

# MAP Celebrates Third Anniversary

By Leslie Kooyman  
Executive Director, MAP  
Special to Q-Notes

This August, Metrolina AIDS Project (MAP) celebrated its third year anniversary. A picnic party for volunteers, staff, board of directors, and friends of MAP was held at the home of Marion Meginnis, President of the Board.

MAP began three years ago with a few gay men meeting in my living room. We met to discuss our own personal fears of AIDS and to share our primitive knowledge about the disease. Since those days, MAP has grown to a fully functioning non-profit AIDS service organization, providing support and services to people affected by AIDS.

MAP operates on a fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. Having just completed our fiscal year, I would like to share some information about Metrolina AIDS Project. The year before last, MAP served an

estimated 50 clients with HIV infection, ARC or AIDS. This past year MAP provided services for 208 clients. Of those, 67% were gay/bisexual men, 8% were I.V. drug users, 11% were heterosexual and 14% were of unknown transmission. Of those 208 clients, 20% were black and 10% were women. As you can see, MAP is providing services to a diverse population; however, the majority of cases still seem to be our brothers in the gay community.

MAP currently offers the following programs: PWA Support Group; HIV/ARC Support Group; Friends, Family, Partners Support Group; Bereavement Support Group; Buddy Program; Dennis Fund; Social Services Advocacy/Case Management; AIDS Hotline; Safer Sex Workshops and Speakers Bureau.

A listing of programs only tells half of our story. The real service MAP offers our community is the opportunity for people diagnosed or affected by AIDS to meet with others who are experiencing the same feel-

ings and to strengthen one another while improving the quality of their lives. This, to me, is the real service MAP offers our community.

This year MAP will be operating with a full-time staff of four: myself, as Executive Director, a newly-hired Lori Cardora as Coordinator of Client Services, and Sherry Cash as Administrative Assistant. The fourth position will be a health educator for gay/bisexual men to develop and manage our safer sex campaign. We are seeking a gay man for this position with a health education background. With this increase in staffing, we hope to provide better quality services, a strong safer sex campaign, and the assurance that you will not get our machine when you call for information or assistance.

As MAP continues to grow, I ask for your patience and tolerance. We are a young organization which is not perfect, but learning all the time. So many times, in our community I see us turn on each other and fight amongst ourselves. This must stop. There are plenty of people out there who wish we

never existed. We have enemies. I ask that we care for one another, and as MAP continues to grow, like other organizations, that we support that growth and that we become more unified in our work in caring for each other. Thank you for your support and time.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Metrolina AIDS Project  
(704) 333-AIDS

PWA Support Group  
HIV/ARC Support Group  
Friends, Family, Partners Support Group  
Bereavement Support Group  
Buddy Program  
Dennis Fund  
Social Services Advocacy  
Case Management  
AIDS Hotline  
Safer Sex Workshops  
Speakers Bureau.

## Conventions Choose Candidates

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His running mate, Senator Dan Quayle, from Indiana, is the first person on either ticket who grew up in the Baby Boom generation. He is a staunch conservative, who questioned the INF treaty's validity and is very much in favor of a strong stance toward the Soviet Union. It is felt that his selection will help Bush attract those voters to the right.

The Republican Convention, like the Democratic, stressed unity of the party and offered a generic view of the candidate.

In the last few elections, namely since the election of Lyndon Johnson in 1968, there has been a new philosophy in politics which emphasizes the importance of getting the candidate elected so that the party is in power.

This focus may seem benign and harm-

less, if seen at a glance, but there is an inherent threat to this type of policy. If our candidates are selected not on the issues but on their looks or media ability, we run the risk of having a president who does not understand the issues.

### Be A Buddy

Metrolina AIDS Project needs persons to work with PWAs as buddy/companions. If interested, contact Les Kooyman  
704/333-AIDS  
7:00-10:00 pm, Monday-Friday

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-John 3:16

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