

The Fleecing of AIDS in America: Part 1

# San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Unfair Distribution of AIDS Walk Funds

Your Money Isn't Going Where You Think It Is:  
As SFAF Cuts Services, You're Being Fleeced!

"If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."  
— Bumper Sticker

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Dedicated to the Memory of My Partner of Thirteen Years:

***Carl E. Shaw***

June 17, 1937 – October 6, 1995



Who is now up there arguing with Lonnie Payne's twin brother  
about the same issues presented in this report.

Carl's not happy with the UCSF NIH-funded snake oil, prayer-as-HIV-prevention-intervention research, either,  
because Carl's *twin* sister, Zelda Rose, is almost 65, and she likes to pray in Spanish,  
which language UCSF's or NIH's eligibility criteria implies God has banned.

May they both rest; on the issue of fleecing people with HIV and AIDS, I won't.

This report was initially posted to the **AIDS Service Provider Accountability Project** web site during 2001.

The Fleecing of AIDS in America:  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Unfair Distribution of AIDS Walk Funds

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July 15, 2001

Dear Reader,

You have come to this report (or I have sent it to you) due to your interest in how funds for HIV and AIDS are spent, and *misspent*. Please read the Table of Contents, Summary, or my letter in Appendix E; one of them may pique your interest. This report is not a 350-word *synopsis*; rather, it presents detailed research, posing lots of questions, gleaned from reading hundreds of pages of public documents.

Whether you are a client of the San Francisco AIDS foundation, or a client of another AIDS Service Organization (ASO) cheated out of a fair distribution of AIDS Walk funds to your agency; an individual contributor; a corporate sponsor; an investigative journalist, or newspaper reporter; a legislator; or merely an accountability "watchdog," how the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), and its partner, The Tides Foundation (who assists in making funding allocation decisions regarding how much of the AIDS Walk pie is shared with beneficiary organizations) spends money raised from the AIDS Walk, the AIDS Ride, and SFAF's newest fundraising scheme, the AIDS Marathon to be held this December in Hawaii, is probably of deep concern to you, or you'd not be sitting here reading this report. By the time you read this, you'll have questions of your own.

Reading it isn't enough. If you are a donor who wants to be sure your funds are going to those in need, I strongly urge you to donate to one, or more, of the beneficiary organizations *directly*, and bypass letting SFAF decide who shall get your money and for what purposes. Don't send your checks to SFAF. Instead, write their Board of Directors Chair, Lonnie Payne, in care of SFAF. Tell him who you donated to, and why you bypassed the SFAF "*machine*." For well over five years, SFAF has amply demonstrated how it mismanages funds. This report shows you some of its fiduciary mismanagement.

If you are reading this because you are an employee of a governmental oversight body, I urge you to audit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. If it has nothing to hide, SFAF should pass close scrutiny of its operations with flying colors.

If you are an investigative journalist, or newspaper reporter, write some "human interest" stories condensing and summarizing the data presented in this report. Your readers, and the public at large, expect coverage of how AIDS dollars are being wasted, and sadly, all too frequently do not reach the people in need of services. I have spent considerable time researching SFAF's tax returns, audited financial reports, annual budgets, and the AIDS Walk beneficiary narratives. I present it here to save you from having to research this material yourselves. Alternatively, use the data presented here as a jumping off point of your own; dig your toes in, and dig deeper, by researching further this important, and sadly, under-reported story.

If you are a client of SFAF or another ASO, (particularly if you reside in another county), pick up the phone and call SFAF at (415) 487-3000, ask for Lonnie Payne's voicemail, and register a complaint over the inequities in how it "shares" AIDS Walk funds with the larger community. With enough phone calls to Lonnie Payne, maybe SFAF's Board of Directors will finally "get the message." If you've been denied services because programs have been cut, e-mail me at pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net. I'll hold your stories in strict confidence, but if you permit me, I'll compile statistics and post them on the Internet to document service cuts at SFAF.

As a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people with HIV and AIDS, and a stated mission of "ending the human suffering caused by HIV," SFAF should welcome such investigations. People living with HIV and AIDS expect us to take action on their behalf to ensure that money designated for AIDS services actually benefits people with AIDS. It's time people hold SFAF accountable for its actions, or lack thereof.

When I get home from the AIDS Walk this afternoon, I'll be writing the California Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts, who are charged with oversight of commercial fundraising in our State, to seek an investigation regarding whether the mere 13% of the \$18.5 million raised since 1996 which SFAF "shared" with 58 of the 71 beneficiary organizations — or, alternatively, the *miserly* 4.6% (\$847 thousand of the \$18.5 million) shared with the subset of 23 of the 58 — constitutes deceptive fundraising practices. Hopefully the State Attorney Generals' interest will be piqued by data in this report.

Sincerely,

Patrick Monette-Shaw

ICO/AARI (Independent Community Observer/AIDS Accountability Research Investigator)

*Note:* This report was intended for release to the Internet on July 15, 2001, the day AIDS Walk 2001 was held; it will be updated as additional information becomes available.

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## Summary

The five AIDS Walks held since July 21, 1996 have raised a combined total of \$18.5 million, thanks to the generosity of the thousands of participant walkers over the years. Sadly, only 13% of those millions has been shared with 58 of the 71 AIDS Service Organizations (ASO's) listed as "beneficiary" organizations on San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) promotional materials (see Tables 1 and 3). Who are these 58 organizations? Look at Appendix C-2; in a nutshell, they are ASO's who are not involved with needle-exchange for injecting drug users, and who are not part of SFAF's "partnership" insiders.

These 58 smaller agencies represent 82% of the 71 agencies; for having lent their good names to draw additional walkers, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has said: "Let Them Eat Cake" by returning the miserly 13%.

Looking closer, we learn that the 13% is actually \$2.5 million dollars. "Not bad," you say? Think again! By comparison, SFAF spent twice as much (yes, \$5 million, folks) on AIDS Walk event overhead expenses (salaries, advertising, rent, travel, postage, etc.) than they have deigned to share with these 58 organizations.

At the July 16, 2000 AIDS Walk, Craig Miller, of Miller Ziechik Associates (MZA Events) addressed the assembled crowd just before the Walk began. "We have spared no expense to make this event a success," he said. Spared no expense? Excessive event overhead expenses is, precisely, a large part of the problem!

Another part of the problem is how the money is shared with the Bay Area community organizations that donors believed they were raising funds for. For example, \$380,000 from AIDS Walk 1999 (Appendix B-4, page 2) was shipped off to Washington, D.C., in part, to influence legislation (read, lobbying of Congress). Beyond the fact that lobbying by non-profits is a prohibited activity, that \$380K shipped away from assisting Bay Area agencies represents fully 28% — nearly a third — of the \$1.3 million SFAF ostensibly "shared" with the "beneficiary" organizations in 1999.

Of the 58 non-needle exchange beneficiary organizations across the five years, 23 (or 40% of the 58 organizations) were from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Mateo counties; they received a scant 15.7% (\$847.5K) slice of the \$2.5 million shared with non-needle exchange ASO's. To be more precise, the \$847K the 23 organizations received represents a miserly 4.6% of the \$18.5 million raised since 1996.

While the 58 organizations were being told "Eat Cake," SFAF has awarded twice as much money (\$1.5 million) to 10 needle exchange agencies, even though injection drug users in San Francisco account for only 19% of cumulative AIDS cases since 1980. This is an important point, in that an Institute of Medicine (IOM) study, *No Time To Lose*, indicated that HIV prevention dollars should be fairly allocated by ensuring that the cost of HIV prevention interventions should be measured against the greatest number of new infections (seroconversions) which can be prevented. Meanwhile, SFAF appears to be telling gay and bisexual men who are *not* injection drug users (IDU's), and who comprise fully 77% of all AIDS cases, that double the amount of money should be spent on the 19% who are IDU's.

[Note: this author is *not* opposed to needle exchange per se; before the Alex MacDonald crowd of AIDS bureaucrats in San Francisco accuses me of opposing needle exchange, my thoughts on this subject are on page 8 of this document.]

As well, in 1996, SFAF awarded grants to two agencies, listing the purpose of the grant awards as being for client services (not counting "client advocacy" nor "client coordinators" nor the word "prevention" in the organizations' names). Strangely, in 1999, the narrative descriptions (see Appendix A) of grant award purposes listed not one agency who received AIDS Walk funds for client services. Similarly, in 1996, three organizations received awards for prevention education; in 1997 and 1998 only one organization received prevention education awards, and two in 1999

(see Table 4). This out of 31, 36, 33, and 40 beneficiary organizations, respectively, in each of those years (see Table 4). If the AIDS Walk, or SFAF, isn't funding prevention programs, per the narrative descriptions of the purpose of the grant awards, then what *are* they funding?

Possibly it is research and database development being funded. Across these five years, SFAF has awarded UCSF and the Shanti Project a combined minimum of \$660,000 (see Table 2): The Reggie client intake system database — which the City has funded separately with somewhere between \$1.5 to \$2 million — has received \$340K; UCSF received another \$320K for, in part, research; in stark contrast, this \$660K represents 78% of the miserly \$847K shared with the 23 East Bay and North Bay ASO's mentioned above.

SFAF also isn't telling us how much it paid UCSF using AIDS Walk, or other SFAF "private funds," to conduct a separate research project to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of SFAF's pet project, *Gay Life*. Apparently, SFAF is so unsure of its *Gay Life* programs' usefulness and efficacy, that it has now, belatedly, decided to have that program evaluated (by, surprise, its "partner," UCSF) to make sure SFAF isn't throwing money down the toilet. Why SFAF didn't have the program evaluated by UCSF before *Gay Life* was introduced as a "program" in 1998 is anyone's guess; apparently flushing the hefty program development funds used to hone Reggie since 1998 down the toilet looked like the easier chore.

So how else *does* SFAF spend funds even as it cuts services?

Of the \$18.5 million raised from AIDS Walk since 1996, SFAF has kept exclusively for itself 44%, or \$8.16 million; it throws this money into what it likes to call its "private funds" to spend as it pleases, with no oversight by the community on how it does so. Its Board of Directors appear to rubber-stamp every expenditure SFAF's Executive Director, Pat Christen dreams up, including the \$380K shipped off to Washington noted above. It certainly does so with Pat's salary, which is now approximately \$200,000 annually, even though she only manages a \$24 million dollar budget and a mere 101 Dalmatians (err, employees) (see page 12). The Board also turns a blind eye to the \$670,000 SFAF has spent in "private funds" during a recent 18-month media ad campaign (see my report on the Assumptions Phase I media at <http://www.accountabilityproject.com/sfaf-assumptions1-1.html>). As well, the Board appears to turn a blind eye to the combined \$992,000 in (projected) salaries in FY '01-'02 going to a total of six 6 (or 6%) of its 101 Dalmatians (see Table 8). The combined \$992K represents 12.7% of the \$7.84 million budgeted for salaries and benefits for the same fiscal year. Six percent of the employees skim \$13% off the top of salary barrel, leaving folks at the bottom of barrel wondering about the trickle-down effect!

Then there's the issue of service cuts. Even though SFAF's Net Assets has grown \$3.23 million (from \$4.67 million to \$7.9 million between June 1995 and June 2000), including its Investment Securities, which grew by \$2.12 million (from \$681 thousand to \$2.8 million during the same period), SFAF has, nonetheless, claimed it could not find amongst its "private funds" a mere \$170,000 to keep its *Vida y Movimiento* program, targeted to Latino/a's, when it lost a City contract for the *Vida* program. It did, however, manage to locate from "private funds" enough to continue a program for women that year, but shrugged its shoulders to the City's Latino/a's, while slushing this \$2.8 million in Investment Securities into a "Swiss Bank"! [Note: the \$2.12 million increase in Investment Securities represents fully 86.7% of the \$3.23 million increase in Net Assets, proving SFAF prioritizes stockpiling Securities ahead of providing services!]

Who needs housing? Apparently, not SFAF's clients. In its just-released Budget for July 1, 2001–June 30, 2002, SFAF budgeted a cut in housing vouchers by \$130,000 (see Appendix D-4), despite the fact that more people than ever (3,281 people, to be precise) are languishing on the Housing Wait List SFAF previously managed. SFAF managed it so poorly, apparently, that the City just took back two of its housing contracts from SFAF, and SFAF no longer manages the City's HIV/AIDS housing program. SFAF may have lost the housing contracts, in part, to having lost 87 "beds" from the available stock of housing units during the time it had the City contracts under its stewardship.

SFAF is also cutting back HIV Services from the FY '01-'02 budget by \$113,853. But that's OK folks; SFAF, meanwhile, has decided to spend an additional \$1.4 million on fundraising this year (see Table 11). Who needs HIV Services or Housing Vouchers, for God's sake, when it's so much easier to spend it on fundraising?

What other services have they cut to afford raising the FY '01-'02 budget another \$1.3 million in the area of "programs development? Is SFAF now "developing" another *Gay Life*-style "program" (which, in future years, may also require that UCSF be paid handsomely, after-the-fact, to evaluate another program's usefulness)? What "production"-related costs of "events" would require an additional \$126,080 be budgeted this year over last year for "prevention services" event production? Just which, and what kind of, events are these? Are they like the "event" SFAF held on June 28, 2001 at Zao Noodle Bar in the Castro for its oh-so-affluent Castro clients and donors, entitled "How Do You Know What You Know? — The Reception"? That "event's" stated purpose in ads SFAF placed in the *Bay Area Reporter* leading up to the event, was to "come meet the guys who brought you the Assumptions campaign." How many people went to that black-tie affair at Zao Noodle Bar, how much was doled out on throwing the designers a party, and what did this "event" have to do with "prevention," anyway? Might we ask how many additional new infections were *prevented* at this reception? I think someone from the IOM might want to know; the IOM, and we, will not be happy if SFAF claims it used federal prevention funds to throw this "reception," because SFAF had insufficient "private funds" left over from an AIDS Walk to throw this little social soirée, which was nothing more than a pat on their own backs. This "reception" was certainly *not* related to prevention services, much as they'd like to recast it as such in order report to the IRS that they're doing amazing feats in the prevention services department.

Amazingly, at the same SFAF is cutting housing services and prevention program spending, part of the \$1.4 million increase in Fundraising in FY '01-'02 is due to a soaring travel and staff development budget. Possibly holding the AIDS Marathon in remote Hawaii this coming December 2001 has something to do with a combined increase of \$705,677 across both the Fundraising *and* Prevention Services' travel budget; the two department's '01-'02 travel budget now stands at a combined total (including the \$705K increase), at a staggering \$1,040,619! Did SFAF do all this cutting of housing vouchers and other prevention services to ensure \$1 million was available for airline tickets? A cross-year comparison of the travel budgets and other documents shows, sadly, that SFAFs' priorities are glaringly out of touch with the needs of its clients and its stated mission: "[Our] HIV prevention efforts focus on those communities at highest risk of infection in San Francisco." In truth, SFAF's budgeting and spending of limited resources shows its "focus" is on its travel budget, among other questionable spending.

While SFAF and the Alex MacDonald crowd like to accuse accountability watchdogs of attempting to cut services to people with AIDS and HIV and of disseminating misinformation, it appears the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is doing quite a nice job of cutting services by themselves, thank you very much, and it doesn't need help from community accountability observers as SFAF chops away entire programs. Then there's the problem of SFAF's own habit of providing misinformation to the public.

As SFAF cuts services, and hosts soirée receptions, we're all being fleeced!



## Section 1: AIDS Walk Five-Year History

### Five-year Cumulative Proceeds and Distribution Mix

As you can see in Table 1, nearly as much as been spent on pulling the AIDS Walk event together (event overhead) as SFAF has distributed to “beneficiary” organizations; beneficiaries received only \$434.5K more than that spent on event overhead. In fact, since 1996, the costs to throw the one-day Walk in Golden Gate Park has climbed by \$325,438 over five years, to nearly \$1.2 million. That \$325K increase represents 37.4% of the total spent in 1996; had SFAF held event overhead spending in check, that \$325K *could* have gone to beneficiary organizations — and people with AIDS and HIV — desperate for funding for services. Why has throwing a one-day event gotten to be so darned expensive?

**Table 1: AIDS Walk Total Funds Raised 1996–2000**

**NOTE: All tables are for a five-year period; they will be updated shortly to show the seven-year period through June 2002)**

	San Francisco AIDS Walk ...					5-Year Total	% of Total Raised
	7/21/96 Amount	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount		
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED</b>	<b>\$3,620,722</b>	<b>\$3,648,906</b>	<b>\$3,631,599</b>	<b>\$3,793,085</b>	<b>\$3,817,042</b>	<b>\$18,511,354</b>	
<b>Event Overhead</b>	<b>\$869,710</b>	<b>\$873,089</b>	<b>\$982,953</b>	<b>\$1,033,789</b>	<b>\$1,195,148</b>	<b>\$4,954,689</b>	26.8%
% Event Overhead	24.0%	23.9%	27.1%	27.3%	27.0%		
<b>Amount Retained by SFAF</b>	<b>\$1,808,549</b>	<b>\$1,850,758</b>	<b>\$1,499,146</b>	<b>\$1,412,125</b>	<b>\$1,596,894</b>	<b>\$8,167,472</b>	44.1%
% Retained by SFAF	49.9%	43.8%	41.3%	37.2%	46.1%		
<b>Amount Distributed to Beneficiaries</b>	<b>\$942,463</b>	<b>\$925,059</b>	<b>\$1,149,500</b>	<b>\$1,347,171</b>	<b>\$1,025,000</b>	<b>\$5,389,193</b>	29.1%
% Distributed to Beneficiaries	26.0%	25.4%	31.7%	35.5%	27.0%		
<b>Number of Benefitting Organizations</b>	31	36	33	40	36		<b>100.0%</b>

At the July 16, 2000 AIDS Walk, Craig Miller, of Miller Ziechik Associates (MZA Events) addressed the assembled crowd just before the Walk began. “We have spared no expense to make this event a success,” he said. Spared no expense? Excessive event overhead expenses is, precisely, a large part of the problem! (They’re supposed to be *sparing* expenses!) Is there nothing that SFAF, its Board of Directors, or Mr. Miller can do to hold these overhead expenses in check from year to year? Is nothing *reusable* from year to year?

Translating the \$1.2 overhead expenses to a per-walker cost, SFAF spent \$47.81 on every man, woman, and child of the 25,000 participants who walked in 2000. Looking at it a different way, for the 8,979 people DPH reported as the number of persons living with AIDS in San Francisco as of June 30, 2001, SFAF spent \$133.11 on event overhead; whether \$47 or \$133 per “head,” that’s one hell of a lot of money to spend per person on a one-day event, as any father who has paid for caterers for his daughter’s wedding might attest. Some chicken-salad soirée!

Also of interest in Table 1 is why between 1999 and 2000 SFAF cut the amount of money it shared with the beneficiaries by \$322,171, despite the fact that the total amount raised climbed by almost \$24,000, and reduced the number of beneficiary organizations by four. Did the need for funds — or the number of people with HIV and AIDS — *decline* between 1999 and 2000 (the answer to both rhetorical questions, is a resounding “No!”)? Why would SFAF cut AIDS Walk “grant awards” to the very “beneficiary” organizations that help raise those very AIDS Walk funds?

The answer lies, in part, with what SFAF did with the money in 1999. A hefty chunk of change (\$380,000, to be precise) raised at AIDS Walk 1999 was shipped off to Washington, D.C. (see Appendix A-4 and Appendix B-4, Page 2), in part, to influence Ryan White CARE Act legislation (read, lobbying of Congress). Beyond the fact that lobbying is a prohibited expense, that \$380K shipped away from assisting Bay Area agencies represents fully 28% — nearly a third — of the \$1.3 million SFAF ostensibly “shared” with the “beneficiary” organizations in 1999.

Finally, it should be noted that while many walkers believe that they are raising funds for a host of beneficiary organizations, SFAF retains anywhere from 37% to 49% for its exclusive use as “private funds.” So why does an organization having a mere 101 employees as of July 1, 2001 need to keep 44% of the funds raised over this five-year period? Do the other beneficiary organizations not have employees or programs in need of some of the \$8 million SFAF retained off the top of the cookie jar?

**SFAFs’ “Partners” Slice of the Pie**

After awarding itself \$8 million, SFAF first favors sharing funds with its affiliate organization, the HIV Prevention Project, a second, and not quite separate, non-profit arm [no pun intended] of SFAF. Table 2 shows the \$2 million routed to SFAF’s four “best friends” represents nearly 38% of the \$5.39 million it claims to have shared with the 71 beneficiary organizations (see Appendix C-1a for an alphabetical list of beneficiaries; see Appendix C-1b for a cross-sort of the same beneficiaries by amount awarded) across these five years.

**Table 2: SFAF Affiliate Organization and Partner Retention of Funds**

SFAF Partners and Affiliates (Including HIV Prevention Project)	San Francisco AIDS Walk ...					5-Year Total	
	7/21/96 Amount	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount	Amount	% Mix
1 HIV Prevention Project (SFAF)	\$100,000	\$151,000	\$326,000	\$310,000	\$320,000	\$1,207,000	22.4%
2 Project Inform/San Francisco Project Inform, Inc.		30,000	50,000	37,000	40,000	157,000	2.9%
3 Shanti Project	45,000	27,500	35,000	32,500	32,500	172,500	3.2%
4 UCSF AIDS Health Project	82,500	85,000	150,000	80,000	90,000	487,500	9.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$227,500</b>	<b>\$293,500</b>	<b>\$561,000</b>	<b>\$459,500</b>	<b>\$482,500</b>	<b>\$2,024,000</b>	<b>37.6%</b>
% Mix This Year	24.1%	31.7%	48.8%	34.1%	47.1%		
<b>Amount Distributed to Beneficiaries</b>	<b>\$942,463</b>	<b>\$925,059</b>	<b>\$1,149,500</b>	<b>\$1,347,171</b>	<b>\$1,025,000</b>	<b>\$5,389,193</b>	

SFAF has awarded UCSF and the Shanti Project a combined minimum of \$660,00; this amount represents 78% of the miserly \$847K shared with the 23 East Bay and North Bay ASO’s shown in Table 3 below. Apparently, whatever “research” UCSF is engaging in has not found itself translated from theory into practice, given the fact that HIV rates in the City have ostensibly soared (if one is to believe the data in the final HIV Consensus Report the San Francisco Department of Public Health, which report has still not been released to the public, pending publication of “new data” in a professional journal). Whatever research UCSF’s AIDS Health Project (AHP) has apparently conducted has had scant affect in stopping, or even slowing, the HIV epidemic in San Francisco. An important component of AHP programs is a focus on mental health; whatever AHP is doing in the mental health department may not be having much of an affect on preventing HIV seroconversions, leading a reasonable person to ponder whether AIDS Walk funds going to AHP is being well spent, particularly in light of the discussion of the IOM study *No Time To Lose* in the Summary of this report (see page i).

SFAF also isn’t telling us how much it paid UCSF using AIDS Walk, or other funds, to conduct a separate research project to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of SFAF’s pet project, *Gay Life*. Apparently, SFAF is so unsure of its *Gay Life* programs’ usefulness and efficacy, that it has now, belatedly, decided to have that program evaluated (by, surprise, its “partner,” UCSF) to make sure SFAF isn’t throwing money down the toilet. Why SFAF didn’t have the program evaluated by UCSF before *Gay Life* was introduced as a “program” in 1998 is anyone’s guess; apparently flushing the hefty program development funds used to hone Reggie since 1998 down the toilet looked like the easier chore, as flushing the toilet is something SFAF’s staff knows how to do well (without needing to spend more on “staff development,” or “capacity building,” as DPH prefers to call it), from years performing stunts just like this. In some critics’ circles, it’s called “program *du jour*” development.

On June 2, 2001, I wrote SFAF regarding a \$17,775 discrepancy between what it reported to the IRS as an AIDS Walk award it made to its affiliate organization, the HIV Prevention Project (HPP), and what HPP reported to the IRS as

having *received* in “public support” (i.e., the AIDS Walk grant *from* SFAF). Despite the fact that SFAF’s Director of Finance, Lance Henderson, signs the tax returns for *both* SFAF and HPP, and caught once again with its pants down, SFAF simply ignored my inquiry and never responded to my letter. More disinformation and misinformation from SFAF. I’ll pursue this with the IRS along with other concerns about SFAF’s tax returns.

It should be noted that Project Inform (PI) is included in the “partners of SFAF” category because of their close ties in treatment education (albeit, treatment education has also had a reduction in services according to SFAF’s tax returns) and for other reasons. Additionally, readers should note that Lonnie Payne, current Chair of SFAF’s Board of Director’s also sits on PI’s Board of Directors, according to PI’s 1999 tax return for the period ending in December 1999; he may still be a PI Board member, though I’ve not had time to verify this (yet). A reasonable person would have to wonder whether there is a potential conflict of interest with Mr. Payne sitting on the Board of one of its AIDS Walk recipients, and how that relationship affects the amount of funds routed to PI as a “beneficiary.” As shown in Appendix C-1b, PI ranked 9<sup>th</sup> out of the 71 beneficiary organizations, by having received \$157K across the five years of AIDS Walks; PI was edged out of the 8<sup>th</sup> place spot by the \$160K awarded to Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases (WORLD), whose main purpose, as listed in the awards narrative in Appendix A, and literature I’ve received from WORLD, is holding retreats for 100 women. In stark contrast, Project Open Hand was ranked 27<sup>th</sup>, having received a meager \$45K, while Meals of Marin ranked 69<sup>th</sup>, having received a paltry \$5,000 of the \$18.5 million raised. What the hell are SFAF and The Tides Foundation *thinking* when they award AIDS Walk funds?

**Distribution of Funds by County**

Since 1996, a total of 71 AIDS Services Organization (ASO’s) have been listed as beneficiaries of the AIDS Walk, in addition to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. In Table 3 below, you can see that the number of ASO’s from four Bay Area counties received a disproportionate slice of the amount of funds shared with the community (see Appendix C-2, which lists each beneficiary agency by county).

For instance, while Alameda’s 11 agencies represent 15.5% of the 71 (not including needle-exchange) agencies, only 8%, or a paltry \$430,000, was returned to Alameda organizations. More money has been sent to Washington, D.C. than to *any* of the four counties neighboring San Francisco County. As well, even though San Francisco non-needle exchange ASO’s represent 49% of the 71 agencies, they received a scant 30.6% of money shared with the community.

**Table 3: AIDS Walk Beneficiaries by County**

# of ASO's	% of 71 Agencies	County	San Francisco AIDS Walk ...					5-Year Total	
			7/21/96 Amount	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount	Amount	% Mix
11	15.5%	Alameda County	155,000	90,000	70,000	55,000	60,000	430,000	8.0%
4	5.6%	Contra Costa County	55,000	60,000	48,000	30,000	39,500	232,500	4.3%
4	5.6%	Marin County	10,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	0	40,000	0.7%
4	5.6%	San Mateo County	20,000	35,000	40,000	25,000	25,000	145,000	2.7%
<b>23</b>		<b>Subtotal Non-Needle Exchange</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>	<b>124,500</b>	<b>847,500</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
35	49.3%	San Francisco County	404,963	369,059	284,000	297,171	292,500	1,647,693	30.6%
<b>58</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>Total Non-Needle Exchange</b>	<b>644,963</b>	<b>569,059</b>	<b>452,000</b>	<b>412,171</b>	<b>417,000</b>	<b>2,495,193</b>	<b>46.3%</b>
3	5.2%	Washington, DC	70,000	47,500	15,000	380,000	25,000	537,500	10.0%
3	4.2%	SFAF Partners Without HIV Prevention Project (HPP)	127,500	142,500	235,000	149,500	162,500	817,000	15.2%
10	14.1%	Needle Exchange and Substance Abuse Agencies	100,000	166,000	447,500	405,500	420,500	1,539,500	28.6%
<b>16</b>		<b>Subtotal Other Agencies</b>	<b>297,500</b>	<b>356,000</b>	<b>697,500</b>	<b>935,000</b>	<b>608,000</b>	<b>2,894,000</b>	<b>53.7%</b>
		<b>Total Shared w/Beneficiaries</b>	<b>\$942,463</b>	<b>\$925,059</b>	<b>\$1,149,500</b>	<b>\$1,347,171</b>	<b>\$1,025,000</b>	<b>\$5,389,193</b>	

**Note:** Three of 10 the Needle Exchange agencies are duplicate agencies listed under other county categories; in earlier years, the purpose listed as the Grant Purpose was not for needle exchange. The grant amounts are not duplicated in multiple categories and total correctly. From 1996 to 2000, there were a total of 71 beneficiaries, not 74.

2	2.8%	Vaccine Development	0	5,000	5,000	25,000	0	35,000	0.6%
		% Mix This Year	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	1.9%	0.0%		

**Note:** The two agencies above were awarded AIDS Walk grants for vaccine "advocacy." They repeat agencies contained in the 58-agency category above; they are repeated here only for comparative purposes.

So why was 10% (\$537.5) of the money “shared” with the beneficiaries shipped off to Washington, while Marin County received that obscenely meager 0.7% (\$40K)? Part of the answer, gentle reader, is that SFAF employee, Ernest Hopkins, is listed as a Board member on one of the Washington, D.C. organizations, the CAEAR Coalition, the brainchild of t Tom Sheridan, a lobbyist registered to walk the halls of Congress (who regularly peeks his head into the offices of Senators Kennedy, Feinstein, Boxer, and Congresspeople Waxman, Pelosi, and Loretta Sanchez, dropping off hefty campaign contribution checks to some of these legislators, checks drawn using AIDS Walk funds routed to Sheridan to ply, and curry, favor). The CAEAR Coalition ranks 7<sup>th</sup> of the 71 beneficiaries on the list sorted by amount awarded, having been awarded \$170,000 (see Appendix C-1b). Why’d CAEAR get such a disproportionate slice of the pie? Ask Ernest Hopkins! Or ask Laura Thomas, a DPH employee who was also listed as a CAEAR Board member in 2000 along with Ernest.

Of the 58 non-needle exchange beneficiary organizations across the five years, 23 (or 40% of the 58 organizations) were from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Mateo counties; they received a scant 15.7% (\$847.5K) slice of the \$2.5 million shared with non-needle exchange ASO’s. To be more precise, the \$847K these four counties received represents a miserly 4.6% of the \$18.5 million raised since 1996!

Conversely, note that SFAF’s three “partners” (here excluding HPP, which is listed in this table under the 10 needle exchange agencies) received fully 15.2% of the funds shared with the community. Also of interest: The 10 needle exchange agencies, which represent 14% of the total number of agencies, received nearly 29% (close to one third) of the funds shared since 1996. There is a clear disparity in 16 of the agencies receiving 54% of the amount shared with the larger community of ASO’s, while the other 58 agencies, which represent 82% of the 71 ASO’s, received only 46% of the funds distributed to the community.

Appallingly, less than a half of one percent (yes, 0.6%) has been shared with organizations for vaccine development advocacy; does SFAF so little value the need for a vaccine that while close to a third of AIDS Walk funds go to needle exchange programs, less than 1% is devoted to advocating for a vaccine? What kind of priority setting is that?

**Distribution of Funds by “Keywords” Purpose**

In 1996, SFAF awarded grants to two agencies, listing the purpose of the grant awards as being for client services (not counting “client advocacy” nor “client coordinators” nor the word “prevention” in organization names). Strangely, in 1999, the narrative descriptions (see Appendix A) of grant award purposes listed not one agency who received AIDS Walk funds for client services. Similarly, in 1996, three organizations received awards for prevention education; in 1997 and 1998 only one organization received prevention education awards, and two in 1999 (see Table 4). This out of 31, 36, 33, and 40 beneficiary organizations, respectively, in each of those years. If the AIDS Walk, or SFAF, isn’t funding prevention programs, per the narrative descriptions of the purpose of the grant awards, then what *are* they funding?

**Table 4: Grant Purpose Narratives Key Word List**

Keywords In Grant Purposes (See Appendix A)	San Francisco AIDS Walk Organizations Mentioning ...				
	7/21/96 Number	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount
<b>Number of Benefitting Organizations</b>	31	36	33	40	36
Adult day health care (in Grant Purpose column)	2	0	0	1	
Advocacy, federal	2	2	1	3	
Advocacy, other	1	3	8	5	
Client services (not advocacy, coordinators, or Reggie database)	2	1	0	0	
Direct benefits (in Grant Purpose column or A.E.F. or Ellipse)	1	2	2	2	
Food/nutrition (in Organizational Purpose column)	1	2	2	4	
Food/nutrition (in Grant Purpose column)	2	2	3	3	
Harm reduction	0	2	2	3	
Housing "advocacy"	1	0	1	1	
Housing assistance to PWAs	0	1	1	2	
Housing out-of-town visitors	1	1	0	0	
Medical services, primary (in Grant Purpose column)	1	1	0	0	
Mental Health	1	2	2	2	
Needle Exchange/Injection Drugs	1	2	4	5	
Prevention education (not injection-drug) (in Grant Purpose column)	3	1	1	2	
Substance Abuse	0	0	1	6	

Also appallingly, primary care medical services received next to nothing from AIDS Walk funds in 1996 and 1997, and absolutely nothing in either 1998 and 1999.

**Who Needs Services When There's Two Databases to Feed?**

The Reggie client intake database — which the City has funded separately with somewhere between \$1.5 to \$2 million, at minimum — has received \$340K from AIDS Walk funds; UCSF received another \$320K for, in part, research. This \$660K represents 78% of the miserly \$847K shared with the 23 East Bay and North Bay ASO's mentioned above.

To be fair, the Reggie (a.k.a., the Client Intake System, or CIS) database was conceived to reduce the burden on people with HIV or AIDS; it is, purportedly, a comprehensive intake system developed under SFAF's "leadership." Reggie enables clients to only have to register once at various AIDS Service Organizations; a clients' eligibility status for benefits and services is then available electronically to staff at other participating agencies, eliminating the burden on a duplication of effort clients experienced in multiple eligibility intake interviews. Reggie was first conceived to include SFAF, Shanti, and UCSF.

While this is an admittedly laudable goal, the Reggie system has already been well funded by SF DPH, to the tune of \$1.5 million to \$2 million (and possibly more) during the past three to four years using funds from the Ryan White CARE Act, the City's General Funds, and, possibly, CDC prevention funds. As of this date, Reggie, having been fed a *minimum* of \$2.24 million, is now in the big-guy league of custom, albeit pricey, databases.

Table 5 shows that in addition to AIDS Walk funds SFAF has pumped into Reggie, the City has helped feed another database, CHIPS, which is the housing referral wait list database. These two dollar-hungry databases gobbled \$3.2 million for lunch; that's to date. A reasonable person would have to inquire: Is that \$3.2 million and *counting*?

**Table 5: Reggie and CHIPS Database Development Costs**

San Francisco AIDS Foundation	San Francisco AIDS Walk ...					5-Year Total Amount
	7/21/96 Amount	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount	
1 Shanti Project	\$45,000	\$27,500	\$35,000	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$172,500
4 UCSF AIDS Health Project	82,500	85,000				\$167,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$127,500</b>	<b>\$112,500</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>\$340,000</b>
DPH AIDS Office Contracts — Reggie	FY 94/95 Through FY 00/01 (Minimum Actual)					1,404,130
DPH AIDS Office Contracts — Reggie	Mayor's Proposed Budget FY 01/02					500,000
						<b>\$2,244,130</b>
DPH AIDS Office Contracts — CHIPS	FY 94/95 Through FY 00/01 (Minimum Actual)					<b>\$1,021,998</b>
						<b>\$3,266,128</b>

To help prevent diverting \$500,000 the Mayor proposed to spend on Reggie in FY '01-'02, I wrote a letter-to-the-editor at the *Bay Area Reporter* (which did not appear), that I sent as a courtesy copy to each of the San Francisco Board of Supervisor's. That letter was written to *shame* the Supervisor's into finding a *mere* \$366,000 in the Mayor's \$5.2 proposed budget to prevent losing 55 housing units in San Francisco reserved for people with HIV and AIDS. That letter was also intended to alert the community to contact the full Board by July 16<sup>th</sup> when the Finance Committee is to send its recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors for voting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Apparently, the *B.A.R.* saw no need to alert the community that a database was vying — having been recommended for funding by DPH — for funding with the housing units (which the Mayor hadn't included in his proposal and which DPH may have purposefully *not* recommended for funding, preferring to feed Reggie \$500K), nor, apparently, did the *B.A.R.* see a need to encourage its reader's to call the Supervisors before final voting to express outrage over this unethical priority setting by City Hill, and DPH, wonks. Hopefully, Mr. Fraser will have written something himself on the potential scandal of funding *databases*, instead of housing units, particularly if that is what comes to pass; otherwise a reasonable person would have to wonder about misinforming [by *not* informing] his readership. My letter sheds light on the City's, and SFAF's, misplaced

priorities; with apologies to Web Van's advertising guru's, a commercial might be: "I *need* housing units and a banana, but I *want* to feed my dollar-hungry databases."

[Note: Two of the 11 Supe's, Aaron Peskin and Jake McGoldrick, sent me e-mail replies acknowledging my letter; hopefully, the 55 housing units will *not* be lost from the limited stock of housing available to people with HIV and AIDS.]

**So What's Veracity Got to Do With It? (err, Lying Is Easier Than Admitting the Truth)**

Just before AIDS Walk 2000, SFAF told me that it had only spent \$1,025,000 on event overhead for that year's Walk. Independently, I have verified from the California Attorney General's web site that SFAF had lied to me (I wonder whether it was *purposeful* misinformation). How on earth could SFAF *not* have known about the \$170K variance before the day of Walk 2000 (see Table 6)? Will they claim that, after-the-fact, some vendor or other, or possibly the producer (SFAF's friend, Craig Miller), decided to submit additional invoices for production-related expenses for this event? Does SFAF simply, and unquestioningly, simply pay any invoice which shows up in the mail? How could SFAF *not* know the Walk would cost them an additional \$170K before they took off to Golden Gate Park on July 16, 2000?

**UPDATE 2003:** *The after-the-fact invoices for the AIDS Ride were the major cause of the rift between SFAF and Dan Palotta. But SFAF appears to turn a blind eye to the same phenomena when Miller's MZA Events does the same thing.*

**Table 6: Overhead Expenses Veracity**

	San Francisco AIDS Walk ...					5-Year Total
	7/21/96 Amount	7/20/97 Amount	7/19/98 Amount	7/18/99 Amount	7/16/00 Amount	
Event Overhead Reported to CA AG	\$869,710	\$873,089	\$982,953	\$1,033,789	\$1,195,148	\$4,954,689
Overhead SFAF "Estimated" Pe-event	816,000		875,000		1,025,000	
<b>Variance</b>	<b>\$53,710</b>		<b>\$107,953</b>		<b>\$170,148</b>	

This is *not* the first time SFAF has lied to me. In April 2000, Lance Henderson, SFAF's Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, wrote me concerning the Assumptions Phase I media ad campaign, that SFAF had budgeted \$49,000 for design fees for the ads. At the end of May 2001, SFAF released its tax return for the period ending in June 2000. Much to my surprise, I then learned SFAF had clearly lied to me *again*, as the tax return showed Cabra Diseno had been paid \$110,130 for design. While I wrote Lonnie Payne, SFAF Board Chair, in early June concerning this discrepancy, apparently SFAF feels no ethical obligation to apologize for having lied to me that the true costs of design were \$61,000 more than the "final" figures it *misinformed* me of in April 2000. I pointedly asked Mr. Payne whether they had entered into a contractual agreement with Cabra Diseno *before* design work began on the ad campaign; I also asked whether SFAF simply pays all bills, no matter what the cost overrun, when the invoices show up. The silence from Mr. Payne, who failed to answer my inquiry, is deafening (as is his failure to apologize for not answering his mail duties as Board Chair), but the message that SFAF senior management is permitted to lie to the public came through loud and clear.

As any parent with children knows, this issue is significant precisely because if they've lied to me twice (hoping I wouldn't catch them with their pants down), we can assume that they'll continue lying like an unrepentant child until they're confronted with the truth. A reasonable person can, therefore, ask: "If they've lied twice about this combined \$230,000 in misspent money, what else are they lying about and hiding from the public?" I've raised this question elsewhere: at what epidemic level *is* the problem of lying by our AIDS "establishment" at? Possibly SFAF should fund UCSF to conduct research aimed at determining *exactly* how much lying by AIDS bureaucrats is going on in San Francisco, whether lying to the public is at endemic, epidemic, or pandemic proportions, and what effect all this lying may have already had on the so-called "surge" in new HIV cases in San Francisco. By de-funding the Stop AIDS folks (see page20) for one year, the City would have found funds to conduct research into the effects of lying on HIV rates.

While the Alex MacDonald-, Tim Kingston-, and a coalition of San Francisco AIDS Service Organizations-crowd appears hell bent on shutting up all criticism of AIDS funding abuses in San Francisco by falsely accusing Michael

Petrelis, ACT UP/SF, and other community watchdogs of disseminating “misinformation” and “disinformation,” (and while SFAF’s Lonnie Payne has leveled, wrongly, this same claim against me, which I can and have proved a false accusation), neither MacDonald, Kingston, nor the *Bay Area Reporter* seem the slightest bit concerned that SFAF wantonly lies about AIDS funds mismanagement right and left (see above), nor has the MacDonald crowd uttered a peep about SFAF’s habit of purposefully providing misinformation and disinformation to the public. Of late, it is painfully obvious that our gay media has abandoned its investigative journalism mandate, by failing to analyze (or, at minimum, even report on) the mismanagement of funds intended to help people with AIDS, which funds SFAF and other ASO’s seem hell bent on diverting to a myriad of questionable expenses. When was the last time you read something by MacDonald reporting on AIDS funds fraud?

A reasonable person expects that the role of our community newspapers is to expose just this sort of lying by SFAF. Until recently, the *B.A.R.* did so, and performed a great service to the San Francisco GLBT community by providing balanced, fair, objective, and honest reporting of SFAF’s shenanigans. Something has changed at the *B.A.R.* since early this year, and a reasonable person might conclude that its reporters now, perhaps, merely digest the press release pabulum SFAF spoon feeds them, and possibly just regurgitates it verbatim without critical investigative analyses. In fact, the *B.A.R.* was notably absent from SFAF’s June 28, 2001 Board meeting for the first time I can remember of during the past five years. I was startled when I was introduced as the *only* member of the LGBT community (or the broader citizenry of San Francisco, for that matter) attending SFAF’s June Board meeting. I am, in fact, growing weary of being the *sole* individual in San Francisco who attends SFAF’s Board meetings to monitor what this ASO is doing, or not doing, with *our* AIDS funds. If we can’t expect the *B.A.R.* to expose the misinformation and disinformation SFAF cranks out, who *can* we expect will perform critical news analyses of AIDS funding abuses for us? Alex MacDonald? The *San Francisco Frontiers Newsmagazine*? The *San Francisco Chronicle*? Channel 7 TV’s *Seven on Your Side*?

SFAF should take a lesson from the TV commercials currently airing in San Francisco; the commercial, in a nutshell, describes a disgruntled customer leaving a bank feeling cheated, and warns ten of her friends about the bank’s practices. Those ten pass it on to *their* ten friends, and soon over 28,000 people have heard the story. One of the commercial’s lines, and its take-away message, is that no amount of free toasters the bank might hand out will fix the problem. SFAF, and its Board, now seeing this report on the Internet, should learn that no amount of its passing out beach hats, tee shirts, and lapel pins that it prefers to hand out to its *Gay Life* clients under the guise of “incentives” funded from AIDS Walk, Ryan White CARE Act, or City General Funds will fix the damage done by repeatedly lying to the public.

This report, in addition to the hundreds of flyers I plan to pass out during today’s AIDS Walk highlighting this web site, is my way of telling my ten friends about SFAF’s incompetence handling money. I’ll let SFAF know not only how many people I send this report to directly, but how many web site visitors sought out this report when it was posted to the [www.Accountability Project.com](http://www.AccountabilityProject.com) web site. (**UPDATE 2003:** *Approximately 2,000 visitors logged on to that site after this report was initially posted.*) I urge you to pass this report along to ten of your friends (particularly to tennis moms), and collectively — if enough people heed my advice to voice complaints to SFAF on their own — maybe SFAF’s Board of Director’s will begin to take us seriously and change their errant ways.

Alternatively, SFAF may want to take a lesson from the O. J. Simpson saga: if you can’t trust the messengers, who *can* you trust? Applying this to SFAF’s main purpose (if they’ve forgotten it, it’s *prevention* [or it was, until they began vigorously de-funding a myriad of prevention programs]): If San Franciscan’s can’t trust SFAF about AIDS funds accountability, how are we to trust SFAF’s HIV prevention messages? Maybe they have some toasters lying around somewhere; sadly, toasters won’t fix HIV infections! Alex MacDonald should take the same lesson: Falsely accusing Michael Petrelis of misinformation, while turning a blind eye towards SFAF’s *own* dissemination of misinformation, won’t gain MacDonald any credibility with his readers who are paying attention to the issues. Same goes for the *B.A.R.*

#### **Agencies Not Funded versus the AIDS Walk “Program Book”: Shame on Mervyn’s, The Gap, Levi Strauss, and Channel 7 TV**

Sadly, many Bay Area AIDS Service Organizations are not on the minds of SFAF’s or The Tides Foundation’s, leaders: Conspicuously absent from the list of beneficiaries (see Appendix C-1a) is the Bayview-Hunter’s Point Foundation

(BVHPF), a foundation to assist the City's African-American community. There are many more ASO's which have never been fortunate enough to be on the beneficiary list these past five years.

A reasonable person might question whether excluding BVHPF has racist implications. While AIDS Walk does include the Black Coalition on AIDS as a beneficiary, it is unclear which agency serving the African-American community provides the broader range of services to the Bayview-Hunter's Point community. It may, on the other hand, be a good thing that BVHPF has *not* been funded with AIDS Walk funds, as community activists from the Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health, and a separate coalition, "Save Our Services" (SOS being founded by BVHPF clients and employees), are quite annoyed with BVHPF for cutting mental health and substance abuse services in both the Tenderloin and Bayview-Hunter's Point; by BVHPF's leaving 55% of budgeted staff positions vacant, and by BVHPF's track record in violating the SF Sunshine Ordinance, particularly BVHPF's closing its Board meetings to the public and operating in secrecy.

Nonetheless, a future version of this report will delve more deeply into which ASO's are *not* getting funded with AIDS Walk funds.

What is truly sad is that the corporate sponsor's (Mervyn's, The Gap, Levi Strauss, Channel 7 TV, and a *host* of other corporations) insist, year in and year out, on having a program booklet printed up, each with a full-page ad with their corporate logos and messages of congratulations to the AIDS Walkers. (Let's not forget the subliminal marketing messages to come buy their products!) The AIDS Walk 2001 program booklet was 132 pages (including front and back cover); many of the ads are "full bleed" (meaning they are printed on over-sized paper and trimmed down, adding expense to the booklet). It is not clear, (and questioning SFAF's veracity, I doubt they'd tell me the truth), whether the \$203,178.22 spent for "Office and Printing" for AIDS Walk 1999 which represents 19.7% of that year's \$1 million in overhead expenses, was for the program booklet, or whether the corporate sponsors donated the program booklet *pro bono*. How many more agencies, whether in the East Bay, North Bay, or in San Francisco, could have used that \$203K for desperately needed services? For one thing, that money could have *restored* the \$130 in housing cuts in SFAF's current year budget to provide homeless people nights in shelters, and *still* had \$73K left over which could have been shared, with, oh, say, the Bayview-Hunters Point Foundation (if only they weren't so shameful themselves!).

If the booklet was not provided *pro bono*, it should have been. Even if it was, has any of these sponsors ever thought of eliminating the expense altogether, by donating the money used to print it to the AIDS Walk to increase the total amount of money distributed to beneficiaries? Would these corporate sponsor's lose any market share by not having *one* ad printed tooting their own horns? In my book (opinion), this is shameful. Shame on you, Channel 7. You too, The Gap.

### Thoughts on Needle Exchange

I repeat, I am *not* opposed to needle exchange *per se*. My main concern about needle exchange regards whether funds earmarked for needle exchange agencies are being used to purchase *needles* for real people, or whether the funds are being used only for "advocacy" (read lobbying) efforts and administrative overhead expenses at these agencies. I am also concerned that the number of agencies SFAF has funded for needle exchange has grown from *one* agency in 1996 to a total of seven agencies in 2000 (see Appendix B-5, page 2). Just how many needle exchange agencies *does* San Francisco, and outlying counties in the Bay Area, need?

From March 1998 to June 2000 the percent of injection drug users, per DPH reports, has, ostensibly, grown 2.4%, from 16.9% to 19.3% (Source: Quarterly AIDS Surveillance Report, San Francisco Department of Public Health). Unfortunately, it is not clear whether the number of AIDS cases among injection drug users in the City has remained essentially flat, or whether there is a *real* increase. I say this because the City has not released to the public the final report from the HIV Consensus Meetings held in January and February of this year; the purpose of the meetings was to arrive at the "official best estimates" of the prevalence and incidence rates of HIV and AIDS in San Francisco. In the draft documents released during the public comment period, DPH indicated it would address in the final report the issue of "ever use." Epidemiology panelists at the Consensus meetings raised the issue of whether someone who had used injection drugs only once, or only during one earlier period of their life, and was subsequently diagnosed with AIDS after having *stopped* injection drug use should be classified under the IDU risk category, or whether they should be listed under a different risk factor. This is the basis for the "ever use" issue, and its implication is that possibly the City might



have to adjust downward the number of IDU AIDS cases if “ever use” is resolved as probably skewing data. A further implication is that if the number of IDU cases *is* adjusted downward, so too might the proportion of funds being spent on needle exchange, which may have employees of SFAF’s second non-profit very worried about losing their jobs, should funding be cut in the City for needle exchange.

~~Seven months~~Two-and-a-half years after the issue was raised in January 2001, we have *yet* to be given an answer to this important question, as DPH has failed to release the final unabridged HIV Consensus Report addressing this issue to the public as of this date. According to a letter I received from a Deputy City Attorney, dated July 9, 2001 (if I’m not reading between legal-ese lines incorrectly), part of the reason for the delay in releasing some data, and possibly the final report, containing the hoped-for, and promised, “ever use” discussion to the public is that “new data” has been submitted to a peer-reviewed professional journal; if the City releases the new data before it appears in print in the professional journal, the journal may not publish the article, thereby taking a publishing opportunity away from the “publish or perish” crowd at UCSF. While DPH doesn’t want to jeopardize a researcher’s publishing credentials, it doesn’t seem to mind jeopardizing people’s health with additional HIV infections which may occur by not releasing the report to the public it purportedly serves. Once again, the City prefers publishing opportunities over prevention opportunities to save people’s lives.

I am also concerned that — while DPH would have use believe (laying aside, for a moment the yet unanswered issue of “ever use”), that there has been a veritable *surge* in IDU AIDS cases, and, therefore, that needle exchange needs to continue receiving disproportionate funding compared to non-IDU gay and bisexual men — three City employees have simultaneously served on SFAF’s needle-exchange “arm” as HPP Board of Directors during the *same* period that SFAF increased AIDS Walk funds for needle exchange from \$100K annually to \$420K annually (see Table 3). Note that during this period, total AIDS Walk funds for needle exchange “grant awards” have totaled \$1.5 *million* across the five year focus of this report, while prevention services and housing vouchers continue to take cuts, not only from the AIDS Walk slice-of-the pie, but additionally from SFAF’s much-touted “private funds.”

While SFAF was ratcheting up AIDS Walk outlays to HPP for needle exchange, three City employees sat on its Board:

- AIDS Office Director Jimmy Loyce was listed as being an HPP Board member on its tax returns for the periods ending in June 1998 and June 1999; the City has informed me he served on HPP’s board until “the May or June minutes of the SFAF/HPP meeting of the summer of 1998” (don’t you just *love* their preciseness?).
- AIDS Office employee Eric Ciasullo was listed on HPP’s tax returns for the periods ending in June 1998, 1999, and 2000; the City informed me he resigned from HPP’s Board “on or about February 1, 1999” (more impreciseness).
- The Mayor’s AIDS Czar Mike Shriver (whose \$50,000+ salary is paid from DPH funds) was listed on HPP’s tax returns for the periods ending in June 1998, 1999, and 2000; Mr. Shriver reported to me that “I resigned March 6, 2001” from HPP’s Board.

The City — having a vested interest in reducing the number of IDU’s showing up in City hospitals with injection-related soft-tissue injuries — has a vested interest in funding needle-exchange to reduce the number of soft-tissue injury emergency-room visits. While the City has now responded to my requests concerning *potential* conflicts of interest by claiming Loyce, Ciasullo, and Shriver have all resigned from HPP’s Board, a reasonable person would have to wonder whether SFAF, and it’s “arm” HPP, have willfully followed the City’s lead in needle-exchange funding by allocating additional AIDS Walk awards to needle-exchange agencies, in the absence of an answer to the potential “ever use” artificially-inflated IDU data, merely in order to curry favor to receive *other* AIDS-related funding from the City.

[Note: While a Deputy City Attorney wrote me that “Mr. Ciasullo further informs me that he has no involvement with DPH’s HPP-related contracts,” it is not clear how much influence these three City employees have, behind the scenes, or otherwise, in influencing who the City awards contracts to, including to SFAF and HPP, using City General Funds, Ryan White CARE Act funds, or other federal funds, nor is it clear whether Board membership affects *who* the City awards contracts to. You know, what do Board members discuss when they’re attending all these high-priced admission ticket soirées? In some circles, this is called the ‘old boys network’.]

Until the discussion of “ever use” is released to the public, a reasonable person would have to wonder whether the purported 2.4% increase in IDU AIDS cases is accurate, or whether it is artificially inflated to justify additional needle

exchange “advocacy” spending. This issue is germane because whatever SFAF, the 10 agencies who have received AIDS Walk funds for needle exchange during the past five years, and the City have been doing, collectively, to prevent additional seroconversions among the IDU population in San Francisco, it is clearly *not* working *if* we *really* have had a 2.4% surge in IDU AIDS cases during the past three years.

## ***Section 2: Other Service Cuts***

### **Housing Programs Cuts**

Who needs housing? Apparently, not SFAF's clients or the 3,281 people with HIV and AIDS "awaiting placement" on the Housing Wait List. Even as the Board of Supervisors are valiantly trying to find a mere \$366 *thousand* in the Mayor's proposed \$5.2 *billion* dollar budget to save 55 housing units at risk of being lost discussed in the Summary above, in its just-released Budget for July 1, 2001–June 30, 2002, SFAF has budgeted its *own* cut in housing vouchers by \$130,000 (see Appendix D-4), despite the fact 3,281 *people* are languishing on the Housing Wait List SFAF managed until July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. SFAF managed it so poorly, apparently, that the City just took back two of its housing contracts from SFAF, and SFAF no longer manages the City's HIV/AIDS housing program. SFAF may have lost the housing contracts, in part, to its having lost another 87 "beds" from the available stock of housing units during the time it had the City contracts under its stewardship. We all know the City's DPH staff is overworked as it is, and that the City rarely takes a program back "in house" that it has historically contracted out to AIDS Service Organizations.

But the story behind housing-related service cuts doesn't end here. The IRS requires non-profits list on their tax returns program accomplishments. Comparing SFAF's 1999 return to its 1998 return, one discovers, unhappily, that SFAF cut the number of short-term housing vouchers by 5,181 nights, from 9,913 to only 4,732. Housing cuts took a hit from SFAF in 1999, and SFAF is cutting housing *again* in their FY '01–'02 Budget.

### **Prevention Services Takes a Structured Holiday (Err, More Cuts)**

Again comparing SFAF's 1999 tax return to its 1998 return, one discovers that SFAF cut the number of gay and bisexual men counseled by its *Gay Life* program by 41, from 157 in 1998 to only 116 in 1999; this represents a 30% cut over the 1998 level. This confirms a rumor SFAF is embroiled in an internal staff squabble over the usefulness of continuing to provide individual counseling, preferring to host "events" and "workshops" instead (parties are more fun than counseling people, after all, and as underworked and overpaid as SFAF's staff paid in excess of \$50,000 a year are [see page 13] staff infighting rages at SFAF over implementing *additional* counseling sessions cuts during FY '01–'02, despite the fact that City contracts were specifically, and contractually, awarded to conduct these individual counseling sessions, and despite the fact that Dr. Katz believes the counseling sessions are an important component of interventions in the "San Francisco model of care"). Things are worse in the prevention department.

In 1998, 677 SFAF clients received "targeted prevention services." That number dropped by 107 to only 570 clients in 1999, according to SFAF's tax returns, for a service cut of 17.6% over the 1998 level. As well, the "grants and allocations" SFAF claims it awarded to beneficiary organizations for HIV prevention from AIDS Walk funds dropped from \$562,500 in 1998 to \$497,863 in 1999, for a net reduction of \$64,637, or an 11.5% cut over the 1998 level. These targeted prevention services and HIV prevention *cuts* are another part of the staff infighting raging at SFAF.

Is SFAF telling us: "Why bother doing prevention? We need to ensure having a client base and we really don't care if additional HIV infections occur.?" (I'll explore this in a future piece regarding whether SFAF is now playing "blame the victim," as they're getting out of the prevention business.)

### **Condoms (as Prevention Intervention) Dropped in 1998**

Did anyone notice that in 1998 and 1999 SFAF failed to list on its tax returns that it was still distributing condoms as one its program accomplishments under their prevention "mission"? In 1996 they cut the number of rubbers distributed at "community outreach events" by 35,000, from 225,000 in 1995 to only 190,000 in 1997, and by 1998 the rubbers were simply no longer listed, having been, possibly, dropped entirely, both as an accomplishment reported to the IRS and as a prevention intervention to its clients. With the advent of the "cocktail" therapies in 1996, did SFAF simply abandon distributing rubbers as no longer necessary since all the wonderful new drugs were reaching the market?

What message does this send people: That we no longer *need* to wear rubbers, and that SFAF doesn't need to bother passing them out? Or did rubbers receive such a cold shoulder by all those hot penis' that SFAF simply traded up from dispensing rubbers to dispensing tee shirts, lapel pins with battery-powered flashing lights, and beach hats as prevention devices which the *Gay Life* program is now so fond of passing out as "incentives" at its events? When was the last time you saw HIV or AIDS stopped dead in its tracks by a tee shirt, lapel pin, or beach hat, rather than by a rubber? Have I missed breaking news by not having been to The Gap and Mervyn's lately to see these new safe-sex devices called "tee shirts"? Or was this bit of news something the *B.A.R.* and the Alex MacDonald crowd decided *not* to creatively inform, or misinform, me, and other at-risk San Franciscans, about? If these tee shirts can stop HIV dead in its tracks, and we've not been told, someone is playing censor in our gay press.

If SFAF stopped distributing condoms in July 1998 (at the start of its new fiscal year) from its prevention interventions program mix, San Franciscans have now been without these rubbers for fully three years; no small wonder HIV rates are, purportedly (if you believe DPH's statistics citing a "sub-Saharan" level of HIV rates in the City) soaring. No rubbers, as DPH has been shrieking about, clearly leads to increased HIV rates, or so goes its logic.

### **Treatment Education Packs Its Bags and Goes With (Even More Cuts)**

According to SFAF's just-released tax return for 1999 (year ending in June 2000), HIV and AIDS Treatment Education and Advocacy also took a service cut, to the tune of \$46,000 (from \$1,118,298 in 1998 to \$1,071,996 in 1999). All of this, at the same time Public Policy (read lobbying) soared fully \$674,921, from \$1,024,540 in 1998 to \$1.7 million in 1999. Does anyone besides me see the disparity between what SFAF spends on Public Policy versus what it spends on HIV and AIDS Treatment Education and Advocacy? Does this show how wacky SFAF's priority setting is?

### **Vida y Movimiento Program Eliminated**

Even though SFAF's Net Assets has grown \$3.23 million (from \$4.67 million to \$7.9 million between June 1995 and June 2000), including its Investment Securities which grew by \$2.12 million (from \$681 thousand to \$2.8 million) during the same period, SFAF has, nonetheless, claimed it could not find amongst its "private funds" a mere \$170 *thousand* to keep its *Vida y Movimiento* program, targeted to Latino/a's, when it lost a City contract for the *Vida* program. It did, however, manage to locate from "private funds" enough to continue a program for women that year, but shrugged its shoulder to the City's Latino/a's, while slushing this \$2.8 million in Investment Securities into a "Swiss Bank"! Apparently, treatment education, counseling, and prevention services for its Latino/a clients were also flushed down the crapper as unnecessary to SFAF's program mix. [Note: the \$2.12 million increase in Investment Securities represents fully 86.7% of the \$3.23 million increase in Net Assets, proving SFAF prioritizes stockpiling Securities ahead of providing services!]

### **Is SFAF Simply Abandoning Prevention Services As Part of Its Mission?**

Prevention services were cut in SFAF's budgets in 1999; it cut prevention grants awarded to the beneficiary organization from AIDS Walk 1999; and they've now budgeted additional prevention cuts in the newest budget for FY '01-'02. This is not mere coincidence, folks, it's a trend. One to be followed closely, and *reported on*, wouldn't you say, Mr. MacDonald? And it's not misinformation, either, dear reader; this is fresh *truth* from an analysis of the documents mentioned above, and others.

With all these prevention services cuts year in and year out, a reasonable person would have to ask whether SFAF may no longer be interested in preventing additional HIV infections. I will continue to analyze cross-year trends in SFAF's prevention efforts when I analyze its "proposed annual budgets" in more detail in a forthcoming report beyond the scope of the discussion here.

### Section 3: Rising Costs

#### Salary of Executive Director, SFAF

While services are being cut at SFAF, its Board of Directors has no reservations about giving its Executive Director sizable pay raises annually; although it has been repeatedly asked, the Board of Directors refuses to disclose whether Ms. Christen receives an annual bonus *in addition to* her annual salary. It should be noted that Ms. Christen manages a mere \$24 million dollar budget, compared to the Mayor of San Francisco's \$5.2 billion budget, the Governor of California's \$100+ billion budget, and the President of the United States trillion dollar budget, and she earns more than these three public servants (or did, until the President just got a raise)! As well, Pat supervises a mere 101 Dalmatians (employees), versus thousands of employees by the other public servants.

**Table 7: Pat Christen's Salary [NOTE: This table projected her salary through 2002; her salary is currently approximately \$200,000.]**

#### SFAF's Executive Director, Pat Christen's, Annual Raises ①

##### Actual Raises

Fiscal Year	Base Salary	Amount of Raise	% Raise	Notes
1991-92	\$74,753			
1992-93	92,429	\$17,676	23.6%	
1993-94	118,545	26,116	28.3%	
1994-95	131,000	12,455	10.5%	
1995-96	148,794	17,794	13.6%	
1997-97	164,494	15,700	10.6%	
1997-98	183,892	19,398	11.8%	
1998-99	188,119	4,227	2.3%	
1999-00	200,159	12,040	6.4%	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,302,185</b>	<b>\$125,406</b>	<b>107.0%</b>	8-Year Total Percent 13.4% Average Raise Per Year

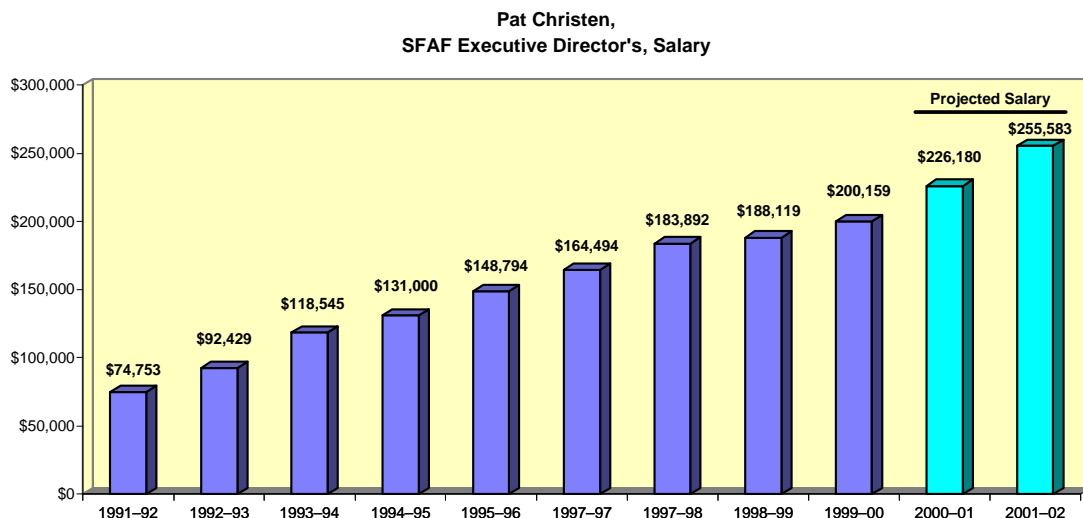
**Note:**  
 Ms. Christen has been paid a *minimum* of \$1.75 million during her tenure at SFAF, while services are cut, year after year!

##### Projected Raises

2000-01	226,180	26,780	13.4%	7/1/00-6/30/01
2001-02	255,583	30,261	13.4%	7/1/01-6/30/02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,783,948</b>	<b>\$182,447</b>		

① Source: SFAF Federal Tax Returns, IRS Form 990 released to public.  
 SFAF's Fiscal Year runs from July 1 – June 30.  
 Salary projections are extrapolated based on prior raises, as tax returns are not yet released to the public.

**Figure 1: Pat Christen's Salary [NOTE: This figure projected her salary through 2002; her salary is currently approximately \$200,000.]**



**Salary of Top-Five Highest Paid Staff**

SFAF is probably paying \$992,000 in salaries in FY 01–02 to a total of 6 of SFAF's 101 employees (see Table 8). Note that the June 2000 figures are what was reported to the IRS on SFAF's most recent tax return (yes, folks, it takes fully two years to find out what they pay staff; the June 2000 tax return was released at the end of May 2001, but the salary period began in July 1999 ... two full years). Pat's projected salary is based on the 13% average raises detailed on the preceding page; the other five projected salaries were computed using 6%, although that percentage may be conservative.

**Table 8: Top Five Highest-Paid Employees, Plus Pat Christen**

**UPDATE 2003: This table will be updated shortly, as it was based on estimates.**

		Year-Ending June ...		
		June 2000	June 2001	June 2002
1 Pat Christen Executive Director	13%	\$200,159	\$226,180	\$255,583
2 Lance Henderson Director Finance & Administration	6%	\$145,779	\$154,526	\$163,797
3 Jane Breyer Director of Development	6%	\$131,981	\$139,900	\$148,294
4 David Taylor Director of Human Resources	6%	\$131,740	\$139,644	\$148,023
5 Rene Durazzo Dirctor of Programs	6%	\$129,631	\$137,409	\$145,653
6 Regina Aragon Director of Public Policy	6%	\$116,218	\$123,191	\$130,583
		<b>\$855,508</b>	<b>\$920,850</b>	<b>\$991,933</b>

One wonders how many Human Resources Director's at firms and agencies with a mere 101 Dalmatians (err, employees) on staff are paid as handsomely as David Taylor's probable \$148K salary. The combined \$992K represents 12.7% of the \$7.84 million budgeted for salaries and benefits for the same fiscal year. Six percent of the employees skim \$13% off the top of salary barrel, leaving folks at the bottom of barrel wondering about the trickle-down effect!

In addition to these six, the IRS requires non-profits to list the total number of *additional* employees receiving salaries of over \$50,000. On it's 1995 tax return, SFAF listed that it had 12 employees earning over \$50K in addition to its top-five highest paid; four years later, on its 1999 tax return (ending June 2000), the number of *additional* employees earning over \$50K *doubled*, soaring to 24. Since it now has only 101 employees, six (including Pat) plus 24 is 30; fully 30% of its employees earn over fifty grand! Clearly, many of these 24 employees are making *in excess of* \$50K, as previous years' tax returns have shown other employees being paid handsomely (for instance, Ralph Jennings, a lowly Budget and Contracts Manager, received \$95,592 in 1998, and Susan Haikalis, Client Services Director was paid \$84,807 in 1997; I have not projected here Susan's and Ralph's likely 2001 salaries based on three- to four-years of annual raises of 6% each, as I'm tired and still writing this just hours before AIDS Walk 2001 is set to kick off this morning).

Despite cutting 10 employees between July 2000 and July 2001 from its headcount, SFAF's budget for employees (see Appendix D-4, page 1) is only being reduced a *paltry* \$146,000. A reasonable person would guess that *none* of the people earning over \$50,000 a year was let go. Otherwise, a reasonable person would have to conclude that despite letting 10 people go, the vast majority of the remaining 101 employees all received hefty pay raises. And these raises have all kicked in while SFAF has led the pack of non-profit agencies who have pushed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors into finding money in the Mayor's \$5.2 billion dollar to award non-profits holding City contracts a cost of living (COLA) pay raise for the non-profit employees. A reasonable person would also have to ask why non-profit

employees earning in excess of \$50K deserve *both* a hefty raise from SFAF *and* a cost of living increase from the City's General Fund, and what services were cut from the **City's** ailing Public Health budget to afford awarding SFAF's already well-paid employees another raise. The City is now being sued for cutting health care services improperly, and, amazingly, the Supervisor's are finding money to give people already making over \$50,000 a COLA raise; how bizarre is *that*, that we fund raises but not emergency rooms? Only in San Francisco! [Note: In a future piece I'll examine the issue of whether non-profit employees "need to be paid the going rate of their counterparts in the private or governmental sector, or they won't work for the institution," and other issues regarding non-profit salaries.]

[Note to the Board of Supervisors: before you pass the Mayor's budget, hang a "trigger" mechanism onto the COLA raises by requiring non-profit agencies contracting with the City to submit a list *annually* (and promptly) of *each* employee's salary. Be sure to run a computer cross-check against the IRS income tax database to make sure agencies like SFAF don't lie to you (err, feed you misinformation at some soirée or other) about the *true* salaries they are paying their respective staffs. And be sure to include an eligibility cut off requirement that *only* employees earning less than \$40,000 are eligible for the COLA raises. Think of the millions you can save San Francisco taxpayers annually with such a "trigger"! The extra General Funds saved from *not* giving COLA raises to non-profit employees already making greater than \$50K could then be redirected to direct primary care services, including those with HIV and AIDS. It might not be enough to convince the Coalition to Save Public Health to drop its lawsuit now in Superior Court against the City over possibly illegal health care cuts, but it couldn't hurt; maybe the City could then avert having the U.S. Office of Civil Rights find out about this current lawsuit.

The Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health has a very courageous doctor from Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center leading its efforts to restore budget cuts and staffing levels in the City's health care facilities to their rightful levels. Theresa Palmer, MD, along with another petitioner, filed a lawsuit in Superior Court on July 11, 2001 against four "defendants": the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; the San Francisco Health Commission, whose membership is appointed by the Mayor; the Department of Public Health; and Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of Public Health (only in his official capacity as a public servant.) Among other issues in the lawsuit, under § 1442.5 of the Health and Safety Code, county medical facilities have been closed, or have suffered a elimination or reduction in a number of health care services without due course. Other issues of the lawsuit are beyond the scope of this report, but the similarities between service cuts for people with HIV and AIDS by *both* the SFAF and DPH outlined in this report are eerily similar to many of the points raised in the Coalitions' 15-page Writ of Mandamus filed in Superior Court.]

Sorry for the digression. Finally, a reasonable person would have to ask if the Board of Supervisor's has already set, or will reconsider setting, salary level caps in the final COLA ordinance to purposefully withhold COLA increases from all non-profit agency employees who are *already* making in excess of \$50K? In particular, employees currently earning salaries such as what Lance Henderson and Pat Christen pull down at SFAF's helm do *not* deserve a COLA raise intended to help those at the *bottom* of the salary "barrel."

Tell *this* story to some of San Francisco's poorest, who, after having participated in AIDS Walk 2001, go back to jobs paying minimum wage, or less. Let's hope the Board of Supervisor's has a stock of toasters lying around to quell the outrage over another inequity foisted at the feet of the 3,281 people with HIV and AIDS languishing on the Housing Wait List awaiting placement.

### The Fundraising Expenses Explosion

SFAF's just-released FY '01-'02 budget shows it is expecting to increase its total budget by \$4.6 million to \$24.6 million. So is the new increases in the overall budget actually going to programs and services? Well, not quite; at least \$1.4 million (or 30.6% of the additional \$4.6 in spending) is reserved for fundraising expenses, bringing the fundraising budget to a total of just over \$6 million. However, we're right back to the "veracity" question, once again, as on page 7 of the Budget document, SFAF tells us that line items previously budgeted as Event Production expense "fundraising costs ... were budgeted in other line items this year." Which line items? SFAF doesn't tell us, but a reasonable person is left wondering whether SFAF is now, possibly illegally, listing fundraising costs under other "line items," possibly in a crude attempt to hide the true cost of its fundraising expenses orgy from the IRS and community accountability activists such as myself.

Much of the increased fundraising expenses is due to SFAF's latest fundraising scheme, the AIDS Marathon to be held in Hawaii this December. Why throw a marathon unless you can kick up event expenses by holding it on a lovely island miles and miles from San Francisco's accountability observer's "prying" eyes? Trouble is, again in the truth-telling veracity department, that neither the Budget document nor SFAF's promotional materials are quite truthful. Mr. MacDonald, have you noted this misinformation spewing forth from SFAF: Neither document mentions that the Marathon revenues are to be split amongst at least three organizations in three separate cities (San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.)? The problem here is that if the Marathon fails to generate the expected revenue, SFAF — and its clients by way of having *additional* service cuts imposed on them — will be shit out 'o luck, having spent this extra \$1.4 million on pushing the AIDS Marathon with no return-on-investment guarantee of getting additional revenue from this fundraising event. [Note to reader: if you're hell bent on participating in the AIDS Marathon but are concerned about where the funds you raise are going, and whether they'll be misspent, heed my advice to AIDS Walkers and donate *directly* to one of the beneficiary organizations the Marathon organizers are claiming will receive a portion of the proceeds. Don't be duped twice in one year!]

So who *is* the producer of the Marathon? It's listed as Walk-the-Talk Productions, but the man behind the Wizard of Oz's curtain is none other than one "Richard Zeichik," cohort of Craig Miller of Miller-Zeichik Events (MZA) fame, the same folks who see no problem with "sparing no expense" on AIDS Walk overhead. Zeichik, too, is an ardent, spare-no-expenses, zealot. Go figure! Come back and visit this web site next year; I'll be *sure* to write an analysis, based on information MZA is required to file with the California Attorney Generals' Registry of Charitable Trusts, concerning event overhead expenses for both AIDS Walk 2001 and the AIDS Marathon 2001. Should Petrelis expose the *truth* about AIDS Marathon funds being wastefully and woefully misspent, one wonders whether to expect a fresh article from Mr. MacDonald sniping once again at Michael Petrelis, with Alex miscasting, incorrectly I might add, the truth as "misinformation?"

### **The \$670,000+ (And Counting) Media Advertising Campaign**

I never did get a straight answer from SFAF last year on whether it had spent \$340,000 or \$360,000 on Phase I of the Assumptions media campaign. Then I discovered the misinformation (lie) of the additional \$61,000 it had paid to Cabra Diseno (see page 6); this may have pushed Phase I closer to \$420,000, *provided* SFAF hasn't provided me with other, additional disinformation about the *true*, and final, costs of Phase I, which misinformation seems not to trouble the *B.A.R.*, Alex MacDonald, or Tim Kingston over at the *San Francisco Frontiers Newsmagazine* one bit. Recently, Mr. Fraser at the *B.A.R.* was spoon fed what is probably a huge lie by SFAF: That the Assumptions Phase II budget ran a mere \$250,000. Though I've asked SFAF for a budget breakout of Phase II, they have failed to send it to me (more disinformation, wouldn't you say, Mr. MacDonald, by way of SFAF's failure to provide *any* information?). One wonders whether Mr. Fraser bothered asking SFAF for the Assumptions Phase II budget.

Knowing that Phase II has had far more appearances than had Phase I in the print media, and in and on MUNI billboards, and that there are a lot of different text "messages" and photo's being used in the various versions of the Phase II ads, a reasonable person can only doubt that Phase II's total cost has been cut by nearly half (from \$420K to \$250K). Nonetheless, if you believe SFAF is telling the truth about Phase II costs, the combined cost of this campaign has reached a cool minimum of \$670,000; this, while SFAF cuts services to *people* year in and year out. Of course, I'll be watching my mail box in May 2002 to receive the SFAF FY '00-'01 tax return to see, in part, how much *more* they paid Cabra Diseno, (in addition to the \$101K design fees paid during Phase I), and what portion any additional fees represents of the \$250,000 SFAF shoved down Mr. Fraser's throat as being the total costs of Phase II. Unless of course, Cabra Diseno drops off the top five highest-paid *contractors* section of the tax return. I guarantee you this: Once Pat Christen and Lance Henderson read this report, they'll be busy at work trying to find a way to ensure five other contractors are paid more than the folks at Cabra Diseno, if only to ensure Cabra Diseno drops off of the top five highest-paid contractors list, in order to foil me from discovering how much money was shoved into the pockets of the designers for Phase II. And, too sure of myself, I'm not taking bets on this one.

### **The Last Straw: FY '01-'02 \$705,677 Increase (to \$1,040,619) Travel and Staff Development Budget, and SFAF's New Global "Affiliate"**



SFAF's staff — now so accustomed to being “developed” and to being wined, dined, and traveled — eagerly looks forward to the \$373,334 increase, to a total of \$412 thousand (see appendix D-4), in their Travel and Staff Development budget — **but** that increase is just for employees in the Prevention Services department. In addition, the Dalmatians (err, employees) in the Funds Development (Fundraising) Department are also seeing *their* “Staff Development and Travel” budget skyrocket — from a more reasonable \$21,016 (in FY '00-'01) — by a whopping \$364,186, to the current year's budget of \$385,202. Just how many employees *do* they have in the Fund Development department? And just how many trips are each of them taking this year? Are airline tickets to Hawaii *that* expensive, or did they throw in a few trips to Europe for Ms. Christen?

[Slight digression here folks, bear with me: This previous question is not *rhetorical*: throughout the narrative of SFAF's budget for the upcoming year, it talks extensively of positioning itself to do *global* projects. Let's hope that if SFAF is awarded a global contract, possibly from its cohorts in an international “AIDS Trust,” (whose full name I've misplaced temporarily), which Trust Pat's clone, Sandy Thurman (Bill Clinton's AIDS Czar), is now **CEO** of (Sandy having failed to get her wished for State-department envoyship to the World, as AIDS Czar of the Planet), that SFAF doesn't start axing (that's *chopping*, as in cutting, services folks) away on a *global* AIDS and HIV prevention budget; we don't want them doing so woefully a crappy job of prevention in Africa as they have performed in San Francisco! Take note Africa: Sandy didn't do such a hot job with prevention cross the U.S., given the fact that the U.S. still has 40,000 new infections a year, and has for the past several years; that rate of new infections has remained essentially flat,

Ms. Thurman's envoyship was blocked by the State department, in part, because she lacked career service and credentials in the diplomatic corps, as her route to Washington began at the Atlanta ASO, AID Atlanta, where she was as hated by the gay community, just as her clone, Pat Christen is reviled in San Francisco's gay community. Because Sandy's new job title is “CEO,” a reasonable person can conclude that she's graduated from the non-profit sector, to federal civil service, and now to a financial institution (“Trust”) of some sort, and is at its helm. What is truly frightening about this turn of events (wrought in part by Dubya's illegal ascendancy to the White House by way of the Supremes currently sitting in the U.S. Supreme Court and Dubya's change in U.S. AIDS Czarship), is that Sandy's “Trust” may well be a financial conglomerate between banks possibly funded, in part, by the pharmaceutical industry, and the Trusts' activities may well be handled by a Swiss bank.

Note that Ms. Thurman's specialty while under Clinton as his AIDS Czar, was that of Public Policy. Sandy's Public Policy friends at SFAF have been budgeted for \$328K more for “Public Policy” than it SFAF's Board budgeted for “Treatment Education, Support, and Advocacy” in FY '01-'02 (\$1,146,190 vs. \$817,636, respectively). Watch out Africa: If these two, or the SFAF/UCSF/Shanti/Project Inform conglomerate gets its grubby hands on *your* funds, you may end up in the same spot of spending more on Public Policy than you will on Treatment Education and Treatment Support!

What is more frightening, is that throughout the narrative in SFAF's just-released budget for FY '01-'02, SFAF mentions multiple times it is pursuing forming a new “global affiliate organization” (in addition to its affiliations with UCSF and the HPP) to focus on treatment access and vaccine strategies in the developing world. I have three warnings here:

- **Africa: Watch out!** SFAF has done a piss-poor job providing efficacious prevention interventions, client services, treatment education, counseling sessions, *and* housing vouchers in San Francisco, given what DPH callously describes as “sub-Saharan” levels of new HIV infections in our City. If SFAF's accomplishments have been so stellar, why do we have so-called out-of-control prevalence and incidence rates of both HIV and AIDS in San Francisco? Try asking anyone who has ever been handed a lapel pin featuring a battery-operated flashing light, a beach hat, or a tee shirt — all emblazoned with the *Gay Life* logo — in the name of prevention education by SFAF staff at its events and workshops; ask SFAF's clients whether *they* view all this merchandise as efficacious prevention interventions and just how useful it is to their lives (or wardrobes). Or, ask any of the 3,281 people languishing on the Housing Wait List what *they* think of SFAF's cutting housing vouchers and vital prevention services year in and year out. Africa: You may want to turn a cold shoulder when Pat next flies over there with her purse full of snake oil, and a shit load of those tee shirts, beach hats and lapel pins! Look at it this way, Africa: Given ostensibly-rising rising HIV prevalence *and* incidence rates in San Francisco, and given the diversion of resources from people with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco that SFAF

and its *current* “partner affiliates” have pulled for *well over five years*, are you *really* sure you want Sandy and/or Pat pulling the same stunts in Africa?

Africa: Are you prepared to have Pat and/or Sandy get their grubby little hands on that meager \$200 million the U.S. has kicked in towards the \$10 billion purported to be needed to fight the so-called AIDS epidemic in Africa. Africa: Are you prepared to have MZA Events, Palotta Teamworks, and/or Walk-the-Talk productions fleecing the very pockets of governments who belatedly kick in to this \$10 billion fund, or from funds raised at an “African AIDS Walk”? These three *for-profit* fundraising companies have proven year in and year out that they prefer to skim “event overhead” money off the top of the funds raised, funds which were intended to assist people with HIV and AIDS. Africa: Are you *sure* you want them doing the same in Africa under Pat Christen’s, Sandy Thurman’s, or SFAF’s “global” leadership?

Africa: if Sandy’s new “Trust,” or Pat’s new “global initiative” comes banging on your door, foisting UCSF’s favorite prevention intervention (circumcision) on all of Africa, you might want to first read Robert S. Van Howe’s (MD, FAAP) definitive meta-analysis (at <http://www.cirp.org/library/disease/HIV/vanhowe4/>), which disproves UCSF’s claims of this “intervention’s” efficacy. If anyone comes along asking you to trade snake-oil snake skins for your foreskins, tell them to go packing! And if you see a line item in one of their HIV/AIDS prevention budgets titled “Mass circumcision of African males,” remember that the American Academy of Pediatrics now opposes such barbaric acts, despite the many moiles in San Francisco pushing this snake oil only to fatten their wallets and pay for their wives’ new Mercedes.

Do you trust that Pat, Sandy, SFAF, or UCSF will *not* divert your limited resources by cutting services in Africa once they get their hands on *your* funds, in order to give Pat yet another raise, or to host soirées at the Zao Noodle Bar to meet the advertisement designers from the public relations firm hired to design ads for use in Africa? If I were you and saw either of these clones coming your direction, I’d tell them to go back to their own backyards; keep them a continent or two away from you! Before they fleece Africa, too, tell them “Hands off Africa!” Don’t worry, they have *plenty* in their travel budgets for a return ticket home.

- **San Francisco AIDS Walkers: Watch your wallets!** Much of your AIDS Walk funds may be diverted to Africa, rather than to San Mateo or Alameda counties! To be fair, the narrative in this budget document *claims* it will not divert funds from its mission in San Francisco, but I wouldn’t bank on it, given SFAF’s track record with shipping off all that money to buy legislative favors in Washington, D.C.!
- **San Francisco AIDS Foundation Clients and Donors: Watch SFAF’s Investment Securities Portfolio!** If you fail in this task, and continue to fail to show up at SFAF Board Meetings, huge portions of SFAF’s \$2.6 million in Investment Securities, and other portions of its \$7.9 million in Net Assets may well find their way into Sandy’s “Trust” accounts in a Swiss Bank! If you think the fleecing outlined in this report is scary, wait till they announce just *who* this new organization is, as they “get closer to forming this affiliate organization during the next 12 months.” (Source: SFAF FY ’01–’02 Budget, page 4.) Stay tuned, folks; just as soon as I find out who SFAF’s new affiliate organization is, I’ll be *sure* to update this report.]

Sorry for the digression, folks; back to the discussion of travel budgets.

Possibly holding the AIDS Marathon in remote Hawaii has something to do with this combined increase of \$705,677 across both the Fundraising *and* Prevention Services’ travel budgets; the two departments’ ’01–’02 travel budget (including the \$705K increase), now stands at a staggering combined total of \$1,040,619 (see Appendix D-4)! Did SFAF do all this cutting of housing vouchers and other prevention services to ensure \$1 million was available for airline tickets? This sad cross-year comparison of the travel budgets shows, truthfully, Mr. MacDonald, that SFAF’s priorities are glaringly out of synch with the needs of its multi-diagnosed, and/or homeless “priority” clients, who SFAF claims to have identified as its “priority” through oft-repeated “needs assessments” and “focus groups,” which it has performed *ad nauseum* through diverted, great expense.

A reasonable person also wonders just how many additional conferences are being held around the United States this year that will be attended *en masse* by SFAF’s staff, and just how “necessary” this travel is. And why travel is taking priority over housing. SFAF sent a virtual *truckload* of its staff to Durban, South Africa for the recent conference held

there; with a mere 101 Dalmatians (err, staff) remaining in its employ, just how many travel trips are *each* of SFAF's employees taking this year?

If you're not outraged reading from the last section subtitle to here, read it again.

Just what kind of new programs is SFAF cooking up which required raising its Program Development budget by a whopping \$1.3 *million*, to a total of \$1.94 million in 2001–2002 (see appendix D-4)? That expense was held in check in FY 2000–2001 at a more reasonable \$550 *thousand*. How much of this \$1.94 million is going to managing contracts vs. developing new programs? And why do “new programs” cost so much to “develop”? Note that this \$1.94 million is only one *line item* under the *column* of “Programs and Contract Management”; the column totals a staggering \$2.63 million, which is *double* the \$1.3 million it budgeted for Community Information and Education!

If you're not outraged reading the preceding paragraph, read it again.

Between the \$703K increase in travel and the \$1.3M increase in program development costs, a cool \$2 million may be being flushed down the toilet, while at the same time, SFAF is cutting housing vouchers by nearly \$131 *thousand*. Of this \$2 million, could SFAF's Board of Director's *not* have required that SFAF staff find *some* “economies of scale” to find a way to save those housing vouchers before they unanimously voted “Yes” on June 28, 2001 to approve this cut in housing services? They *unanimously* approved this budget cut with nary a peep from a single Board Member objecting, and simultaneously *unanimously* approved the additional \$2 million in outrageous expenses.

The \$2 million budget increase (for Travel combined with Program Development), plus the \$1.4 million Fundraising increase totals \$3.4 million in *new additional* spending across these three categories *in one year*, between the '00-'01 to '01-'02 Budgets; this \$3.4 million increase represents 70% of the additional \$4.6 million added to bring the total Budget to \$24.6 million for the current year. Since these three areas alone account for 70% in new spending, you can be *positive* that programs and services have been cut from other areas to afford this largesse. Alternatively, the *total* budgets this year for Public Policy, Program Development, and Fundraising (\$1.146, \$2.626, and \$6.052 million, respectively) totals a whopping \$8.4 million (or fully 34% of the \$24.6 million budget), which stands in stark contrast (read, “double”) the \$4.1 million SFAF is budgeting for Housing Programs. Could SFAF's Board of Directors *not* find the measly \$131 *thousand* “needle” in that \$3.4 million haystack to have saved the cuts in Housing Vouchers? (Africa: Are you paying attention here to the vagaries in priority setting by an organization who wants to “go global”?)

If you're not outraged reading the preceding two paragraphs, read them again.

Then, pick up the phone, or write a letter to Lonnie Payne, and demand change at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, before we're all fleeced to death! AIDS isn't over, but the way SFAF spends AIDS Walk funds willy nilly, a reasonable person might think ethical spending of *limited* AIDS resources *is* [over].

Oh, and tell them to stop squirreling money into its \$2.6 million Investment Securities portfolio in that “Swiss Bank,” and into its \$7.9 Net Assets, and to start spending it on *people* with HIV and AIDS; you know, the people SFAF, ostensibly, would have the IRS ... and us ... believe are its “priority” clients.

### SFAF's Bait-and-Switch Mission

Pat Christen's letter at the front of the program booklet is also an outrage: since when is cutting housing vouchers and prevention programs part of the “Funds raised by AIDS Walk have assured that thousand of individuals affected by this horrible epidemic are served by the live-saving programs of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation”? This isn't merely disinformation on her part, its spin control to the *n<sup>th</sup>* degree; these people aren't being “served”; they're being fleeced!

On a separate page, SFAF would have us believe that its “HIV prevention efforts focus on those communities at highest risk of infection in San Francisco.” If that is the case, why are they sending more money to Washington than to Marin County, or for that matter to ASO's in San Francissco County? More disinformation, you can't say you're “focusing” your prevention efforts when at the same time you're cutting back prevention programs right and left!

Beyond *that* disinformation, while it blows its horn about focusing on the “communities” at highest risk, what they neglect to tell you about is *this* bait and switch: one of their “ends statements” (mission statement) reads ...

“People with disabling HIV, those with low and very low income, those who are multi-diagnosed, or those who are homeless or imminently homeless are given priority.”

They can't have it both ways: many of the people at highest risk include gay and bisexual men who, not multiply diagnosed by virtue of not using injection drugs, still face some of the highest risks, and who, indeed represent 77% of AIDS cases in the City. At the same time they ostensibly give "priority" to the homeless or marginally housed, with its other hand, SFAF slashes housing programs and prevention services. As well, cutting counseling sessions targeted to high-risk gay men because simply because they do not meet "priority eligibility criteria," these clients will surely lead them to even higher-risk behaviors. Morally, and ethically, this sucks, particularly when we're slapped in the face with Pat's annual salary, and the current Staff Development and Travel Budget, and the \$1.4 million increase in the fundraising budget. Were they to get a grip on "economies of scale," SFAF would have plenty of cash laying around to fund both their "priority" clients, *and* other high risk groups currently seeing these massive service cuts.

## ***Section 4: New Realities Behind San Francisco's Twisted HIV/AIDS "Model of Care"***

### **The World's "Home to the Best HIV Data" (San Francisco) Snake Oil: "Prayer"**

Along with the cuts in services brought to you by our friends at SFAF, word on the street is that cuts are coming to San Franciscans relying on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), despite the fact that Representative Nancy Pelosi sponsored legislation that ultimately brought additional funding to San Francisco last fall after the Ryan White CARE Act battle, which additional money was to ensure federal AIDS funding to San Francisco remained stable. Apparently, despite this cash infusion, the forthcoming possible cuts in ADAP services are part and parcel of the San Francisco "model of care."

Representative Pelosi, and Senators Feinstein and Kennedy, among many other legislators, were hoodwinked by DPH and SFAF during the Ryan White CARE Act Reauthorization process last summer by San Francisco AIDS bureaucrats collectively screaming that *any* CARE Act funding formula changes — designed to implement *equitable* sharing of CARE funds throughout *all* areas of the country — because San Francisco's "systems of care were at risk of being 'destablized'" was pure spin control. While SFAF's management henchmen have been busy chopping housing programs and prevention services programs, and while DPH and the City are being sued for cuts in health care services, San Francisco's "model of care" is rapidly falling apart on its own, under the questionable leadership of Dr. Katz and Pat Christen.

If you've made it to this point of this report, and if all of the foregoing hasn't been enough to yank your last nerve, here's the snake oil:

That's right folks, Dubya's so-called "faith-based" approach to compassionately-conservative care has reached the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and, simultaneously, San Francisco, which Mitch Katz, Director of [Public] Health, and Mike Shriver, the Mayor's *purported* AIDS "Czar," tout as "home to the best HIV data" on the planet and home of the San Francisco "model of care." (Forget for a moment that the citizenry expects San Francisco to be home to the best *primary care services*, rather than data, despite the \$2.3 million-and-counting price tag of the Reggie database, incapable as it appears in providing *any data*.) The newest component, in the arsenal of HIV interventions available in San Francisco's "model of care" arsenal, via an NIH-funded UCSF research project, is "distance healing and prayer."

[Another slight digression: Dr. Katz prefers leaving the word "Public" out of his job title; a reasonable person, noting that the "public" has been forsaken from his title, would have to weigh whether San Francisco's public (population) has been intentionally forsaken in the bargain, in his reengineering of the "San Francisco model of care". A reasonable person can see clearly that the core issues of the lawsuit now pending against the City deals with many instances of the public health system having been forsaken under his reign.]

Dropping in at the AIDS Office this week to pick up a document I requested under a California FOIA Immediate Disclosure Request, I discovered that NIH is now funding this so-called *research* study in "distance healing and prayer" for people who are HIV positive or have AIDS — as if we have a new *snake-oil* remedy for curing AIDS and HIV: prayer! Seems like the "newest treatment for HIV comes in a powder" marketing gimmick foisted on San Franciscans by the Healing Waters organization in April (which powder turned out, luckily, not to be cocaine, but *wilderness adventures* skiing down powdery mountain tops), has now been *supplemented* — not *supplanted* — by the more recent NIH-funded prayer experiments-in-HIV-prevention-intervention.

[Note: Surprise! SFAF's new Development Director (fundraising whiz) comes to his new new duties at SFAF direct from a stint at Healing Waters. Don't be surprised, however, to discover SFAF is cooking up a strategic alliance with Healing Waters, possibly in order to divert AIDS Walk funds for hosting wilderness retreats for the folks over at WORLD, and others. If the prayers experiment bombs in preventing additional seroconversions, SFAF can always fall back on its other San Francisco model of care snake oil, the wilderness retreats.]

Unfortunately, if you're over 65, or under 18, or if you don't speak English, God has forsaken you and you can't enroll. Shockingly, we learn God is not multilingual and ignores Tagalog, Spanish, Cantonese, and Eubonics, along with those other culturally-sensitive languages mandated by law of which the U.S. Office of Civil Rights is so keenly interested in. If it "ain't" in English, God, in all her infinite wisdom, is duty-bound by NIH funding restrictions to turn a deaf ear if you approach her with the wrong language, no matter how fervently

you pray. This makes the Muslims in town most unhappy. And our senior citizens are most unhappy that the UCSF's so-called "Community Consortium," are ageist to the core, discriminating by keeping prayer away from those over 65.

Possibly, clients hurting for the housing vouchers SFAF just recently *cut*, will be keenly interested in enrolling in this so-called "study," so that they can work the system and collect the three \$25 "incentives" for participating in this so-called research. How *twisted* is it that in order make up for SFAF's housing *vouchers* cut and the City's proposed housing *units* cuts, people have to go pray to get their hands on this \$75 "incentive" (but only if they can speak English)? What kind of system of care is this?

Methinks, possibly, God, wherever she is, will undoubtedly hear a lot of *skewed* prayers: First, there's the language issue skewing what God can listen to. Then there's the problem of whether the prayers, being cash-driven, are prayers from the heart, or from the pocketbook. Which *skewed* prayers are these? Prayers skewed both language barriers and by age (lets not forget the age restrictions, as if those over 65 and nearing death don't chat up God more frequently, or fervently), or skewed by those desperately needing housing *and* prevention services praying both for health *and* that San Francisco's "model of care" wonks will eventually come to their senses, as in: "Please, God, get me *off* the Housing Wait List and into housing so I can end being homeless."

Maybe we should all enroll in this snake-oil prayer research, and begin fervently praying for a change in leadership at both the Department of Public Health and over at SFAF, so that the "systems of care" and the San Francisco "model of care" get a much needed, and immediate transfusion of "new 'leadership' blood"!

### **What If They Gave an Epidemic and All the Stop AIDS Project Volunteers Quit, *En Masse*, in Protest?**

What if they gave a war, a pandemic, or an epidemic, and no volunteers showed up, or the ones who did finally revolted and quit in disgust? Astute observers have noted the disappearance, a good six months back, of all those funny young men in their red research lab jackets: Another, "only in San Francisco!" Remember our friends in the red baseball jackets from the Stop AIDS Project, recipients of untold millions in City prevention dollars? Word on the street has it that, *en masse*, its entire cadre of "volunteers" *miffed*, for one reason or another, up and resigned. All of them! Seems they had their *own* squabble with the Stop AIDS *paid* employees. Many people are *very* unhappy with word on the street and a mention in the press that a certain *non*-needle exchange outreach worker totes fresh syringes around, dispensing them despite lacking authority or permission to do so. "Sorry, I'm fresh out of the work I'm *supposed* to be doing, but how'd you like some candy and a clean needle, little girl?" May have made a lot of volunteers disillusioned enough to ditch their starry-eyed optimism and forsake stopping AIDS.

How ironic is this: Stop AIDS volunteers have stopped their own Stop AIDS Project dead in its tracks.

The Stop AIDS project has been a key component in the San Francisco DPH's-finest "data sets," with its much-touted "street-based convenience samples" billed as so-called "prevention interventions." I've got news for you folks: Stop AIDS simply *vanished* six months ago, abandoning its HIV prevention efforts on Polk Street, as if God, hearing all those prayers, simply wiped HIV and AIDS as a problem off of Polk Street altogether. Observers have noted that within the past month at least two of the Stop AIDS Projects' *five* offices have barred (shut) their doors, hung up a "gone fishing" sign, and simply closed shop (ever wonder why *one* organization *needed* five separate locations in spitting distance from the others, and all easy accessible from our public transportation system?). Unhappily, the two offices Stop Aids abandoned were its Castro office and its Polk office at Polk and California Streets. That's right, no more need to conduct all those DPH- and CDC-funded, street-based interviews in either the Polk or the Castro. Along with abandoning the offices, they've abandoned their clip boards and given up on accumulating all those street-based interviews which had been a cornerstone of DPH's "data sets" used in the still-not-released final unabridged HIV Consensus Report. Is the Stop AIDS Project telling us that "AIDS is over!" on Polk Street, or just its prevention outreach is over?

The Stop AIDS data being such a linchpin supporting the already-wobbly HIV Consensus report, as the "gone fishing" signs went up, a reasonable person could imagine Mike Shriver shrieking "Wait! Resources are at stake!," as he did during one of the HIV Consensus Meeting 2001 gathering when a contingent of African-American researcher's stormed out to protest the flaky "data sets" with their gaps in demographics! Poor, Shriver; the Stop AIDS Project's abandonment of its data-CDC-funded gathering has sent an 8-point Richter shockwave through Shriver's data sets, toppling its Winchester House logic straight to the ground!

As DPH foists funny data years on us in years hence, know that it will be skewed, lacking the Stop AIDS so-called population-based samples: Having been cited for years as part of the 28-study "matrix" underlying the (misinformation) in the yet-to-be-released HIV Consensus Report, the "data," itself, has taken a cut, in that the trend lines will now show a gap in the amount of survey's conducted, not only on Polk Street, but in our estimable Castro Street clone area, as well. Maybe DPH will come up with some mathematical voodooistic Oz wizardry "algorithm" to fill the new data gaps (both in numbers of survey conducted, responses, and, most importantly, demographics) resulting from this *en masse*, and unfortunate, turn of events with the men-in-red volunteers' disappearance.

If the STOP AIDS folks have abandoned Polk Street *en masse*, has God? Is AIDS "over" on Polk Street, and suddenly, there's no further reason to continue street-based prevention interventions in this near-Tenderloin neighborhood?

Given the Stop AIDS Projects current woes, where shall San Franciscans now find the rubbers Stop AIDS had been passing out. This writer has noted for months that the usually-full jars of rubbers up and down Polk street are usually near empty, having shriveled up like a penis awaiting another falsely-touted HIV prevention intervention: Circumcision.

One also has to wonder what has become of the \$20,000 awarded the Stop AIDS Project from AIDS Walk 2000 funds? Since they set out on their "gone fishing" expedition, did they return any unused portion of the AIDS Walk grant award to SFAF so that SFAF might restore some of those cut housing vouchers? What about Ryan White CARE Act, CDC, and/or City General funds? (Supe's: are you paying attention here?) If they left town without fulfilling contractual obligations, have other unused funds been returned to their rightful owners?

[Note: In the money-returned department, I have attempted for now 13 months to uncover whether SFAF returned funds to the City's General Fund for having canceled workshops and events during FY '00-'01 when it held a City contract but was unable to locate facilitators to lead some events and workshops. Neither SFAF, DPH, nor the Board of Supervisor's have answered this key question; services were cut, and nobody can give me a straight answer on whether the Contract Compliance Officer at DPH monitoring SFAF's compliance on that contract had even attempted to recover funds from SFAF for failure to perform contractual obligations.]

Stay tuned to future reports, in which I'll examine *additional* issues surrounding the "San Francisco 'Model of Care' " being foisted on the rest of the nation as the best-practices-in-HIV-healthcare path to emulate.

### **How You Can Help ...**

Here's five things that would help enormously: First, stop endorsing your AIDS Walk checks to SFAF; instead, make them out, and mail them directly, to one of the more reputable beneficiary organizations. In that way, you'll be *sure* your money will go where you want it too. Personally, I recommend the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), which provides direct financial assistance to people with HIV and AIDS. As well, AEF instituted a new program, the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, providing direct financial assistance to people with breast cancer.

Second, regardless of which agency you choose to support, put restrictions on what the funds can be used for. If you're opposed to any of their program services mix, but support other work the agency is doing, place restrictions, by way of an accompanying letter, on how they can use the funds.

Third, start attending SFAF Board Meetings. You'd be amazed what goes on there.

Fourth, take action and write or phone SFAF. One lonely voice does not a village make; it takes a village of voices to get through to SFAFs', and its Boards', thick management skulls.

Finally, if you would like to contribute reports to this web site that you have researched concerning fleecing of people with AIDS and HIV by other ASO's, or inside information you may possess about SFAF, please e-mail a short outline of your research or report to [info@thelastwatch.com](mailto:info@thelastwatch.com).