

Q-NOTES

January 1990

PRIDE IN PRINT

(704) 338-1138

Switchboard, Charlotte (704) 525-6128
AIDS Hotline, Charlotte (704) 333-AIDS
PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte (704) 364-1474
AIDS Hotline, Columbia (803) 779-PALS
Call Line, Wilmington (919) 675-9222

BEST BETS

- Jan. 2 First Tuesday, 8 pm
- Jan. 6 Mature Gay Men, 730 pm
- Jan. 9 QNotes Staff Meeting, 8pm
Come and join the Fun!
- Jan. 10 Queen City Friends, 730
Godfathers Pizza, Park Rd
- Jan. 11 First practice for "Brothers
& Sisters Singing Together"
at United Way Auditorium,
7 pm
- PFLAG/Gay Parents
Coalition
- Jan. 12 Closetbusters, Cablevision
Channel 33
- Jan. 24 Queen City Friends

Happy
New
Year!

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MAP - A Look Inside

By Don King
Special to Q-Notes

Tests showed the new-born Charlotte baby was infected with HIV, so the doctor made the logical decision: test the mother. She, too, was positive. Then the doctor decided to do something neither he nor other doctors in his clinic had done: refer a client to Metrolina AIDS Project.

That was weeks ago.

Today, the mother's life centers around her MAP support group; she lives for it. And she symbolizes what is happening with a group started little more than four years ago by a few gay men alarmed and concerned about a disease that devastated life and lives.

• In Charlotte and the counties around it, hospitals, Hospice, the Red Cross, physicians, Planned Parenthood and other human service agencies view MAP as a peer.

• The Mecklenburg County Health Department, which acted like a jealous rival until Dr. Basil Delta retired as director in late 1988, works closely with MAP, supports its programs, and seems to respect the role MAP plays as a complement to the department's own programs.

• More and more women and non-gay blacks use MAP's services, and volunteer to help.

• Gay men and lesbians continue an incredible level of support for MAP and encourage those affected by HIV to seek its services.

• MAP's budget will jump from \$192,000 in the 1989-90 fiscal year to around \$250,000 in 1990-91.

There are downsides.

Financially, a highly publicized spring benefit at Spirit Square was disastrous. And Mecklenburg County's commissioners want to phase out funds for MAP and other agencies.

But the downsides have positives, according to Les Kooyman, one of MAP's founders and the only director it has had.

"We're meeting with the commissioners to discuss funding," he said. "For the most part, they respect the work MAP does and feel fairly comfortable with us. We'll know after the first of the year whether citizens who feel positive about MAP should tell the commissioners how they feel."

Chorus To Begin Singing January 11

If you love to sing and want to meet other folks in the gay and lesbian community, then the place to be is the United Way Auditorium on Thursday, January 11, when a new chorus (working title: Brothers & Sisters in Song) begins to harmonize.

All kinds of music will be rehearsed by the chorus - classical, modern/pop, gay/lesbian anthems, new work, and show music. Rehearsals will be held Thursday nights from 7:00-9:45 pm at the United Way Auditorium, 301 S. Brevard Street. Besides rehearsing, there will be time to socialize. The main goal is to have fun! Scheduled rehearsal dates are January 11, 18, 25 and February 1.

Any person who can carry a tune is welcome to join the chorus. In addition, persons with the ability to do some musical direction, provide piano accompaniment, or play an instrument are also being sought. Non-singing support persons are also welcome to help with the music library, concert publicity, rehearsal refreshments, etc.

All those persons attending the first four weeks of rehearsals will vote on February 1 about what the future of the chorus should be. If you are interested in participating, but can't make Thursday night rehearsals, please write or call to express your interest and times you are available.

For further information, write Brothers & Sisters in Song, P.O. Box 9241, Charlotte, NC 28205, or call Dan Kirsch at 536-1372.

The Spirit Square benefit, which failed to provide MAP with money to expand during the summer months, triggered tremendous volunteer involvement.

"We had a very difficult summer," Kooyman said. "We had to let our paid volunteer coordinator go and keep things at a bare minimum; and our clients and volunteers helped out any way they could. For months, volunteers worked 8:30 to 5 without pay. A volunteer took over volunteer coordinating. Clients came in to answer the phones and do typing, mailing, whatever needed to get done."

"We knew that in the fall we'd have money coming in again. And now we're on stable ground financially. We haven't had to re-fill the volunteer coordinator paid position because of the strength of our volunteer group."

By the time the football season began, county dollars for the new fiscal year were coming in; a federal grant renewal brought in more funds; the annual solicitation drive created a flow of cash; the yearly benefit weekend at Oleen's produced \$4,000 at the beginning of September; a one-night benefit at Scorpio brought in about \$1,500; and MAP received a check for \$16,000 after the annual privately-sponsored White Party in late September.

MAP also tapped a new source of income in the fall: corporate giving - \$5,000 from Burroughs Welcome, the company that produced AZT; \$3,000 from Duke Power, and \$1,000 from First Union.

"So far, we've submitted seven requests for corporate funds and it appears we'll get something from almost all of them," Kooyman said. "We made the requests beginning in August and the good response we've had tells me we'll be getting more corporate dollars."

MAP received \$44,000 from Mecklenburg County for this fiscal year compared to \$40,000 in 1988-89; yet, MAP's budget increased so much that county funds fell from 30% to 25%. The renewal of a federal grant for AIDS education and a new grant for work in the black community brought in \$60,000. Most of the rest is coming from private sources.

"I'm always amazed at how much money comes from the gay community," Kooyman said. "But the bulk is talking to an IV drug user and getting her into a treatment program; talking with someone who just arrived at the bus station and has AIDS, getting him some money for food, and helping him find a job; or getting an apartment and some money to live on for someone who just got out of the hospital. We try to hook these people up with a buddy. We help them fill out Medicaid forms and get disability."

"That's what we call coordinating care. It's what we spend our time doing. And through all of that, we try to build up the person's self-esteem."

"Increased dollars represent our commitment to people with HIV. We need more social workers. We have only one and we really need to be working with two or three. In our strategic planning, when we look at increased dollars, we look to bring on more counselors, more social workers, not more secretaries."

Gay Rights Activist Rev. Troy Perry To Speak At MCC Charlotte's 10th Anniversary Dinner

Gay and human rights activist Rev. Elder Troy Perry will be the guest speaker at MCC Charlotte's 10th Anniversary Dinner Party on Feb. 10th.

The church is celebrating with a high-stepping dinner/dance affair at The Radisson, beginning at 7:30 pm and ending around midnight.

Perry, the charismatic founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, began the fellowship in 1968

after, he said, God told him, "I love you, Troy, and I don't have any stepsons or step-daughters." The Church grew from 12 people in Troy's living room to over 220 churches worldwide, with well over 32,000 members. The cost for dinner is \$25 per person and includes parking at the Radisson and a chance at a \$250 travel voucher (you must be present to win).

For more information or reservations, call 563-5810. Leave message if machine is on.

MAP At A Glance

New Office

Upstairs at 1814 Euclid Ave.

Support Groups: 333-1435

Call for directions; support groups are not held at the office.

PWAs: Monday afternoons, Friday mornings

HIV: Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Women And AIDS: Wednesday afternoons

Friends, Family & Partners: Tuesday evenings

Bereavement: Tuesday evenings

One-To-One Counseling: by appointment

Hotline: 333-2437

Caseload

1987-1988: 208 in 12 months

1988-89: 436 in 12 months

1989-90: 364 in 5 months

Volunteer Training: 333-1435

Jan. 20-21

Most Urgent Need

Buddies who work one-to-one with a person with AIDS. Call 333-1435.

When 1989 began, MAP's cramped quarters in the Terry Building on East Fifth Street in Elizabeth housed four employees: Kooyman, client services coordinator Lori Cardona, AIDS educator David Prybylo; and an administrative assistant, a position presently unstaffed.

Soon after 1990 begins, six people will be working: Kooyman, Cardona, Prybylo, a new administrative assistant still to be hired, and two new employees who start work on Jan. 2 - client educator Barbara Martin and minorities outreach worker Shay Classens.

And volunteers, some working virtually full-time, will handle vital tasks: coordinating volunteers, publishing MAP's newsletter, and coordinating buddies.

The inadequate offices were left behind in November when MAP moved into the second story of 1814 Euclid Ave., a two-story house converted to business use between East Boulevard and Worthington in Dilworth. The move almost doubled MAP's space while upping monthly rent only 50% to \$900.

"The new offices are very comfortable and much more professional because people coming in are not in the middle of a chaotic business day," Kooyman said. "There is a reception area, and visitors are escorted to the people they need to see. It's more confidential and more productive."

"The old office served our needs well in the early days. But as MAP grew, we had

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