at no charge, to all who are concerned.

The cards were ordered by community groups, universities, health facilities, religious groups and concerned individuals. Participating AIDS organizations included AIDS Project Los Angeles, GMHC, AIDS Action Council, The AIDS Action Committee of Boston, and the North West AIDS Foundation. We urged mothers and their families and friends to add their own hopeful, urgent and loving voices to our card's pre-printed message, and then forward the cards to their Senators, Congressional Representatives, President and Mrs. Clinton, and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala.

On May 4, our second annual luncheon was attended by more than 850 people. The theme of the luncheon was a celebration of the extraordinary voices fighting AIDS. The program began with a slide presentation of Carolyn Jones' photographic exhibit, *Living Proof*, presenting positive and uplifting impressions of people living with HIV and AIDS, and concluded with a performance of *Revelations* by The Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble.

The *Extraordinary Voices* awards were presented to six heroic women:

- **Dr. June Osborn**, Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Michigan, and co-chair of the National Commission on AIDS
- **Eileen Mitzman**, a New York city mother who lost her daughter in 1991 to AIDS and has since become a public speaker committed to "saving other people's children".
- **Dorothy Feagins**, a grandmother from Dallas whose daughter and granddaughter are both living with AIDS. Dorothy manages Brian's House, a home for children with AIDS.
- **Tammy Boccomino**, a young Detroit mother who is HIV positive and fights for self-respect on behalf of her family and sons, one of whom is HIV infected.
- **Toukie Smith**, an ardent AIDS activist in New York and throughout the country, who lost her brother, famed fashion designer Willi Smith, to AIDS.

The awards were introduced by Matilda Cuomo, the First Lady of New York, Ellen Levine, Editor-in-Chief of REDBOOK, and Leanza Cornett, Miss America 1993. Some of those who attended included Joan Tisch, Tim Sweeney, and Joyce Dinkins. The afternoon was both emotional, and an inspiring call to action. Many in the room, who were not affected directly by AIDS, were moved to join in our efforts.

Ten Ways to Help in the Fight Against AIDS:

- 1.** Don't get mad or get depressed--get involved. You'll feel better when you work with others to change things. You can make a difference!
- 2.** Become informed! Call or visit a local AIDS organization (call the New York AIDS Coalition for suggestions) and tell them you want to learn more about AIDS and AIDS advocacy. Tell them where you are on the learning curve, and ask for literature appropriate for your level of knowledge.
- 3.** If you don't already, get to know some people whose lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS, and see what you can do to help. Again, one way to do this is to call or visit a local AIDS service organization and volunteer. You could be a "buddy," staff a hot line, deliver meals, help out in an office, whatever.
- 4.** Vote, and vote for candidates who have good stands on AIDS issues. Let them know why you did (or didn't) vote for them! (Make sure you know the names, addresses and phone numbers of your congress(wo)man and state and local lawmakers.)
- 5.** Write letters to the editor. Published, they can change minds, and even unpublished they can influence the newspaper. If you're not comfortable writing one yourself, find a good writer, and work on it together.
- 6.** Talk about AIDS, and government AIDS policy, with your family and friends. People will begin to take the issue more seriously when they know you care.
- 7.** Call a radio talk show. An awful lot of misinformation and prejudice go out over the airwaves, and you can help counter it.
- 8.** Get together with a few interested friends and form your own advocacy group. Pick a project--perhaps getting to know a particular legislator and working with them on AIDS issues or planning an AIDS awareness program for parents and students at a local school.
- 9.** Adopt a politician. Write a monthly letter about issues of concern, and periodically visit them. They may not realize that AIDS is an issue of concern for people like you.
- 10.** Expect success! When you approach a problem expecting failure or defeat you'll be defensive, and that's more likely to generate opposition. When you're confident, people will be more receptive to your viewpoint.

REDBOOK

MAY 1993 \$1.95

editor's

notes



MOTHERS' VOICES In the face of astounding tragedy, some of us are paralyzed; others feel an intensely personal need to act. In 1991, five people deeply concerned about the AIDS epidemic began a campaign to mobilize families whose lives had been changed by the disease. Aptly enough, they call themselves Mothers' Voices, and they need our support. Their mission: to petition the government for increased research funding and AIDS prevention and education programs. Turn to page 95 for Sally Quinn's moving

essay on why we as women—as mothers—all need to care about AIDS, and for profiles of just a few of the thousands of courageous women who support this group. To help, clip the group's special Mother's Day card on page 54 and mail it to Washington. The lovely painting at left by artist Sheila Isham illustrates the 500,000 cards available for free through various AIDS organizations around the country.



Ellen Levine

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*join our family in the
fight to end AIDS*

*The new Administration, committed
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people living with HIV/AIDS.*

Please, work to fulfill the promise.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SEND TO: THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

EVERY MOTHER'S WORRY

It's easy to dismiss **AIDS** until it strikes home.

As it could.

As it has.

As it will.

BY SALLY QUINN

1986 The pediatrician frowned. I knew that frown. I had seen it before. And it made my stomach knot in fear.

My four-year-old son, Quinn, had pneumonia. Again. He'd had a number of infections and viruses that winter—some of them surely because his resistance was still low after his surgery at three months to repair a hole in his heart. Still, he shouldn't have been getting sick so often.

"I don't know how to tell you this," she said. "But I think he should be tested for the AIDS virus." Evidently there had been several incidents where children who'd had blood transfusions in 1982 at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., had later tested HIV-positive. When Quinn had his open-heart surgery, the country was barely aware of the AIDS virus—and so blood wasn't screened.

I looked at the doctor in horror. I knew what AIDS was. It was a death sentence. After all we'd been through with Quinn, this was a crisis I wasn't prepared for.

She said the test results could take up to ten days.

"I can't wait that long! I need to know *now*."

She managed to expedite the test in two days—the longest two days of my life. How, I kept thinking, was this possible? After all, AIDS was a disease only gay men got. Not children. Not *my* child. It was unthinkable. What would we do? Would we tell anyone? Certainly not! Quinn would be a pariah. He wouldn't be able to go to school. Nobody would play with him.



Sally Quinn knows what it's like to live with the fear of AIDS. Her son, Quinn Bradlee, 11, has been tested twice.

Our friends would shun us. Would my husband, Ben Bradlee, and I get AIDS, too, if we held and kissed him? How would we ever be able to hide our pain while we watched our child die? But what if we didn't tell and he infected another child, and we were responsible? It was all too terrible to contemplate. I walked around like a zombie for two days, telling no one.

The test results turned out to be negative. And strangely anticlimactic. In my mind, my child had had the AIDS virus. I had lived with it. And that changed me dramatically. Instead

of turning my back on AIDS—I was a woman, so it wasn't my problem—I suddenly saw the disease in an entirely new way. It could be my problem. It could be anyone's problem....

1990 The envelope looked innocent enough. It was from Children's hospital. Shortly after Quinn's surgery I had been named to its board of directors, and I was used to getting mail from there. But the letter inside took my breath away: Some of the children who'd tested negative in 1986 had turned up positive. Quinn needed to be tested again.

That old fear engulfed me once more. This time, though, I worried more about the threat of losing my child than about the stigma of the disease. By now, AIDS had reached beyond the gay population—and the issues surrounding it had become more complicated. I'd even been personally involved in some: Like all hospitals, Children's had been grappling with the question of guidelines for doctors and patients. Who should be tested? Should doctors be put at risk by infected patients who refused to be tested? Should patients be put at risk by doctors who wouldn't be tested—or, if they were HIV-positive, wouldn't reveal it? What was right and what was fair? I wrestled with these questions as I waited again through two nightmarish days for Quinn's test results.

Negative! Once again, I had our son back. But now, more than ever, I was made aware that AIDS was a problem we'd all have to deal with sooner or later—if not with a child, then with a parent, a friend, a colleague, a lover. Someday, someone we knew would surely be infected with the AIDS virus.

1993 Quinn was 11 in April. He is healthy and thriving and safe from the virus. For now. But soon he will be a teenager and interested in the opposite sex. How will I protect him then?

AIDS is now a national problem. It is a woman's problem, a children's problem, a mother's problem. As of December, 4,249 American children under age 13 had been diagnosed with AIDS—more than half that number are dead. The statistics for women—the fastest-growing group of victims—are equally staggering: 27,485 AIDS cases, 18,500 deaths. By the year 2000, it's estimated there'll be more than 80,000 American children left motherless by the disease. If, that is, the kids survive: An estimated 1,800 infants a year acquire HIV from their mothers, and that figure is expected to almost double in five years. Twelve- and 13-year-old girls are becoming infected from their first sexual experiences. And while most HIV victims are still gay males, drug users, or inner-city residents, doctors are beginning to see mainstream women and teens—from the suburbs and rural areas—who have been stricken.

So, what can we do? As women, as mothers?

Any doctor will tell you that education is the best weapon. And education by the mother is by far the most effective of all. Indeed, according to one expert, the most predictive factor for whether adolescent males will use condoms is having been told to do so by their mothers. *Not by anyone else, but by their mothers.* Increased knowledge hasn't changed behavior yet, but doctors predict that, like with smoking, it will happen. AIDS prevention must be taught at an appropriate age but as early as possible. And it must be personalized, coming from families in the context of their own values, if it is to have an impact.

Families means us. We are the women. We are the mothers. We must do everything we can so that no other woman will ever have to experience that knot of fear from being told her child must be tested for AIDS. □

Sally Quinn is a journalist and the author of the novel Happy Endings, in which the president of the United States tests positive for the AIDS virus.

MOTHERS' VOICES

Some have lost a child to AIDS. Others are infected themselves. Many have been shunned, abandoned—even harassed. Still, they speak out, hoping their stories might yet save lives.

BY BARBARA NEVINS



Carol DiPaolo with her son, Joey, 13, and her mother, Irma Izzo

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Carol DiPaolo knew something was wrong immediately after four-year-old Joey's heart surgery in 1984—he kept spiking fevers and getting infections. Finally, in 1988, a doctor suggested an HIV test. Terrified, Carol, 34, sent her husband, her mother, and a friend for the results. One look at her mother's face confirmed her fears. "I grabbed her and said, 'Mommy, I want to go home with you!'" recalls the former secretary. "I wanted to go back to a time that was safe."

For a while, that's what she did. Irma Izzo, 73, moved Carol and her family home with her and, for two months, begged her grieving daughter: "You have to get strong. If you let Joey down, he won't live long." Finally, when doctors warned that Joey had only 18 months left, Carol snapped out of it. She got Joey into an experimental children's program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, and moved her family home. And she began helping her son—who is now 13—face neighbors who at first didn't want him in school with their kids. No one champions her efforts more than her mother: "I'm proud," says Irma, "that Carol's doing what she's got to do."



Bobbie Stasey-Stubbs with a picture of her son, Jim E. Mitchell, and the dog he loved

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

As a bereavement counselor, Bobbie Stasey-Stubbs, 47, helps families face death. But when her son, Jim E. Mitchell, a 26-year-old homosexual, contracted AIDS, she almost forgot her best advice—to honestly share your feelings. “I tried to protect him from my fears because I thought he had enough of his own,” she says. “I was afraid of building a wall between us. I needed to tell him how much I loved him and how I wished he wasn’t going to die.”

One morning, her son woke up and said, “I don’t think I have much time left.” While he could face death, he feared prolonged pain. So with Bobbie’s help, he signed a living will declining extraordinary means of life support and spent his final days at home. In August 1989, with his mother at his bedside, he slipped into a coma. His last words were “Mama, Mama.”

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

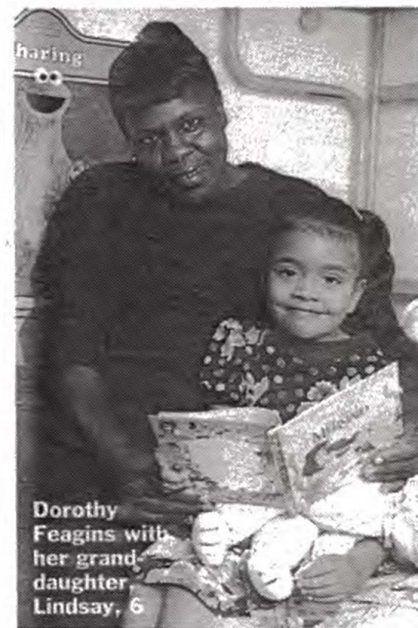
The call came in 1989 while Eileen Mitzman, 58, was in Florida, caring for her dying mother: Her 24-year-old daughter, Marni, had contracted AIDS—via heterosexual sex. The news was almost too much to bear—another daughter, Stacey, 20, had died seven years before in a car accident—and Eileen couldn’t face the horror of losing her remaining child. She rushed home, determined to give Marni the will to live.

The illness was immediately debilitating, despite treatment with AZT. Desperate, Eileen begged doctors to try alternate drugs, and began plying Marni with vitamins and books on the power of positive thinking. “But it was a nightmare,” she says. “She just kept getting weaker and weaker.” Eileen was at her daughter’s bedside in 1991 when Marni went into a coma. “All I can do now,” she says, “is try to save someone else’s child.”

DALLAS, TEXAS

Dorothy Feagins, 51, knew that her daughter, Linda, a drug addict, would end up back on the streets after delivering her baby. So in 1987, after raising ten children, Dorothy took in her newborn granddaughter, Lindsay. Five months later, Dorothy and her husband, Tom, learned that both baby and mother had AIDS: “I almost committed suicide. Instead, I told my pastor. He immediately asked me to leave the church before anyone found out and quit.”

Within months, word spread through town. Dorothy lost her job as a chef. Her neighbors met to discuss what it meant to have an AIDS baby on their street. Dorothy raced out to confront them: “I yelled, ‘Yes, I do



Dorothy Feagins with her granddaughter Lindsay, 6

have a baby with AIDS. And she’s here to stay!”

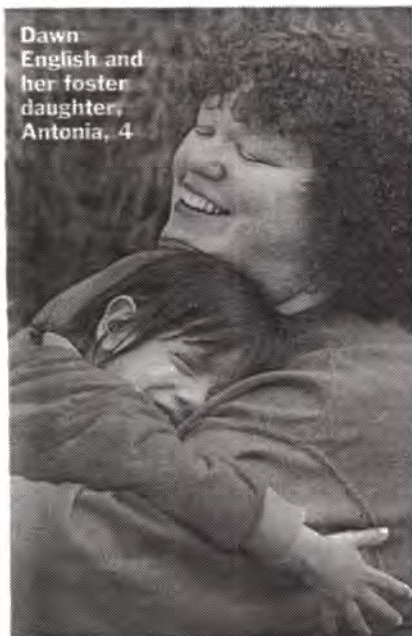
Linda is in and out of hospitals now, but six-year-old Lindsay is still well—thanks to Dorothy’s efforts to get her into the NIH program in Maryland, where they fly every month for treatment. And thanks also, perhaps, to Dorothy’s determination to infuse their lives with optimism: “I was told from the start that Lindsay wasn’t going to live long, but she’s still here, happy and stable—love has done a lot for her life.” Today, Dorothy manages a day-care and nursing program for AIDS children. “I hope,” she says, “to prevent some girl from doing to her mother what my daughter did to me—and to her own child.”

MOTHERS' VOICES

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

People who know 50-year-old Dawn English weren't surprised when, in 1988, the registered nurse brought home a nine-month-old AIDS baby. In the 27 years Dawn had spent raising her own three kids, she'd also cared for 3,000 foster children. "I took Antonia," she says, "because nobody else wanted her."

The baby couldn't sit up or even smile. Doctors said she'd die before her first birthday. But Dawn gave her the drug AZT every six hours and loved



Dawn English and her foster daughter, Antonia, 4

her like her own: "Today, she's just a normal, totally obnoxious four-year-old." Now Antonia's legal guardian, Dawn hopes that one new drug after another will keep her alive. She's already lost one AIDS baby—a 19-month-old girl she took in shortly after Antonia—who was very sick and scared by touch. "I bought the softest blankets I could find," Dawn says, "and got her to the point where I could rock and hold her." Three months later, the baby died in her arms.



Brenda Freiberg with her son, Michael, 27, and her daughter, Katie, 26

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Six years ago, when Brenda Freiberg first learned that her son Brett, 26, was HIV-positive, she immediately got drunk. "I walked around depressed, feeling sorry for us all," says the 54-year-old business consultant. A year later, when her other son, Michael, then 22, broke the same news, Brenda decided to enjoy whatever time she had left with them both: "It was like a lightning bolt. Something inside me said, 'You're going to miss what's going on if you don't cut it out.'"

One day in 1991, Brenda sensed she should go see Brett at his home in San Francisco. That night, after they had spent the afternoon together, he died in his sleep. Now Michael has come home. "Our life may seem like it's closing down because of our tremendous loss, but it's opened up so much at the same time," Brenda says. "I wish parents realized the love they're missing by rejecting their sons because of homosexuality or AIDS."

SUN PRAIRIE, WISCONSIN

To be safe, Tammy Pheasant decided when she was seven months pregnant to have an AIDS test—a former boyfriend had been an intravenous drug user. It was positive. "My husband freaked out," she says. "He thought we were all going to die."

Neither he nor their baby turned out to be infected. But the marriage eventually disintegrated from the strain, and Tammy, 23, accepted her mother-in-law's invitation to move to Wisconsin with her daughter, who's now three. There, she joined a support group and began speaking out about safe sex. Neighbors shunned her. Several day-care centers refused to accept her healthy daughter. But Tammy doesn't regret her public role. "By the time my daughter understands what HIV means," she says, "I hope there'll be a lot of understanding people around her."

(continued)

Linda Mowrer
with her
son, Michael
Hartranft, 17



EAST PETERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

For eight years, Linda Mowrer, 44, kept her secret. She was afraid to tell anyone that her son—a hemophiliac—had AIDS: “We heard about people being burned out of their homes. I didn’t want that to happen to my kid. He’d already lost so much.”

But last year, Michael Hartranft, her 17-year-old son from a previous marriage, told Linda and her husband that he had to speak out. Though he got AIDS from infected blood, Michael wanted to warn teens about the risks of drug use and unprotected sex. He’s frail now, tired, and too sick for school, but Linda supports his cause: “I want him to reach his goals in life, and one of them is to help prevent others from getting AIDS. It’s a relief not to have to hide anymore, but I’d give five years of my life not to have to deal with AIDS for just one day.”

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

In 1987, shortly after giving birth to her second son, Michael, Tammy Boccomino discovered—by a random blood test done the day of her delivery—that she was HIV-positive. The source? Her first husband—a known drug addict. Frantic, Tammy had two-year-old Tony tested. Negative. So was her husband, Brian. It was too soon to tell about the baby. “I made promises to God,” says Tammy, 31. “I’d say, ‘Please, I’ll do anything if you’ll let him be okay.’” But by the time Michael reached 18 months, it was clear he had AIDS.

At first, Tammy insisted on secrecy. But she soon realized she couldn’t teach her children self-respect if she was also teaching them shame. She began to speak out. “There was a lot of hysteria. Our neighbors wouldn’t let their kids play with Tony. You could see people’s fear when I took my sons to school,” she says. “But I had to decide whether I wanted to allow people to continue thinking you can get AIDS by touching.”

Michael’s six now—and, miraculously, still well. So is Tammy. “There are days I stay in bed and cry,” she says. “But then I do a lot of praying, and get on with life. I’m not going to worry until it’s our last trip to the hospital—for me or my son.” □



Tammy Boccomino
with her sons,
Michael, 6, right,
and Tony, 7

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Last May, 100,000 special Mother’s Day cards were sent to the White House and to Congress, with one message: End the AIDS crisis. This year, Mothers’ Voices—a national grass roots organization pushing for more AIDS research funding and programs—has printed 400,000 more cards, imploring the new administration to keep its promise of making AIDS a priority.

Founded in 1991 under the umbrella of People Taking Action Against AIDS, Mothers’ Voices seeks to mobilize families that have been touched by the disease—and those who fear they may be. The message, according to cofounder Ivy Duneier, is simple: AIDS—like drunk drivers—is everyone’s problem. “You don’t have to wait to be affected by the loss of someone you love,” she says. “As moms, we owe it to the human race to do something about AIDS.”

This year’s cards are available for free from various AIDS organizations across the country. They can also be ordered in bulk from Mothers’ Voices, 150 West 26th Street, Suite 603A, New York, NY 10001. Or clip the card on page 54 and send it to the White House.

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Whoopi Goldberg
Caroline Kennedy
Mathilde Krim, Ph.D.
Angela Lansbury
Ellen Levine
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June E. Osborn, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Ardath Rodale
Joan Tisch
Jeanne White-Ginder
Lori Wiener, Ph.D.
Anna Wintour

**MOTHERS' VOICES
COMMITTEE***

Ellie Barr
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Arlene Binkowitz
Joan Bongiorno
Martine Denis
Carol DiPaolo
Estelle Duneier
Dorothy Feagins
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Karen Vardi
Sandra Isham Vreeland
Fern Zee

*committees in formation

*Mothers' Voices is a program
of People Taking Action
Against AIDS*

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

April, 1993

MOTHERS PLEAD...JUST LISTEN...

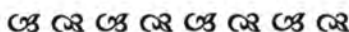
This Mother's Day the White House and Congress will hear:

Hopeful Voices filled with compassion for all who suffer from HIV and AIDS.

Passionate Voices urging honest education and intense research for a cure.

Loving Voices in memory of those lost to AIDS.

Committed Voices fighting to make a difference and save our children.



In a campaign coordinated by Mother's Voices — a grass-roots AIDS awareness and advocacy organization — families nationwide will send a special greeting card to Washington. The card features an emotionally powerful collage by artist Sheila Isham. The printed message reads: "On this Mother's Day, join our family in the fight to end AIDS...with better funded and organized AIDS research, AIDS education programs that recognize the realities of people's lives, adequate health care for all, and an end to discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS."

"President Bill Clinton promised leadership and change to end the AIDS crisis," said Ivy Duneier, a co-founder of Mothers' Voices. "We are working to ensure that these promises are kept."

Mothers' Voices is advocating for the health and well-being of families everywhere. All family members and friends are welcome to join in a grass-roots effort and help send hundreds of thousands of cards to the President, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and key members of the House and Senate.

The cards are provided free of charge. Organizations that can distribute a minimum of 25, and individuals who can distribute at least 10 cards, are encouraged to phone 212-366-0932: FAX 212-366-0679, or write Mothers' Voices, 150 West 26th Street, Suite 603, New York, NY, 10001.

☞ more ☞

over ☞

Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES



Speaking from the heart...

Mothers Voices unites mothers across America to speak out about AIDS - the celebrated, the professional, the homemakers and care-givers, artists, educators, business, political and social leaders -- women committed to ending AIDS -- women like:

Elizabeth Taylor, film legend, business woman, activist: "I call upon you to draw from the depth of your being to prove that our love outweighs our need to hate, our compassion is more compelling than our need to blame, our sensitivity to those in need is stronger than our greed, our ability to reason overcomes our fear."

Eileen Mitzman, a mother who lost a daughter to AIDS: "I felt so powerless, unable to save my 26 year old daughter. All I do now is try to save someone e/se's child."

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Linda Mowrer, homemaker, "I want my 17 year old son to reach his goals in life, one is help others avoid AIDS. Although Michael got HIV through blood products for his hemophilia, he wants to warn teens about the risks of drug use and unprotected sex."

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Families across America respond.....

...from Pinetta, Florida: "I have four sons, three are married and the youngest is 15, so naturally I am concerned. Thank you for this effort."

...from Port Allen, Louisiana: "As a mother of a premature child who received over 49 transfusions, I know the fear of AIDS. Fortunately, my child was spared. AIDS is not only a "homosexual" issue. The life and death of all concerned should be our focus."

...from Sun Lakes, Arizona: "My friend lost her son to AIDS last year and she desperately needs to become involved...My thanks to all of you whose pain gave birth to Mothers' Voices."

...from Newark, Delaware: "Time and effort are, unfortunately, all that I can contribute. But I am more than happy to help in this effort. A cure must be found soon!!"

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FOUNDERS

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Ivy Duneier
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

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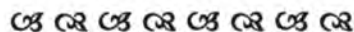
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MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 1993
CONTACT: MOTHERS' VOICES
212-366-9217(tel) 212-366-0679(fax)

Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES

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Phyllis Danilow
Ivy Duneier
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

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Mothers' Voices is a program
of People Taking Action
Against AIDS

MOTHERS' VOICES SECOND ANNUAL LUNCHEON HONORS EXTRAORDINARY VOICES IN THE FIGHT TO END AIDS

Mothers' Voices Celebrates the Distribution of 500,000
Mother's Day Cards Nationwide Uniting the American Family Against AIDS

Tuesday MAY 4TH 11:30 AM

Marriott Marquis, (46th and Broadway)

COVERAGE INVITED

The program will feature:

- ◆ **Ellen Levine**, Editor-in Chief Redbook magazine
- ◆ **Leanza Cornett**, Miss America 1993
- ◆ **Dr. June Osborn**, Co-chair of the National Commission on AIDS
- ◆ **Toukie Smith**, AIDS activist who lost her brother, famed fashion designer **Willi Smith**, to AIDS
- ◆ **Carol and Joey DiPaolo**, a 12 year old Brooklyn boy living with AIDS and his mother fighting for his life
- ◆ **Dorothy Feagins**, a grandmother from Dallas whose daughter and granddaughter are both living with AIDS
- ◆ **Tammy Boccomino**, a young Detroit mother who is HIV positive and fighting for the self-respect on behalf of her family and sons, one of whom is also HIV positive.
- ◆ **Eileen Mitzman**, a New York City mother who lost her daughter in 1991 to AIDS who has committed herself to "saving other people's children"

800 luncheon guests will include such prominent figures as **Matilda Cuomo**, first lady of New York State, **Joyce Dinkins**, first lady of New York City, **Christie Brinkley** and many others. The program will include a performance by the **Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble**.

Mothers' Voices, a grass-roots advocacy and awareness effort unites and mobilizes families nationwide in the fight to end AIDS. Our "signature" event is the 2nd annual Mother's Day card campaign, in which 500,000 special greeting cards are distributed to families nationwide free of charge. The cards message is a powerful and heartfelt "call to action" to our new President and Congress urging for increased AIDS funding, compassion and services.

Mothers' Voices supporters include such people as **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Susan Sarandon**, **Angela Lansbury**, **Anna Wintour**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Mary Fisher** and **Elizabeth Glaser**.

All honorees will be available for interviews.

###

THE FOUNDING COMMITTEE

MOTHERS' VOICES, an all volunteer effort, was founded by Dorry Bless, Phyllis Danilow, Ivy Duneier, David Pearl and Lili Rundback.

Dorry Bless, special events producer and meeting planner, lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband. Professionally, she produces corporate and medical meetings, as well as coordinating and managing talent for extravaganzas and stadium events. Most recently, she was the talent coordinator for the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival. Ms. Bless has also been involved in fundraising for several non-profit causes. A graduate of the School of Rhetoric and Communications at the State University of New York at Albany, Ms. Bless has just recently become involved in the fight to end AIDS.

Phyllis Danilow, married and the mother of two grown sons, lives in New York City. Professionally, she is a fine arts consultant and appraiser. Ms. Danilow has been a committed AIDS fundraiser and activist since 1987. She is the past president and one of the founders of Concerned Parents For AIDS Research. Presently she is President of Community Research Initiative for AIDS. Ms. Danilow was born and raised on Long Island, and has her B.A. in Education and M.A. in English Literature from New York University.

Ivy Duneier lives in Merrick, Long Island where she divides her time between being a wife, mother, and dedicated AIDS fundraiser and activist. She created and produced along with her sister, Lili Rundback, a gala fundraiser for AMFAR in February '89 which raised \$250,000. Ms. Duneier's professional background is as an Account Executive in the field of promotional sales and marketing. Today, Ms. Duneier leaves "no stone unturned" in her personal campaign to advocate for those living with HIV/AIDS and to put an end to this crisis.

David Pearl, investment banker, entrepreneur and AIDS activist, lives in New York City. Experience lobbying in Congress against mandatory HIV testing convinced him of the importance of getting families and friends of people with HIV/AIDS involved in the policy making process. Mr. Pearl is currently Vice President, Investment Banking/Institutional Sales, at Muriel Siebert & Co., Inc. He holds a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.B.A. from Stanford University.

Lili Rundback, clinical speech pathologist, teacher of graduate education, and medical advertising consultant has worked with AIDS babies at United Hospital Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey and adults living with AIDS at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. She is married to a physician and lives in Bethesda, Maryland. She holds a B.S. and M.S. from Boston University in Speech Pathology and is published in the field of critical care medicine for her work with critically ill respiratory dependent patients. Along with her sister, Ivy, she has been active in raising funds and awareness about AIDS.

MOTHERS' VOICES
165 West 46th Street
Suite 1310
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 730-2777
Fax: (212) 730-4378

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Anna Wintour
*In Memorium

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Marian R. Sroge, CAE
Executive Director

Tony Davis
Programs Director

file

SEP - 2 1994

Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES

August 26, 1994

Patricia Fleming
Office of AIDS National Policy
750 17 St NW
Washington DC 20503

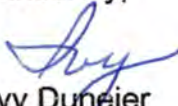
Dear Patsy:

Thank you very much for including Mothers' Voices, and me, in the meetings and discussions about the role of the AIDS Policy Coordinator and office.

It is so important for Mothers' Voices and other AIDS organizations to be a part of the planning process and know that this is the beginning of the re-design of the office and position and that the final product will be a significantly improved AIDS Policy Coordinator.

If I, or Mothers' Voices, can be of further help, please don't hesitate to contact me, the office number is 212 730-2777.

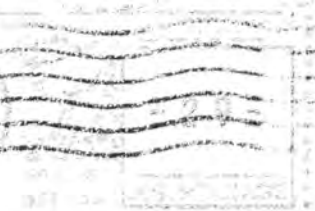
Sincerely,


Ivy Duneier
President



165 West 46th Street
Suite 1310
New York, NY 10036

Patricia Fleming
Office of AIDS National Policy
750 17 St NW
Washington DC 20503



1 1111



August 23, 1994

Ms. Ivy Duneier
President
Mothers' Voices
Suite 1310
165 West 46th Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Ivy:

Thank you for your letter. I am glad you shared your thoughts with me during our visit in May, and I appreciate hearing from you again regarding my visibility on AIDS issues, particularly my Administration's commitment to research funding.

My fiscal 1995 budget proposal contains a 6 percent increase in funding for AIDS research. So far, Congress has approved only half this amount, but my Administration is working hard to ensure full funding of this important initiative.

As you may also know, we invited many of our friends from the HIV/AIDS community on July 27 for the fourth anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act. During this occasion, we emphasized our support for protecting people with AIDS from discrimination and our advocacy of equal rights.

Regarding our National AIDS Policy Coordinator, I am committed to bringing in a highly qualified person for this important post who will continue the hard work we have begun. As you know, Patricia Fleming is serving as interim coordinator until a permanent appointment is made. I am confident she will make sure we continue our momentum.

Patsy and Carol briefed me on your recent discussions with them, and I am grateful for all you're doing to further our shared goals.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON
BC/MHM/KW/MM/ps (Corres. #1713122)
(8.duneier.i)

cc: Carol Rasco
cc: Patricia Fleming, ONAP

KRISTINE M. GEBBIE, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.
NATIONAL AIDS POLICY COORDINATOR
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Room 729H Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

DAY Monday DATE September 13, 1993

TIME 9:30 a.m. LOCATION 750 17th St., N.W.

SUBJECT Mother's Voice

PARTICIPANTS:

3 to 4 Mothers will be participating in this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 10 minutes.

150 West 26 Street
Suite 603
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Fax:
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Against AIDS*

August 11, 1993

Kristine M. Gebbie, RN, MN
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Gebbie,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the reception hosted by AIDS Action Council on August 3. I also appreciate your kind reply to our letter, dated July 2, to President Clinton.

We would indeed like to meet with you to discuss the full range of AIDS policy decisions facing the nation and the bold measures needed to end AIDS sooner rather than later. We would also like to explore ways for our organization, Mothers' Voices, to add to the public dialogue, underlining the urgency of more action and helping to move the discussion towards a national consensus.

In the meantime we wish you success in establishing your team. We urge you to make every effort to include both men and women who are living with HIV and/or AIDS on your staff. We believe that by including people who are personally affected, your staff will be better able to communicate with the Congress, the public and all of the Federal agencies who need to unite behind a national plan to end AIDS. The inclusion of HIV positive people on your staff will also enhance communication between your office and the communities who are struggling to end AIDS.

On September 13 & 14, Mothers' Voices will send a delegation of women to Washington to meet with members of Congress, as part of AIDSWATCH '93. If your schedule permits, we would like to meet arrange a meeting with you on one of those two days.

Again, I thank you for your kind attention, and I send my best wishes for every success in the challenging task that you have undertaken.

Sincerely,

Ivy Duneier
Ivy Duneier
Co-Founder

ID/td

Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES

*Active -
if we can't
schedule them
fit into 2 days*

150 West 26 Street
Suite 603
New York, NY
10001
Phone:
212-366-9217
Fax:
212-366-0679

As of November 1st, you can reach us at:

Mothers' Voices
165 West 46th Street, Suite 1310
New York, NY 10036

Phone: 212-730-2777 FAX: 212-730-4378



Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS' VOICES

November, 1993

Dear Colleagues in the Fight to end AIDS:

As Mothers' Voices begins its second year, we are growing organizationally and want to inform you, and your organization of our most recent changes:

Marian Sroge, CAE, (Certified Association Executive) is our first Executive Director. Marian began work with us on October 4th. Previously, Marian was the Director of Section Services for the National Council of Jewish Women; Director of Information, Referral and Advocacy, Academy for Gerontological Education and Development; and a the Community Resource Coordinator for the Mutual Aid Project. She brings a breadth of experience in structuring and building young organizations and in creating and developing national network systems. We hope you will welcome her along with us.

Tony Davis, who has been coordinating all of our projects since February has been named Director of Programs. Tony is an AIDS activist, and in the past six years he has worked with ACT UP/New York, with other grassroots coalitions, such as New Yorkers of Accessible Health Care and as a Project Associate at AIDS Treatment Resources. We are excited that Tony continues to be an integral element in our development.

For the past 12 months, our "home" has generously been donated by the **Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA)**. They provided us with office space and encouragement, offering much technical support. We thank the **DIFFA** staff, Rosemary Kuropat, Russ Radley, Thaddeus Grimes-Gruczka, Chris Kovarik, Steven Kolb, Nancy Guzzetta *et. al.* for their kind support. We treasure their friendship and look forward to working together in the near future.

As of November 1, our home is the Actors' Equity Building, the home of **Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA)**. Our move to this great location is due to the generosity of **BC/EFA**. The founders of Mothers' Voices are very grateful to **BC/EFA** for their continued belief in us. We look forward to a creative collaboration with directors Rodger McFarlane and Tom Viola.

In the midst of this growth and development, we pause to remember our friend Don Hall. Mothers' Voices is a program of **People Taking Action Against AIDS**, and our successful launching is due to the early support of Don and PTAAA. We re-dedicate our efforts in memory of Don.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year. Together, we can make a difference!

Warm regards,

Dorry Bless, Ivy Duneier, David Pearl, Lili Rundback
Co-Founders

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Angela Lansbury
Ellen Levine
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June E. Osborn, M.D.
Judith Peabody
Ardath Rodale
Susan Sarandon
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Anna Wintour

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Marilyn Spierer
Robert Starr
Helene Troyka
Karen Vardi
Sandra Isham Vreeland
Fern Zee

*committees in formation

Mothers' Voices is a program
of People Taking Action
Against AIDS



APR 20 1994

ROUTING SLIP

DATE:

4.18.94

FROM:

Ricki Seidman
Assistant to the President
and Director of Scheduling and Advance

SUBJECT:

Mother's Voice Representatives

TO:

JOAN BAGGETT

REBECCA CAMERON

MARK GEARAN

DAVID GERGEN

CINDY GIRE

MARCIA HALE

ALEXIS HERMAN

NANCY HERNREICH

HAROLD ICKES

PHIL LADER

ANTHONY LAKE

BRUCE LINDSEY

MACK McLARTY

PAT GRIFFIN

JOHN PODESTA

JACK QUINN

CAROL RASCO

BOB RUBIN

PATTI SOLIS

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS

ANN STOCK

CHRISTINE VARNEY

DAVID WATKINS

ANNA WINDERBAUM

MAGGIE WILLIAMS

MELANNE VERVEER

JOE VELASQUEZ

TONY WILSON

FILE:

mine & Ricki's

cc:

Repace

Gebbie

FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

ADVICE

ACTION

COMMENTS:

Annafy I -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

April 6, 1994

*I will review
during this.
Pending for
now.*

*Ricki
4.16 memo*

TO: Ricki Seidman, Assistant to the President for
Appointments and Scheduling

FROM: Kristine Gebbie
National AIDS Policy Coordinator * *stresses on this*

REQUEST: For a photo opportunity and short meeting with the Mothers'
Voices representatives *94 APR 6*

PURPOSE: For THE PRESIDENT to show his visible support for the
concerns of those being affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic,
especially the mothers of children with HIV/AIDS. *ADD 51*

BACKGROUND: Mothers' Voices is a non-profit, grassroots organization with a
mailing list of over 30,000 that began in 1991 with five
individual volunteers. Mothers' Voices works at educating
parents in hopes that the parents will then educate their children
about the risk and dangers of HIV/AIDS. They also encourage
people to talk to their elected officials about the importance of
HIV/AIDS. Mothers' Voices believes strongly in the value of
the American Family.

The First Lady's attendance would be significant as well.

Representatives from Mothers' Voices will be here in
Washington to deliver approximately 30,000 - 40,000 Mother's
Day cards signed by people throughout the country with an
AIDS related message to their Senators and Representatives.

Linda Mowrer, mother of Michael Hartranft, a young man
living with AIDS that THE PRESIDENT phoned in March, is a
member of Mothers' Voices and will be attending. Carol
DiPaolo, the mother of Joey, who THE PRESIDENT has met,
will also be in attendance.

See attached invitation letter that was sent to THE PRESIDENT
March 31, 1994.

MOTHERS' VOICES
APRIL 4, 1994
PAGE TWO

**PERVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:**

NONE

DATE AND TIME:

Wednesday, May 4 or Wednesday, May 11

No flexible

DURATION:

15-30 minutes

- understand

LOCATION:

Oval Office

PARTICIPANTS:

THE PRESIDENT
The First Lady
Kristine M. Gebbie

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:

Photo and brief remarks by THE PRESIDENT

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Talking points supplied by Office of National AIDS Policy

MEDIA COVERAGE:

POOL PRESS

**FIRST LADY'S
ATTENDANCE:**

Yes

CONTACT:

Kristine M. Gebbie, Office of National AIDS Policy
John Paul Gurrola, Office of National AIDS Policy
Andrew Barrer, Office of National AIDS Policy
202/632-1090

Ivy Duneier, Mothers' Voices 212/730-2777

March 31, 1994
Via federal express



The Honorable William J. Clinton
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20500

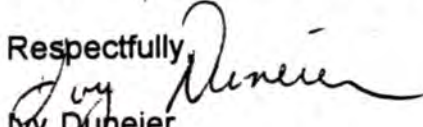
Att: Ricki Seidman/ Office of Scheduling and Advance — Room 185 1/2

Dear Mr. President:

On World AIDS Day, you spoke about how when you took office you underestimated the power of your own words from the bully pulpit of the White House and urged us to never underestimate the power of our words. We have taken your lead and call upon you to meet with us, the members of *Mothers' Voices*, a nationwide grassroots AIDS advocacy network working to change public attitudes and policies locally and nationally. We have mobilized one of the most powerful resources of our country -- mothers -- to speak out together in the fight to end AIDS.

A delegation of moms from several states are planning a trip to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, May 3rd, Wednesday, May 4th or Wednesday, May 11th to personally deliver the *Mothers' Voices* AIDS advocacy Mother's Day cards (sample enclosed) directly to their Senators and House members. They have spent the past few weeks gathering signatures at community events, at their children's schools, in their churches and synagogues and even at malls throughout the country. It is our hope that during this visit we can meet with you to tell you how AIDS is affecting our lives and the lives of our children -- young and old, gay and straight, healthy and infected...and most painfully those already deceased. Last year you received tens of thousands of our cards crying out for help. Several of the mothers in our network have met you at different times through their many AIDS activities -- Carol DiPaolo and her son, Joey; Linda Mowrer and her son, Michael Hartranft, who you phoned as recently as last week at his home in Pennsylvania. During the New York City primaries you met with several people including one of our founders, Lili Rundback, to discuss your AIDS policy when elected.

We met with Kristine Gebbie at the White House Office of National AIDS Policy in September of 1993 and support her efforts. **Now, we feel we must meet with you.** We only need a half hour of your time so that you may hear our voices. Time is running out for our families. We pray that you can afford to give us thirty minutes of your time so we may continue our fight to save the lives of our loved ones!!!! I may be reached at my home, 516-867-2942 or through the *Mothers' Voices* office at 212-730-2777. I look forward to a positive response.

Respectfully,

Ivy Duneier
President

cc: Andrew Barrer, PhD/Senior Advisor/White House Office of National AIDS Policy

MOTHERS' VOICES
165 West 46th Street
Suite 1310
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 730-2777
Fax: (212) 730-4378

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Anna Wintour
in Memoriam

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Marian R. Sroge, CAE
Executive Director

Tony Davis
Admin Director

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Marian R. Sroge, CAE
Executive Director

Tony Davis
Programs Director



May 20, 1994

MAY 26 1994

Kristine M. Gebbie, RN, MN
National AIDS Policy Coordinator
Office of National AIDS Policy
750 17th Street NW Suite 1060
Washington DC 20503

Dear Ms Gebbie:

Thank you very much for all your help and efforts on behalf of Mothers' Voices during our trip to Washington. We know that you and your staff were instrumental in arranging our visit with the President. Our delegation was so pleased to meet with President Clinton, it was a trip highlight.

We really appreciate all your work for Mothers' Voices. Thank you for your support and putting both Andrew and John to work on behalf of Mothers' Voices. We look forward to many collaborate efforts in the future.

Thanks again.

Regards,

Ivy Duneier
President

Marian Sroge, CAE
Executive Director

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1994

Ms. Dorry Bless
Co-Founder
Mothers' Voices
Suite 603
150 West 26 Street
New York, New York 10001

Dear Ms. Bless:

This letter confirms the appearance of Kristine M. Gebbie,
National AIDS Policy Coordinator, at the Mothers' Voices
luncheon, on May 4, 1994.

Please call me at (202) 632-1090 with any questions or for
further clarification. I am enclosing a biographical sketch and
curriculum vitae for your reference.

Sincerely,

W. Steve Lee

W. Steve Lee, Executive Assistant
and Scheduler to the
National AIDS Policy Coordinator

Enclosures

Tanya
Do Regrets
This may be due

Did not prepare
letter in time.
Sent "voice"
regrets.

SLD

YES

150 West 26 Street
Suite 603
New York, NY
10001
Phone:
212-366-9217
Fax:
212-366-0679

FOUNDERS

Dorry Bless
Phyllis Danilow
Ivy Duneier
David Pearl
Lili Rundback

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Fern Zee

**committees in formation*

*Mothers' Voices is a program
of People Taking Action
Against AIDS*

August 31, 1993

Kristine M Gebbie, Rn, Mn
National Aids Pol Coord
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Kristine M Gebbie, Rn, Mn:

On behalf of all who are fighting to end AIDS, I thank you for supporting the work of Mothers' Voices by attending our luncheon on May 4th or sending a generous donation.

The second annual luncheon was a wonderful success, raising nearly \$100,000 in support of our programs. In addition, the Founders and Volunteers were deeply heartened by the dedication and commitment that filled the room.

Your support enables us to expand our efforts. Here is a brief update on our recent activities:

* Mothers' Voices is a participating sponsor of AIDSWATCH '93 - a program of AIDS Action Council. On August 2nd and 3rd Co-founders Ivy Duneier and Lili Rundback visited the Washington offices of Senators Arlen Specter, Mark O. Hatfield and Alfonse D'Amato. Together with AIDS advocates from around the country we urged these members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to support President Clinton's budget requests for increased funding for AIDS research, care, housing and prevention.

* In September, Mothers' Voices will send a delegation of 12 women from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Kentucky and Louisiana to again drive home the message that we need a fuller government response to ending AIDS. We will also seek support for the confirmation of Dr. Joycelyn Elders to be Surgeon General. Mothers' Voices believes that the down-to-earth, common sense approach taken by Dr. Elders offers the best hope for curbing this horrible epidemic.

* We are currently in the midst of a search for our first Executive Director. We are looking for a dynamic person with a background that combines public policy advocacy with organizational development.

* Enclosed, please find our first newsletter, designed to knit together families like yours from all over the country in the fight against AIDS.

Your generosity of spirit and commitment to the cause is the core of our grass roots movement. Together we will build a future without AIDS.

Sincerely,

Dorry Bless
Dorry Bless
Co-Founder

DB/td

Speaking from the Heart about AIDS

MOTHERS'
VOICES



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Mothers' Voices is deeply grateful to all who. . .
Participated in our 1993 Mother's Day Card Campaign
Contributed to support the Card Campaign
Attended our second annual Luncheon
Thank you for ensuring that our voices are heard.

1993 Mother's Day Cards to Nation's Capitol

Mother's Day, May, 1993 -- Mothers' Voices is proud to report the successful distribution of over 400,000 Mother's Day cards calling for action to end the AIDS crisis.

Hundreds of national and local AIDS organizations, religious and civic groups and concerned citizens in all fifty states participated by distributing the special greeting card to their members, congregates, supporters, clients, and friends. The cards then made their way to the President, Secretary of Health and Human Services and members of Congress filled with personal and heartfelt messages about AIDS.

Among those who participated were **AIDS Action Council, Gay Men's Health Crisis, the AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Project Los Angeles, the New York Board of Rabbis, the Northwest AIDS Foundation, American Foundation for AIDS Research, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, AIDS Action Boston, the Whitman Walker Clinic, Design Industry Foundation for AIDS, Mothers of AIDS Patients, Women's Project of Little Rock, and Planned Parenthood Associations** in many cities and towns.

In New York, a dedicated team of volunteers contacted individuals and groups nationwide in those states represented by members of Congress who serve on committees that are key to AIDS funding. This team effort enabled Mothers' Voices cards to reach important Senate and House leaders in the AIDS funding arena. Families in Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin helped make this possible in their states. *If you received any thoughtful responses from government officials, please share them with us. Send to: Mothers' Voices, 150 West 26th St., Suite 603, New York, NY 10001*



Berlin AIDS Conference and the Challenges Faced in Finding A Cure

June, 1993 -- The 9th International Conference on AIDS, recently held in Berlin, highlighted the need to rethink and reinvigorate the global response to AIDS. There were few advances reported in the field of basic research. The clinical picture was brightened only by progress in treating and preventing the opportunistic infection MAC (*Mycobacterium avium* Complex). A major European study, testing AZT as early intervention for those with less than 500 T-cells and no symptoms, demonstrated no advantage to this approach. An important combination trial of AZT and ddC also failed to demonstrate any significant progress.

As soon as the conference ended, proposals were heard from several quarters, including the *New York Times*, that the focus should now shift from research to prevention.

Mothers' Voices vigorously opposes shifting resources. **We must expand both research and prevention efforts.** The lack of progress in research should not result in the abandonment of hope for those who are currently infected and those who are now ill. We believe that the nation has not put forth its most determined effort to find the cure. During the 1992 Presidential campaign, candidate Bill Clinton proposed a "Manhattan Project" approach to finding the cure. Now, more than ever, we must persuade our government that an all out effort is desperately needed.

In the meantime, Mothers' Voices urges all families to take the AIDS prevention message to heart. All of us must begin to talk frankly — and clearly — about ways to avoid infection.



Mothers' Voices Supports AIDSWATCH '93

July, 1993 -- Mothers' Voices is proud to be a sponsor of **AIDSWATCH '93**, a program organized by **AIDS ACTION COUNCIL**, Washington, DC. AIDSWatch '93 is designed to protect AIDS funding in three areas during the current congressional budget process. The President's budget for Fiscal Year 1994 requested an additional \$310 million for the Ryan White Care ACT, \$227 million for NIH research, and \$45 million for CDC prevention funds.

The AIDSWatch '93 program includes letters and phone calls to the Senate and House of Representatives beginning immediately, and Washington and district visits to legislators during August.

The final stage of the program is Washington lobbying, September 12-14. Individuals and groups from around the country will visit members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to advocate for increased AIDS funding.

If you would like to learn more about these visits or if you are interested in participating locally or joining us in Washington, please phone us at (212) 366-9217.

We encourage everyone to write their Senators and Representatives, c/o The United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and The U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515:

"Dear _____:

The AIDS epidemic continues to torment American families. I hope that you will lead the fight to preserve the President's budget proposals for increased funding for AIDS research, prevention and care — including housing."

TOGETHER OUR VOICES WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*Your 29¢ Stamp Helps
To Get Our Message Out*



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
150 WEST 26 ST STE 603
NEW YORK NY 10117-1317



I have enclosed a gift of \$ _____ to help continue the success of Mothers' Voices. (Please make your check payable to Mothers' Voices.) Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.)

Name _____

Address _____ *Apt.#* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Telephone (optional) _____

Organization Affiliation (if any) _____

Please send information about the work of Mothers' Voices to my friends and family members.

Name _____

Address _____ *Apt.#* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Name _____

Address _____ *Apt.#* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Name _____

Address _____ *Apt.#* _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

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