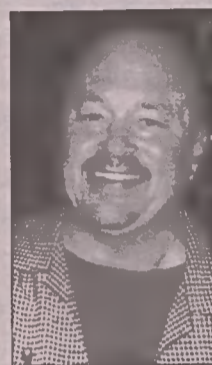


## AID Upstate: Marking 20 Years of Service

by David R. Gillespie

They're nondescript buildings with only address numbers in a medical court. No signs indicating the organization's presence. At the administrative offices a block away the formula repeats itself — still no signs.

In-between those nondescript buildings you'll find a food pantry and a resale store. On the other side of the building housing case



Andy Hall is the executive director of AID Upstate.

The staff of AID Upstate is hard at work encouraging active community responses through advocacy, direct services, awareness and prevention.

Located in Greenville, S.C., in September 2007 the organization will celebrate 20 years of service to HIV-infected and -affected peo-

ple in the western portion of the Upstate. Its service area includes Anderson, Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties. AID Upstate came about as the area's

response to the AIDS epidemic in 1987, the year in which then-President Ronald Reagan first uttered the word "AIDS" to the American people.

Ron Rolette, at that time the director of the facility where AIDS first appeared in the

know about the amendment, or if they do, it's very "misconstrued."

Discussions are currently being held at SCEC campaign headquarters about repeating the bus tour, but this time focusing on the more rural areas of the state.

Additionally, a grassroots training event will be held in Columbia August 19-20, led by representatives of national organizations such as GLAAD and the ACLU. Hinojosa said the goal is to have 100 people from around the state attend the event. At the time he spoke with *Q-Notes*, 35 people had registered.

With less than 100 days before the vote, the Fairness for All Families Campaign is still developing creative ways to get its message to voters in the Palmetto State.

Significant attempts are being made, according to Hinojosa, to reach out to people of color and the NAACP, with this simple message: ["We are] not talking about gay marriage, we're talking about families."

Additionally, efforts are being made to

organize what Hinojosa dubbed, "Hot 100 Parties." These are hosted house parties held before the vote. House party kits are available online at the SCEC website at [www.scequality.org](http://www.scequality.org).

Plans are also being made to produce radio commercials targeted at faith communities, which the organizations hopes will be aired on Christian radio stations in the state, such as WMHK (belonging to Columbia International University) and WMUU (belonging to Bob Jones University).

To assist in these efforts, in addition to Asha Leong (campaign director) and Hinojosa (field director), the campaign has hired a field organizer, Coya Artichoker, and a development director, Denise Jennings.

Several campaign staff members will leave the state following the Nov. 7 election. Hinojosa, however, will be one who is staying. He's a local boy, having been hired away from a credit union by the campaign in mid-June. According to SCEC Chair Ed Madden, one of

the great things about that is "all the training and experience he [Hinojosa] is getting will stay in the state."

Fundraising efforts for the campaign are continuing. Madden told *Q-Notes* that a part of the work of Jennings will be to seek out and secure "significant donors" for the campaign.

Overall, Madden said he is "extraordinarily pleased with the generosity of South Carolinians" in giving to the campaign. Almost \$50,000 has been raised through a matching grant, which will continue to match donations up to \$100,000.

Organizations participating in that matching grant program so far include Care Team, AFFA, Open Door Church, Rainbow Radio and the South Carolina Gay & Lesbian Pride Movement.

The group's online fundraising effort, "25 in 25," is an effort to secure \$25,000 in donations online through the website. When we spoke with Madden at the end of July, approximately \$9,000 had been raised. ▀

see twenty on 21

## SCEC fights back against anti-gay amendment

from page 11

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Calendar

MONDAYS	FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
<p>Female Impersonation Show at Midnight! Featuring: Leslie Lain &amp; Special Guests</p>	<p>Sat., August 12 Scarlett Dailey</p>
<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>WEDNESDAYS</u></p> <p>Beach Blanket Bingo Hosted by Bimbos of the Beach</p>	<p>Fri. &amp; Sat., August 18 &amp; 19 Tracy Morgan</p>
<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"><u>THURSDAYS</u></p> <p>Customer Appreciation Night Free pool! Pool Tournament at 11:30 pm. \$50 Cash Prize Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight</p>	<p>Fri., August 25 Nicole Roberts and Imani Tate</p> <p>Sat., August 26 Red Ribbon Friends Beach Party Benefit Show</p>
<p>Karaoke Tuesday - 11 pm &amp; Karaoke Sunday - 10 pm</p>	<p>Fri. &amp; Sat., September 1 &amp; 2 Dana St. James</p>

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