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County Allocates \$35,000 To MAP

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ment and supplies for care-givers in the home such as medical supplies, gloves, gowns, etc.

"We're looking at a total budget of \$65,000," Kooyman said. "It's realistic. We raised \$20,000 in 1986 and we feel we'll be able to do that again; and we feel we'll get an additional \$10,000 in other grants."

The funding filled a gap in the county health department's own AIDS program. The department, because of North Carolina's anti-sodomy law, cannot produce materials discussing the sexual activity pinpointed as one of the leading ways to transmit AIDS from one person to another. MAP, a private agency, is not constrained by the law.

MAP's drive for county funding began in earnest during the late winter months with MAP president Ron Lowe spending hours drawing up the proposal, then presenting it to the Human Services Council, which recommends to the county commissioners which agencies should receive funds.

"The council listed MAP as its No. 1 funding priority," Kooyman said. "When they received our proposal, they told us privately they had never seen one so well written. Ron met with them first and they asked us to come back because they wanted to hear more."

On May 28, MAP was heard during the commissioners' public hearing on funding proposals.

Funding appeared doomed in early June, however, as county manager Jerry Fox placed the proposal with \$7 million in rejections in an attempt to balance the budget. But several factors helped save the funding:

- Members of Charlotte Mecklenburg's health services and medical communities lobbied the commissioners heavily.

- MAP initiated a campaign that resulted in almost 600 letters to the commissioners in a week and a half.

- MAP board members were effective in convincing the commissioners that the services are needed.

Commissioner Peter Keber, as quoted by the June 15 Charlotte Observer, said, "AIDS is a scourge that we need to deal with in an extremely serious way. It's the kind of thing where I'm afraid we're going to look back five years from now and say, 'Boy, how could we have misunderstood what's going on here?'"

Kooyman said support from the health department and others in the medical community was crucial.

"In the beginning of all this, they were wondering who in the world MAP is. Within about a week and a half, they knew very clearly who we were. The credit really goes to Dr. Stephen Keener of the health department. The commissioners really look to the health department to deal with these kinds of issues; and when the department told them what MAP provided that the county couldn't, it turned some heads."

Kooyman was ecstatic about the grant.

"Personally," he said, "it's exciting to see a dream come true — from a small meeting in my living room with a bunch of guys basically from Acceptance to this. It's pretty incredible. And it says a lot for the gay community. The community has supported us for two years — long enough for us to maintain MAP until it could become an established agency. It's a good sign of where our community is going."

Kooyman said MAP will continue with present fund raising activities — a direct mail appeal and bar benefits. "The money from the county is earmarked for

How MAP Must Use Mecklenburg's Money

- Salary for full-time director.
- Salary for part-time case manager.
- Second line on AIDS hotline.
- Materials for support groups.
- Supplies and equipment for volunteers and medical personnel treating persons with AIDS in the home: gloves, medicines, gowns, etc.
- Operating expenses geared toward support services.

The MAP Board

- Dr. Robert L. Barret, Counseling Associates.
- Mike Bennett, director of direct services to the community, Red Cross.
- Steve del Vecchio, Del Vecchio Landscaping.
- Ed DePasquale, director, Acceptance.
- Sharon Dixon, nursing coordinator, Hospice at Charlotte.
- Lise Hidenrike, continuing education, Presbyterian Hospital.
- Dr. Jim Horton, internal medicine, Nalle Clinic.
- Dr. Stephen Keener, assistant health director, Northwest Health Department of Mecklenburg County.
- Les Kooyman, executive director, MAP.
- Daryl Loidahl, light operator, Charades.
- Ron Lowe, operating department, Duke Power Co.
- Marion Meginnis, program director, WBTV.
- Linda Nulsen, health consultant.
- Dr. Jerry Squires, medical director and associate executive director, Red Cross.
- Carl Thackston, medical social worker, Gaston Memorial Hospital.

MAP's Programs

Community Outreach

- Hotline 704/333-AIDS. Staffed 6-9 p.m. Monday-Friday by trained volunteers.
- Speakers Bureau. Presentations to groups and organizations on AIDS, AIDS issues and MAP services.
- Safer Sex Workshops. Trained facilitators present explicit guidelines on reducing the risk of receiving or transmitting AIDS.
- Caregiver Workshops. Training about caring medically and psychologically for persons with AIDS.
- Workplace Workshops. Presentations to companies about AIDS issues in the workplace, corporate policies, and AIDS education for employees.

Client Services

- HIV Positive/ARC Support Group. Coping with a positive antibody test result or a diagnosis of AIDS Related Complex.
- PWA Support Group. Coping with an AIDS diagnosis.
- Family, Friends & Others Support Group. Coping with a family member's AIDS diagnosis.
- Buddy Support Program. Trained volunteers provide emotional support, companionship and practical support for persons with AIDS.
- Social Services Advocacy Program. Representing persons with AIDS in interacting with the Department of Social Services and other agencies, and in getting MEDICAID, MEDICARE and other disability benefits.

Part-Timer Needed

The MAP board of directors will soon begin interviews for a part-time case manager working 20 to 25 hours per week.

"We're looking for someone with a knowledge of social services, the MEDICAID system, service agencies in Mecklenburg and counseling skills," said Les Kooyman, MAP executive director.

"We'll be considering everyone with those skills whether or not they're working full-time now."

specific things," he said. "We still need funds for our rent, our education program and other operating expenses. This isn't gravy money."

OCT. 11: The March On Washington

Get On The Bus. Contact QCQ. ADDRESS IN "ORGANIZATIONS," PAGE 2