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*GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS 2003 ANNUAL REPORT*

*LAST YEAR, GMHC  
SERVED*

1 IN 5

*NEW YORKERS LIVING WITH  
HIV & AIDS.*

**GMHC**

*GMHC plays a vital role in the lives of thousands of men,  
women and children in New York City who are affected by HIV & AIDS.*

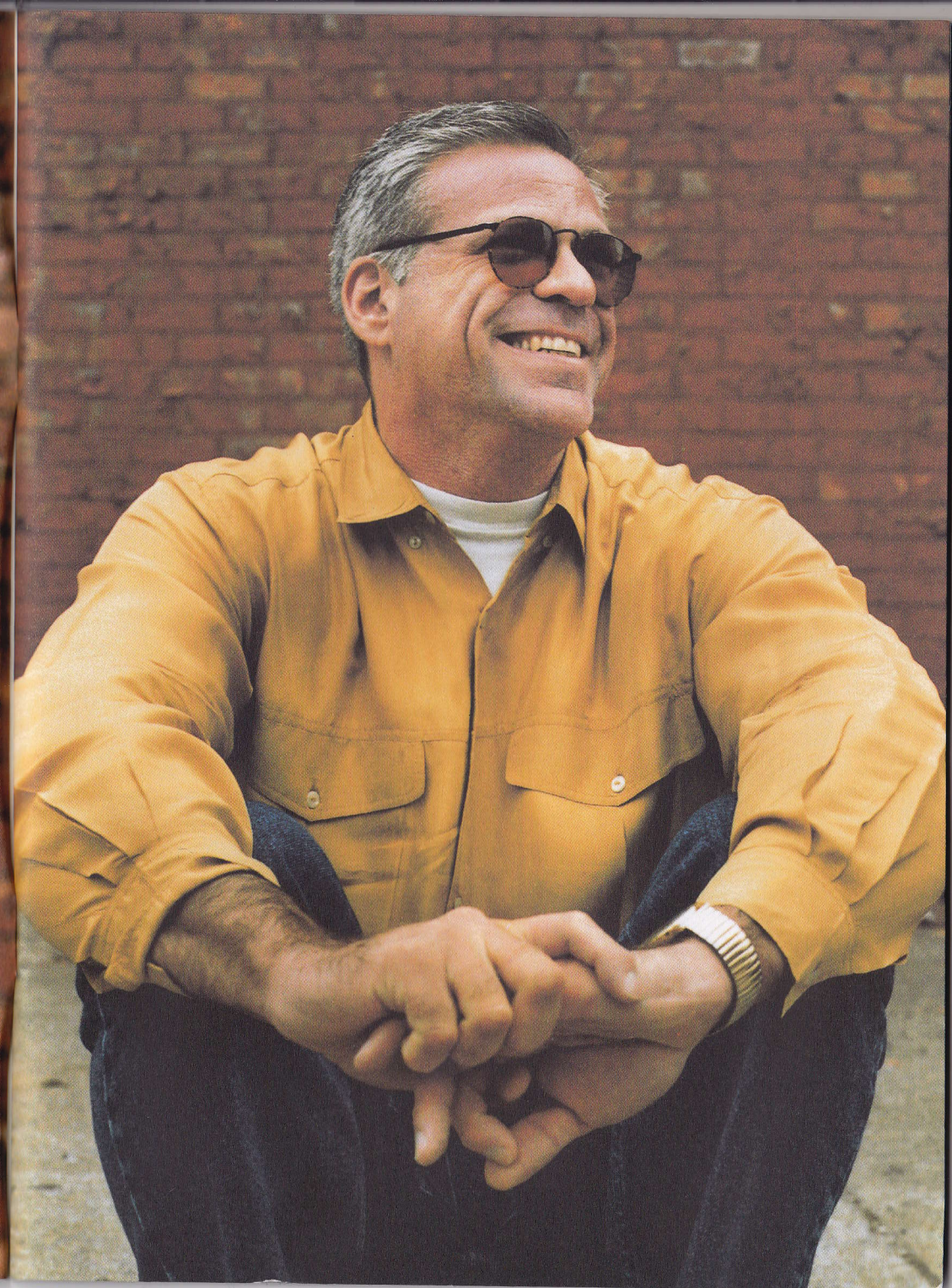
*HERE ARE THREE OF THEIR STORIES.*



\*\*\*  
*HOWARD ORLICK, WITH GMHC SINCE 1996.*

*MY NAME IS*  
**HOWARD**  
*AND I AM NOT ALONE.*

*Last year, 63% of our clients identified themselves as gay,  
lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.*

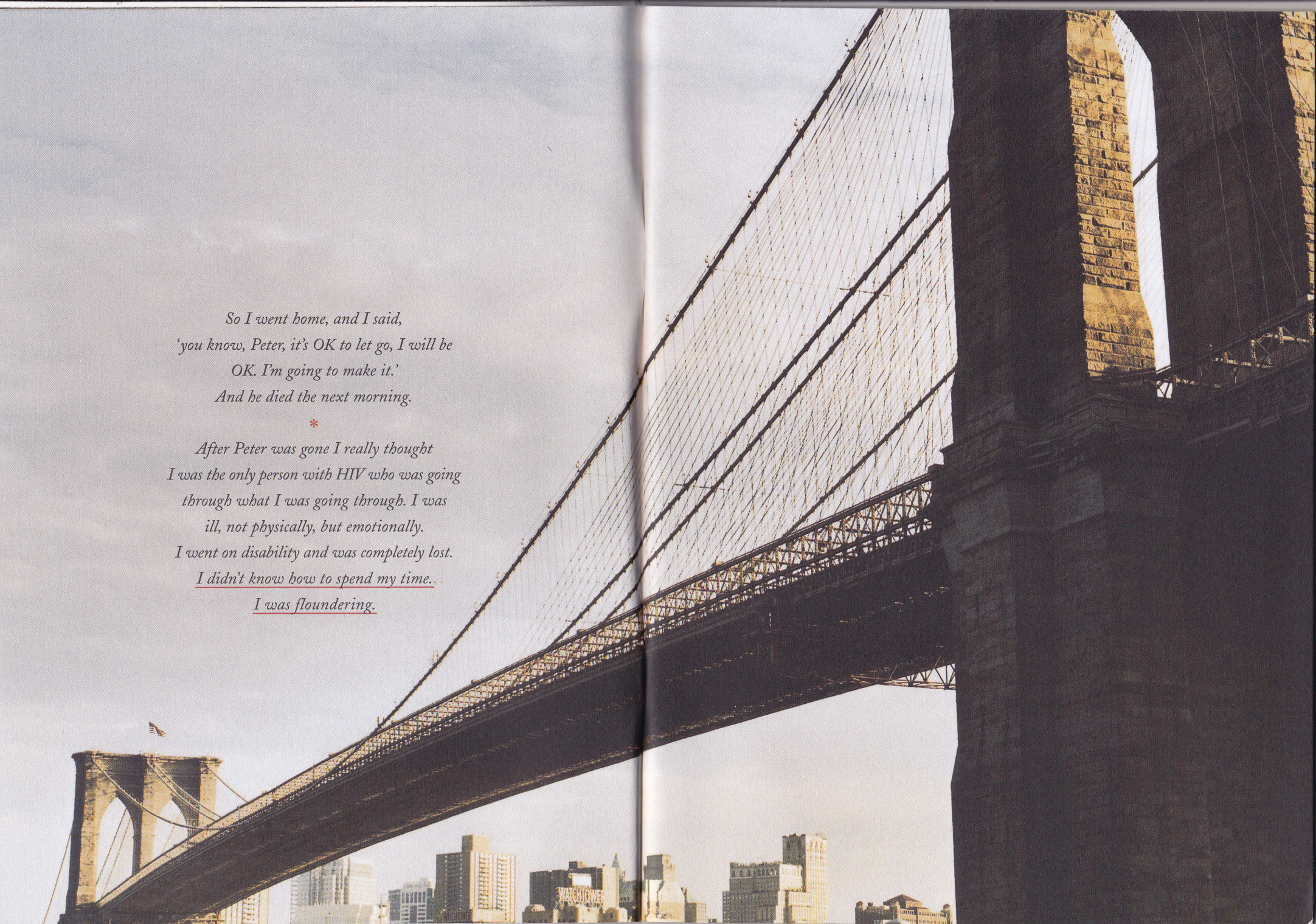






IN 1995 MY PARTNER PETER WAS  
EXTREMELY SICK—HE  
HAD DEMENTIA AND DIDN'T KNOW  
WHERE HE WAS. I WAS HAVING A  
VERY DIFFICULT TIME CARING FOR  
HIM SO *I CAME TO GMHC FOR  
ITS CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP.*  
THERE I LEARNED THAT  
SOMETIMES OUR PARTNERS NEED  
TO KNOW THAT IT'S OK TO  
LET GO, THAT WE'LL BE OK, THAT  
WE'LL SURVIVE AND  
WILL BE ABLE TO GO ON.





*So I went home, and I said,  
'you know, Peter, it's OK to let go, I will be  
OK. I'm going to make it.'  
And he died the next morning.*

*\**

*After Peter was gone I really thought  
I was the only person with HIV who was going  
through what I was going through. I was  
ill, not physically, but emotionally.  
I went on disability and was completely lost.  
I didn't know how to spend my time.  
I was floundering.*



*I STARTED USING GMHC'S MEALS PROGRAM, NOT SO MUCH FOR THE MEALS (THOUGH THEY'RE GREAT), BUT FOR THE SOCIALIZATION. A COUPLE OF DAYS A WEEK I HAD PEOPLE TO BE WITH, THAT UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS GOING THROUGH, WHO HAD ALSO LOST LOVED ONES. I REALIZED THAT I WAS NOT ALONE. GMHC HELPED ME FIND MY WAY, AND GAVE ME A PLACE TO LEARN WHAT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.*











*Howard Smith*

*In the beginning all I did was take.*

*Now I try and give a little back.*

*I do volunteer work for GMHC. I go into different areas, mainly schools, and talk about living with HIV and AIDS.*

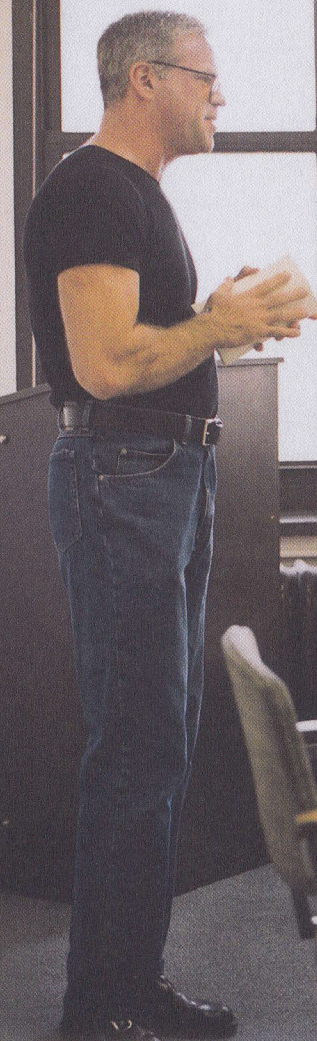
*One time a girl raised her hand in the middle of my presentation and asked,*

*'Isn't this really hard for you to do?'*

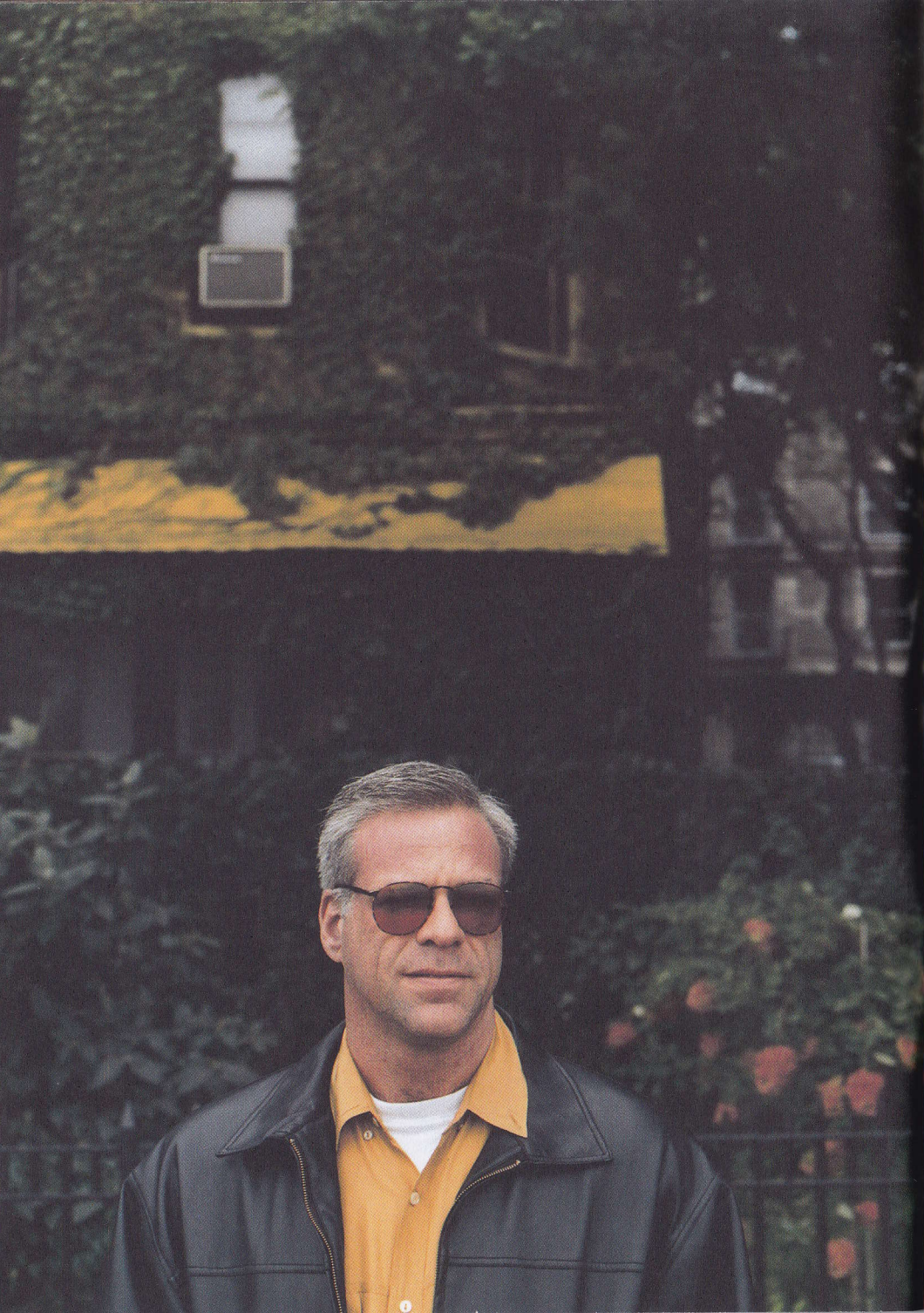
*And I said, 'Yeah, it's very difficult to stand up here and say I'm a gay man with AIDS.'*

*Steven Diamond*

*455 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
between 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 Shop!*







*'BUT I'M DOING IT FOR YOU. IF I  
CAN PREVENT ONE OF YOU FROM  
BECOMING INFECTED,  
OR CONVINCE ONE OF YOU TO GET  
TESTED, OR HELP ONE OF  
YOU WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE  
TO GET TREATMENT—THEN MY  
JOB IS SUCCESSFUL.' THE  
LIGHT BULB WENT OFF IN HER  
HEAD AND SHE JUST GOT IT.  
AND IT WAS THE MOST INCREDIBLE  
EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.*

\* \* \*



\* \* \*

*GMHC SUSTAINS AND ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE  
OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS*

Like Howard, many of our clients receive multiple benefits from the extraordinary array of services that GMHC provides, benefits that sustain and enhance the quality of their lives. In addition to the Meals Program, which serves as the cornerstone of the 12th floor (our busiest client-use floor), clients can access free services—like theatre tickets, therapeutic massage, and job training—that increase and enhance their interaction not only with others, but with the greater community as well. ¶ The fellowship developed between clients not only helps alleviate feelings of isolation, it also acts as an informal resource directory to other services in the agency. Clients may tell each other, for example, about one of our many support groups, like our visually-impaired group, caregivers group, or the recently-diagnosed group. ¶ Many of our clients desire an opportunity to give back to the community. Through the Terry K. Watanabe Volunteer and Work Center, a clearinghouse of training and volunteer opportunities, clients can become a part of the GMHC Speakers Bureau, work on the GMHC Hotline, train to be a buddy, or even volunteer to help with AIDS Walk. ¶ GMHC places a paramount value on the quality of life of our clients. We work diligently to provide for their physical *and* emotional needs. We want our clients to know that they are not alone, that there is hope, and that they will always have a respectful, safe, and supportive place to turn.

\* \* \*

*GMHC AT-A-GLANCE*

*GMHC served over 15,000 New Yorkers in Fiscal Year 2003,  
an almost 10% increase from the previous year.*

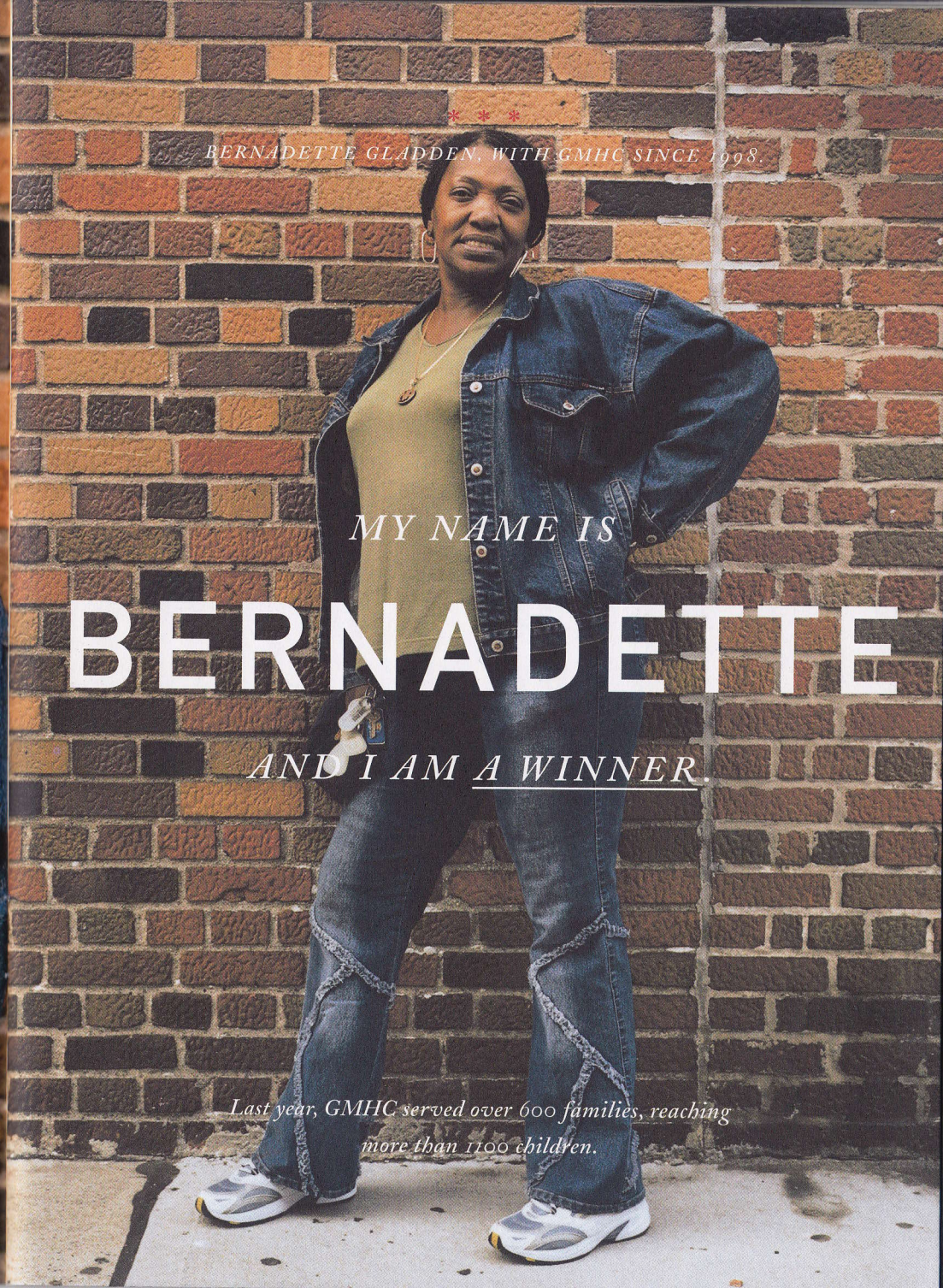
*GMHC launched the training and transition-to-work component of the  
Terry K. Watanabe Volunteer and Work Center which includes  
opportunities for further education, vocational training, computer skill  
application, college scholarships, and on- and off-site internships.*

*GMHC responded to poverty, hunger and isolation through our successful  
meals program. The Peter Krueger Dining Room continued to  
operate above capacity—providing clients and families with over 80,000  
nutritious meals last year, as well as essential social support.*

*For many of our clients,  
GMHC provides the only hot meal of their day.*

\* \* \*






\*\*\*  
BERNADETTE GLADDEN, WITH GMHC SINCE 1998.

MY NAME IS  
**BERNADETTE**  
AND I AM A WINNER.

*Last year, GMHC served over 600 families, reaching more than 1100 children.*

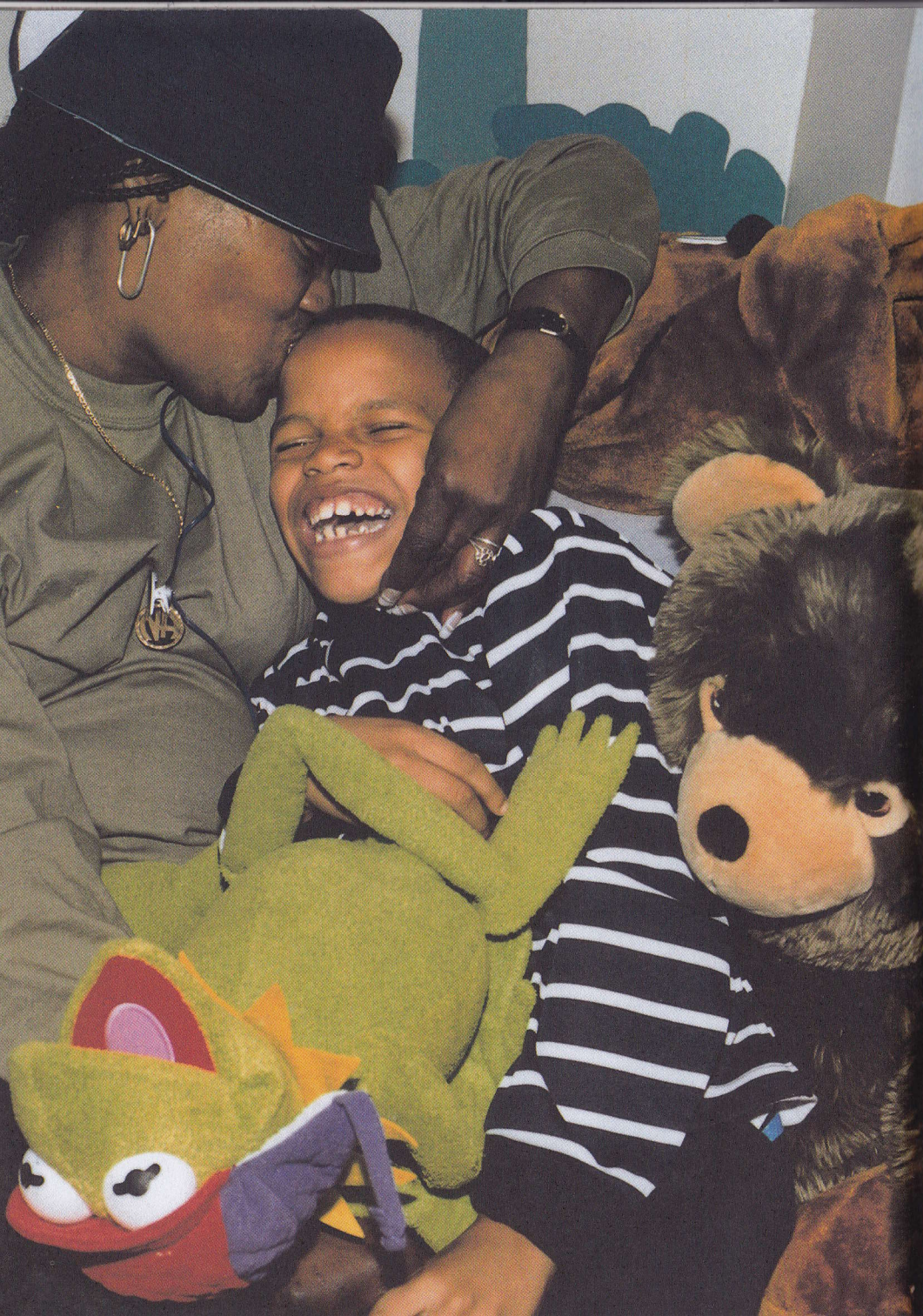




*When I first found out I was positive  
I don't know how I made it. I was worried  
about how this one is going to  
find out, or that one is going to find out.*

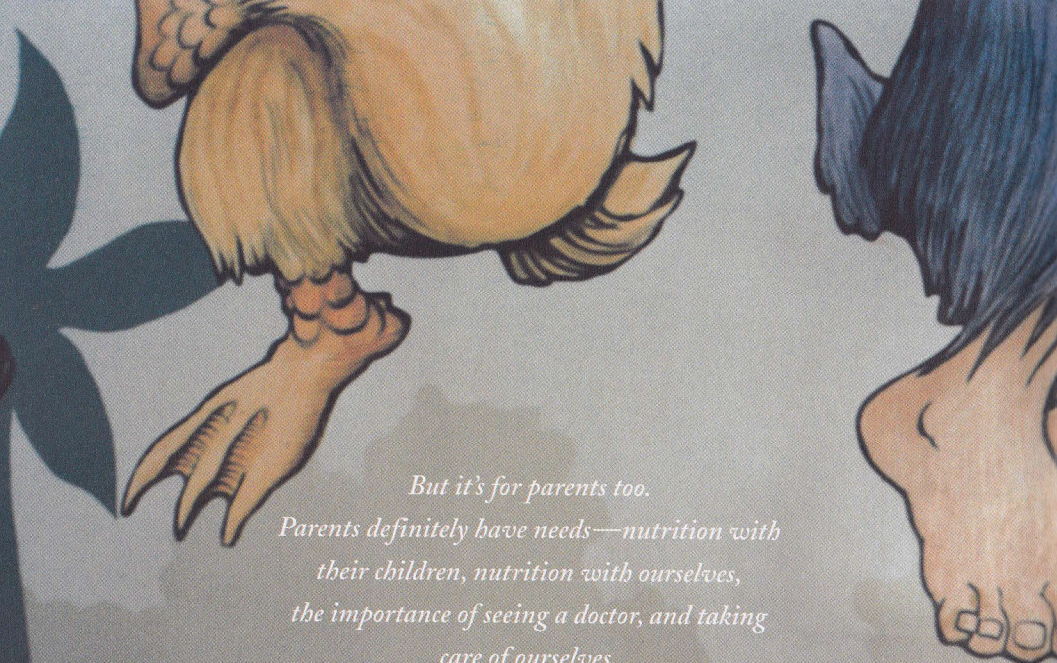
*Mostly, what I really cared about  
was my son; I didn't want them to snatch  
him from me.*





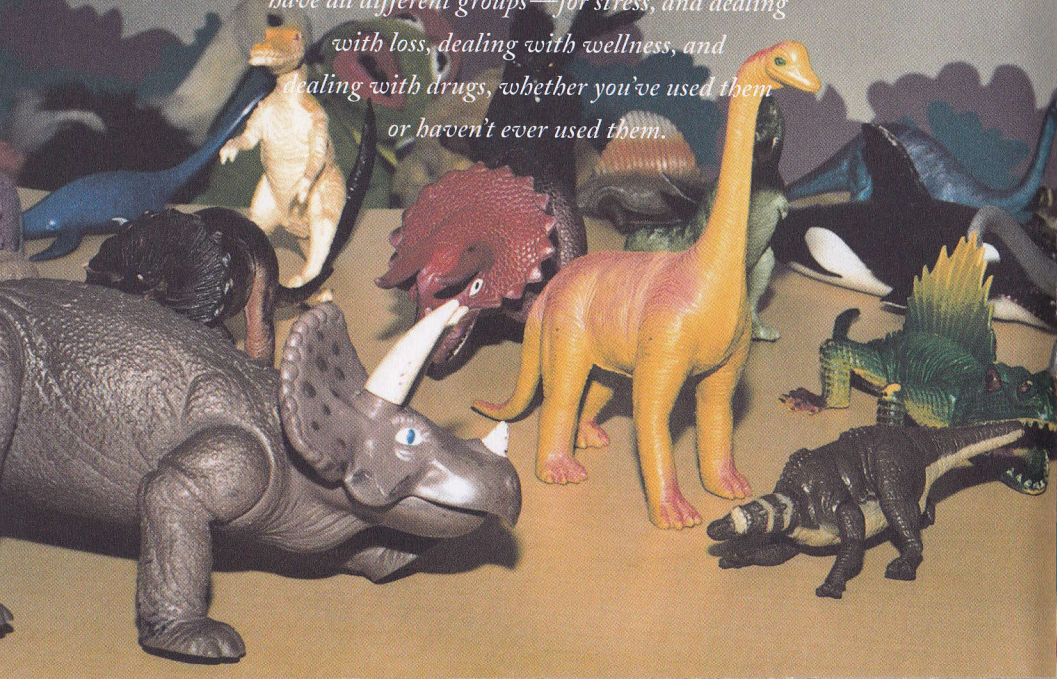
*A FRIEND BROUGHT ME  
TO GMHC BECAUSE SHE WANTED  
ME TO KNOW THAT IT IS  
NOT ONLY FOR MALES; IT'S  
FOR FEMALES ALSO. AND FAMILIES  
I GOT INTO THE CHILD LIFE  
PROGRAM AND I'VE BEEN HERE  
EVER SINCE. MY SON LOVES  
IT HERE. GMHC LETS HIM KNOW  
THAT HE'S NO DIFFERENT  
BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HIS  
PARENT HAS THE DISEASE. THEY  
SPOIL HIM TOO MUCH!*





*But it's for parents too.  
Parents definitely have needs—nutrition with  
their children, nutrition with ourselves,  
the importance of seeing a doctor, and taking  
care of ourselves.*


\*



*At GMHC I can go to the chiropractor,  
get massages, and theatre tickets, we  
have all different groups—for stress, and dealing  
with loss, dealing with wellness, and  
dealing with drugs, whether you've used them  
or haven't ever used them.*







*I went with GMHC to Albany  
to talk about...I think it was budget cuts.*

*We needed money because they  
were cutting the HIV/AIDS funds. It's  
awesome to be able to go into the different  
offices and meet important people.*

*GMHC gives you the opportunity  
to get into certain things and go places  
and that makes me feel better  
about myself because I have proved that  
I'm not a loser. I'm a winner.*





*YOU HAVE TO LIVE  
YOUR LIFE, AND TRY TO MAKE IT  
THE BEST. TEACH YOUR CHILD  
AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.  
TEACH THE CHILD SAFE THINGS,  
LIKE SAFE SEX. IF YOU ALLOW  
SOMETHING TO PLAGUE YOU,  
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GROW.  
YES, WE ARE GOING TO DIE.  
BUT YOU'RE WASTING TIME WHEN  
YOU HAVE SO MUCH TO KEEP  
ON LIVING FOR.*

\* \* \*



\* \* \*

*GMHC'S PUBLIC POLICY WORK BENEFITS THE LIVES OF  
EVERYONE INFECTED OR AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS*

GMHC helps to harness the voice of those not used to being heard so they can find ways to communicate their needs and experiences to lawmakers at all levels of government. ¶Bernadette's experience of testifying before the legislature and speaking one-one-one with policy makers is not an isolated event. GMHC's commitment to grassroots organizing has brought hundreds of men and women with HIV to Albany to speak on their own behalf, and on behalf of all people with AIDS. The benefits of personal testimony are both powerful and therapeutic, for both audience and speaker. Empowered and informed, GMHC's clients have a significant impact on their own lives, and on the lives of their peers, in ways that may have seemed unthinkable before. ¶And they're not alone. GMHC's Public Policy staff lobbies the government for fairer and more fully-funded AIDS policies every day. We continue to demand support for AIDS services. We fight for humane and fair laws for HIV-positive people in the workplace, anti-discrimination legislation, equal rights for gays and lesbians, and affordable, accessible, health care for those most in need. ¶GMHC is also dedicated to the fight against AIDS on an international level. We are present and vocal at major health conferences throughout the world, partnering with our peers across the globe, and active in encouraging the United States to take a leadership role in the international fight against HIV and AIDS.

\* \* \*

*GMHC AT-A-GLANCE*

*More than 20% of those who came to GMHC for the first time last year were women, 90% of whom were from communities of color.*

*Last year, the number of GMHC clients over the age of 50 increased by 13%.*

*77% of our new clients last year made less than \$10,000.*

*GMHC's public policy endeavors removed systemic barriers to access Medicaid, protected and restored essential AIDS funding, and fought for the protection of effective HIV-prevention efforts and initiatives.*

*Last year, GMHC solidified its leadership role in forming and cultivating partnerships with national AIDS organizations to influence domestic and global AIDS public policy.*

\* \* \*



\* \* \*

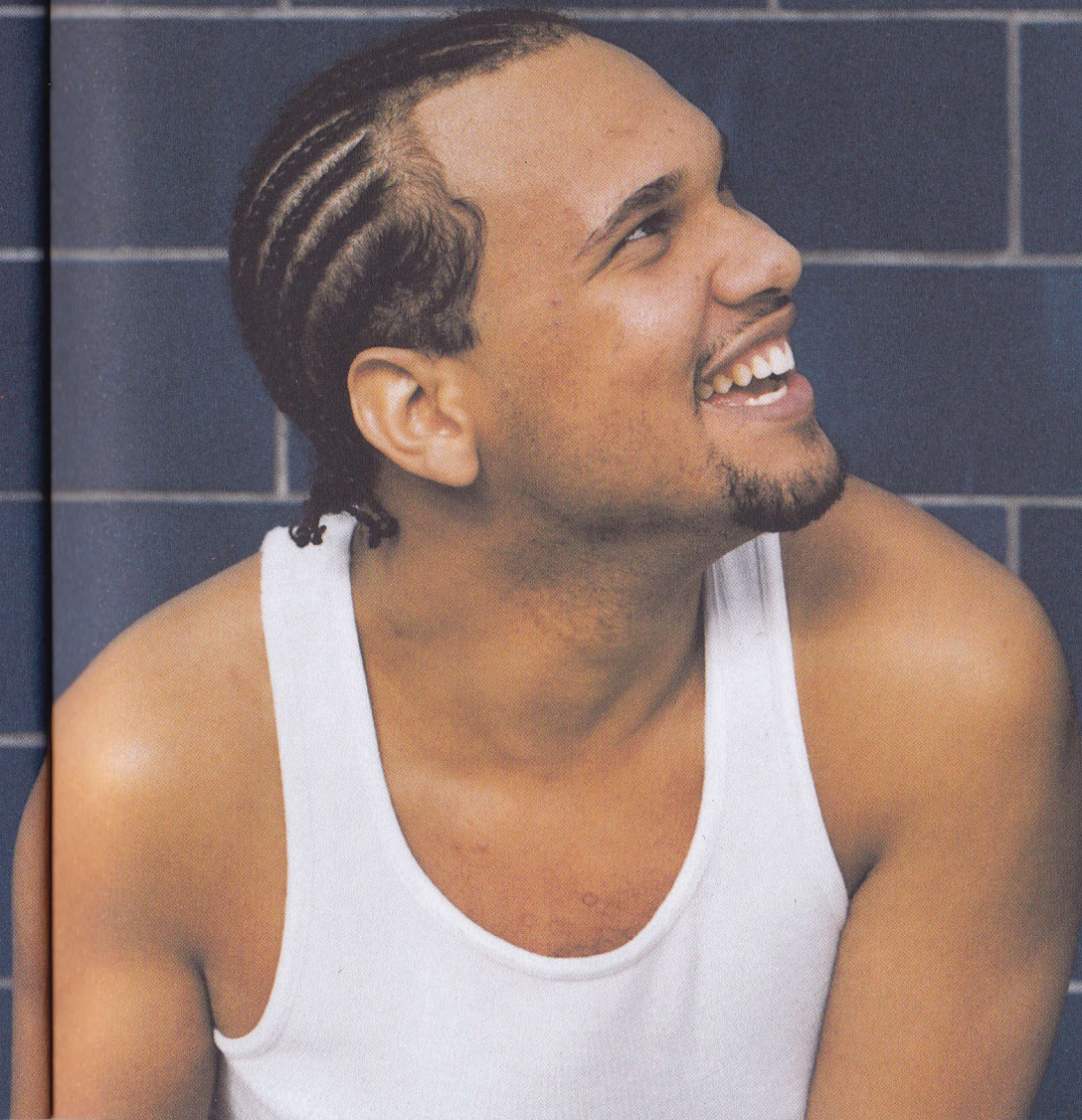
AMILKAL POLANCO, WITH GMHC SINCE 2000.

MY NAME IS

AMILKAL

AND I AM INFORMED.

99% of people who come to GMHC's  
David Geffen Center for HIV Prevention and Health Education  
for testing return for their results.








MY MOM ALWAYS TAUGHT ME,  
WHEN YOU START BEING ACTIVE  
SEXUALLY, IT'S GOOD TO BE  
TESTED. WHEN I GOT MY HIV TEST,  
I WOULD SHOW IT TO MY MOM  
AND SAY, 'LOOK, MOM, I'M  
NEGATIVE.' WHEN I WAS SINGLE,  
I USED TO GO EVERY THREE  
MONTHS. NOW I GO LESS, BECAUSE  
I HAVE A PARTNER, AND WE'RE  
GOING ON FOUR YEARS. SO NOW WE  
*BOTH COME TOGETHER TO TAKE  
THE HIV TEST.*



A man with dark skin and cornrows is lying on his stomach in a field of tall, green grass. He is wearing a dark green, textured sweater. His hands are clasped together in front of him, and he is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a vast field of grass that stretches to the horizon.

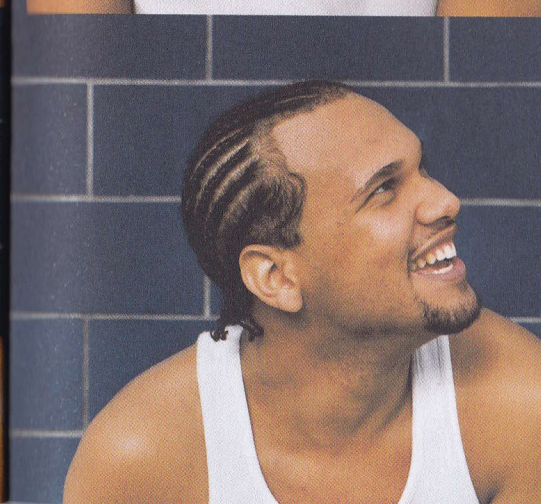
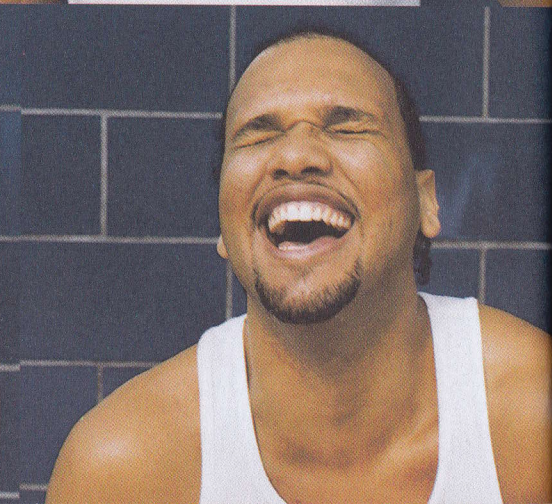
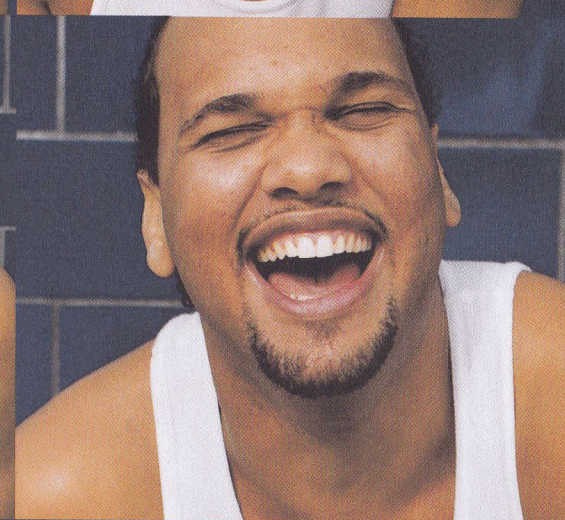
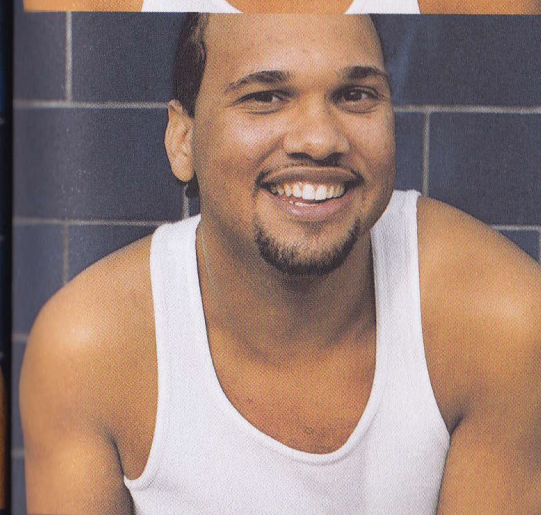
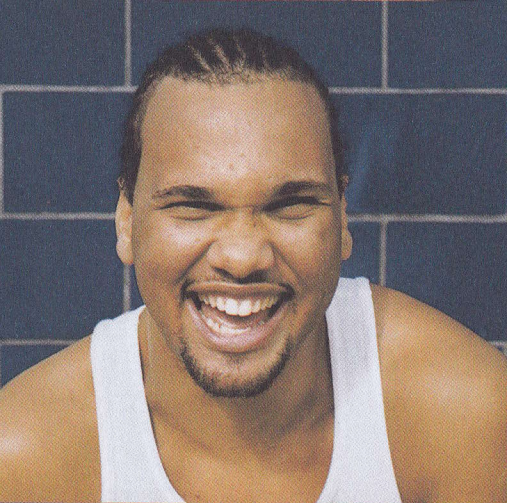
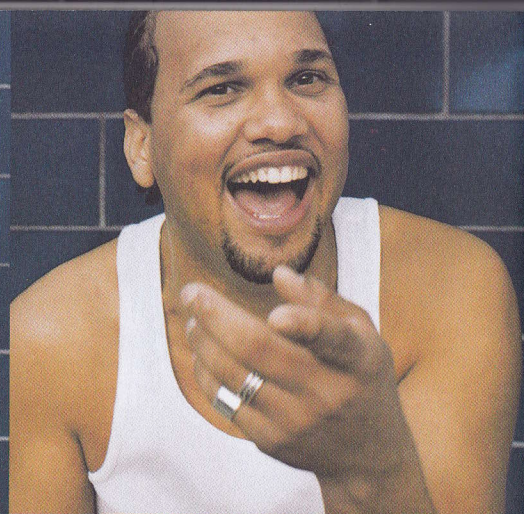
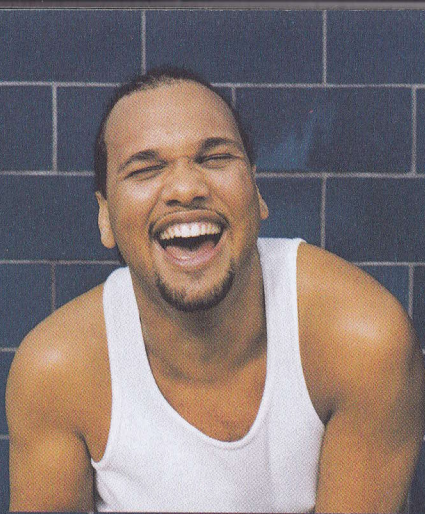
*The tests here are really good.  
Sometimes, when I used to come by myself,  
I used to get the test counseling in  
Spanish. Since Spanish is my natural language  
I feel more comfortable with it.  
That's important, because if I didn't feel  
comfortable, I wouldn't be coming.*



ONE DAY, MY BOYFRIEND  
AND I WERE LOOKING AT GMHC'S  
WEB PAGE, AND HE SAID,  
'OH, YOU SHOULD GO AND FIND OUT  
IF WE CAN VOLUNTEER THERE,  
SINCE WE GO THERE.' AND  
THAT'S HOW I GOT TO PROYECTO  
P.A.P.I. ¶ I HELP THEM WITH THEIR  
OUTREACH. I HAND OUT  
CONDOMS AND INFORMATION AT  
PARTIES AND AT SOME BARS.  
AT P.A.P.I. THEY KNOW HOW IT IS.  
YOU LEARN SO MUCH.









*It's important especially for me,  
because there are a lot of people outside who  
don't know about HIV, who don't know  
that it's still there, or they don't get the right  
information. They're just, 'okay, that  
was in the past, we can contain it, we don't  
have it right now.'*







*I'VE BEEN LEARNING A LOT FROM  
BEING HERE, AND MY LIFE  
HAS CHANGED A LOT. ¶ SO I LIKE  
IT, BECAUSE THEY PUT ME  
IN THIS PROGRAM SO THAT WE CAN  
HELP, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE  
I'M LATIN. WE CAN HELP LATIN  
PEOPLE, TO OPEN THEIR MINDS,  
OR REMIND THEM THAT AIDS  
IS STILL THERE, TO BE CAREFUL  
WHATEVER YOU DO, **AND WHATEVER  
YOU DO, DO IT SAFELY.***

\* \* \*



\* \* \*

GMHC INTERVENES IN THE LIVES OF THOSE MOST  
AT RISK FOR HIV TRANSMISSION QUICKLY, EFFICIENTLY,  
AND SUCCESSFULLY

HIV testing, counseling, and outreach are a critical part of GMHC's prevention and education work both here at the agency and in the community. Amikal's story speaks to the efficacy of our efforts. The effect is cyclical. By offering culturally-specific outreach to young people at risk through Proyecto P.A.P.I.—or its sister groups, Soul Food, Gay Gotham, and The House of Latex—we are able to get people tested, connected to appropriate care, and equipped with accurate knowledge about HIV prevention to share with their friends and family. ¶ There is strength in numbers. GMHC's peer groups help members stay healthy and stay negative. They reinforce and encourage young people to recognize the power they have to make informed decisions about their sexual behavior. ¶ Cultural identity is critical. All of GMHC's prevention messages and services are available in Spanish, and many of the counselors and staff are bilingual as well. This helps create an environment that is both familiar and safe—a culturally competent place to begin talking about important personal issues like sex and health. ¶ GMHC remains committed to helping those who are most at risk of contracting HIV stay negative. Preventing HIV infection is our most powerful tool in saving lives and fighting AIDS.

\* \* \*

GMHC AT-A-GLANCE

*The introduction of the OraQuick Rapid Test helped GMHC to connect people immediately with options for treatment and care.*

*GMHC's AIDS Hotline received over 26,000 calls from around the country, many from individuals living in remote areas where access to HIV/AIDS information is limited.*

*The Hotline—including our comprehensive database of support services across the country—is the only HIV/AIDS hotline in New York City that offers counseling and support as well as information and referrals.*

*In July 2003, 26% of New Yorkers, ages 18-64, reported having an HIV test within the prior 18 months, according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.*

\* \* \*



\* \* \*

*Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. Our mission is to reduce the spread of HIV disease, help people with HIV maintain and improve their health and independence, and keep the prevention, treatment, and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority. In fulfilling this mission, we will remain true to our heritage by fighting homophobia and affirming the individual dignity of all gay men and lesbians.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.GMHC.ORG](http://WWW.GMHC.ORG)



GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

THE TISCH BUILDING, 119 W. 24TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011

212.367.1000, GMHC AIDS HOTLINE: 800.243.7692



\* \* \*

*GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS 2003 ANNUAL REPORT*

*THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS  
ROSE TO OVER*

**15,000**

*AN INCREASE OF  
ALMOST 10% FROM 2002.*

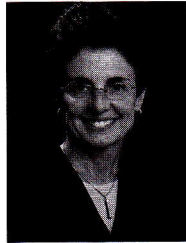
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ANA OLIVEIRA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Ana Oliveira". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DEAR FRIENDS OF GMHC: This past year will be remembered as one of the most challenging for non-profit AIDS service organizations across the country. Our resources have been very hard to come by while the demands on our staff and our services have continued to increase. In spite of these challenges, GMHC continued to provide a safe haven and a source of care and support for more than 15,000 men, women, and children—a number that grows every year.

Maintaining our success in supporting HIV-positive individuals has always required that we confront and overcome obstacles with fierce determination, that we provide limitless compassion for the welfare of others, and that we remain vigilant in the face of fear. Compassion has always been a vital component of the work we do; it is the cornerstone of our mission and propels us to **improve the lives of our clients on every level. And it is what you demonstrate every year with your generous support and your advocacy for our work.**

With your help last year, we worked diligently to help our clients achieve greater autonomy and self-worth by launching a transition-to-work program, by providing them with financial guidance and legal services, and by fighting to uphold their legal, civil, and human rights. Recognizing that new infections continue unabated and that there are increased numbers of HIV-positive people living longer, we emphasized defending and promoting prevention, securing access to care, and connecting people with long-term support services earlier. We made progress in HIV prevention for women, persons of color, and young people, and expanded our array of services to include rapid HIV testing as well as prevention and testing for Syphilis and Hepatitis, two infections that have increased and go hand-in-hand with HIV infection.

We continued to create targeted messages that make explicitly clear that HIV transmission can be prevented, and fiercely advocated on behalf of those most at risk of HIV infection when the Federal Centers for Disease Control questioned the efficacy of condoms. We also fought against the federal government's insufficient funding of domestic AIDS programs and its hyper-scrutiny of organizations—like ours—that use explicit language and approaches in their prevention initiatives.

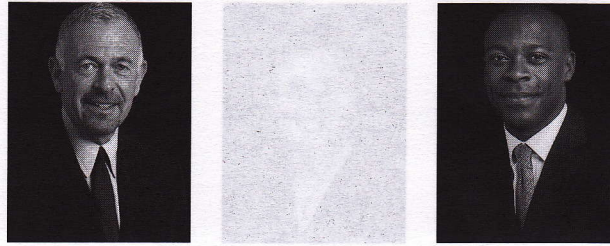
Determination, compassion, and vigilance are critical to our success—but they are nothing without your generosity. Our work is made possible only through the impact of your financial support, your commitment, and your ongoing efforts to end this plague. The people listed in the back of this report, and thousands more, represent a collective altruism and devotion that is truly inspirational.

It gives me comfort and confidence that, together, we will win this fight. I hope that the hard work of our staff, our volunteers, and our partner organizations demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation to you, our supporters, every day of the year. *Thank you!*



\* \* \*

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RON MARTIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLIAM FLOYD

CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Ron Martin*

*William Floyd*

JUST AS GMHC WORKS to restore stability in the lives of our clients, provide uninterrupted quality service, and remain a leader in the larger AIDS community, we work with equal fervor to preserve and constantly improve the integrity of the organization itself.

As the recently elected Co-Chairs of GMHC's Board of Directors, our first priority is to further advance the agency's mission in reducing the spread of HIV disease, helping people with HIV maintain and improve their health and independence, and keeping the prevention, treatment and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority.

As the torch is passed to us from our retiring Board Chair, Bill McCarthy, it is important to recognize and honor his accomplishments over the past eight years. During Bill's tenure, four years as Co-Chair and Chair of the Board, and four years as a Board member, he helped guide GMHC through a period of significant fiscal recovery, increased service provision, and phenomenal fundraising success.

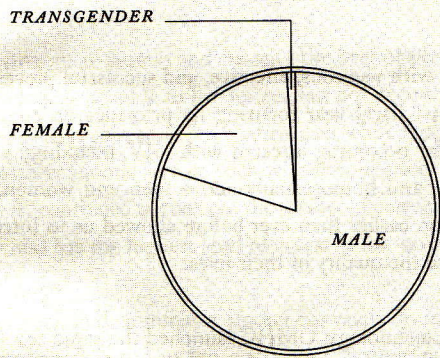
Through sound leadership, strategic financial planning, and the elimination of debt, GMHC today is not only fiscally solid, but poised for continued success in the fight against AIDS for years to come. In fact, we are proud to report that GMHC began and ended the past fiscal year completely debt-free—for the first time since 1996—despite decreased private and public support across the country for HIV and AIDS service organizations, and the continued negative economic impact of September 11, 2001.

GMHC has succeeded for over two decades in meeting the ever-changing and complex needs of the thousands who walk through our doors because we are both flexible and prepared. Under Bill's leadership, GMHC honed its ability to respond to emerging trends immediately and effectively while steering a course of growth and expansion. We remain committed to exploring a broader horizon of services and programs that best meet the needs of all men, women, and children living with HIV and AIDS.

We are confident that the devotion of our volunteers, the sound stewardship of our Executive Director, the dedication of our staff, and the commitment of our Board will help GMHC successfully speed the end of this epidemic.

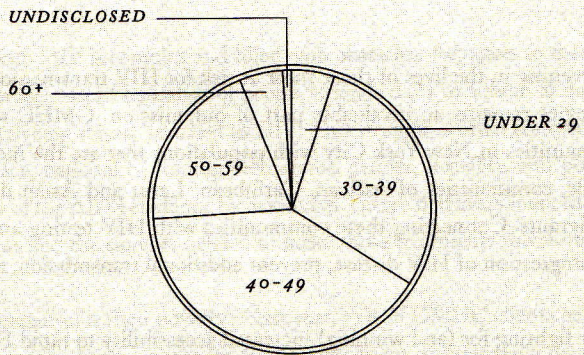


# GMHC CLIENT STATISTICS



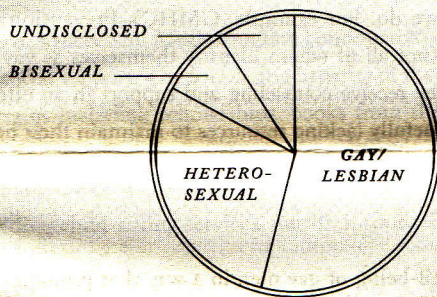
**GENDER**

MALE: 80% FEMALE: 19%  
TRANSGENDER (F): 1%



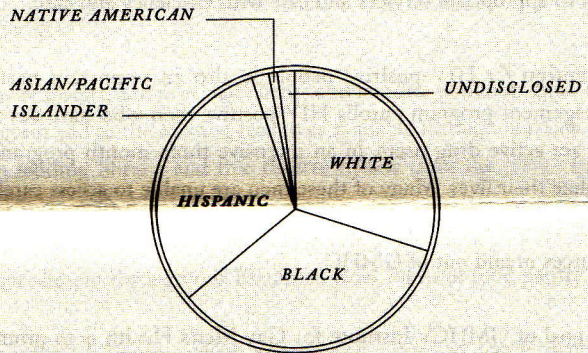
**AGE**

UNDER 29: 5% 30-39: 29% 40-49: 40%  
50-59: 20% 60+: 5% UNDISCLOSED: 1%



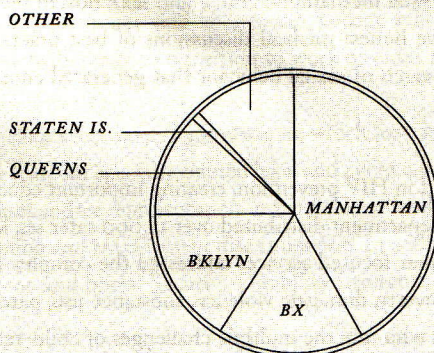
**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

GAY/LESBIAN: 54% HETEROSEXUAL: 29%  
BISEXUAL: 8% UNDISCLOSED: 9%



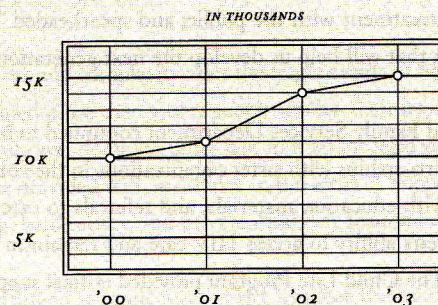
**RACE & ETHNICITY**

WHITE: 30% BLACK: 34% HISPANIC: 31%  
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 2%  
NATIVE AMERICAN: 1% UNDISCLOSED: 2%



**RESIDENCE**

MANHATTAN: 42% BRONX: 17% BROOKLYN: 16%  
QUEENS: 12% STATEN ISLAND: 1% OTHER: 12%



**NUMBER OF CLIENTS**

THE NUMBER OF CLIENTS HAS INCREASED BY  
ALMOST 50% SINCE 2000.



*GMHC INTERVENES IN THE LIVES OF THOSE MOST AT RISK FOR HIV TRANSMISSION  
QUICKLY, EFFICIENTLY, AND SUCCESSFULLY*

Intervening in the lives of those most at risk for HIV transmission early on, with vigorous, effective, and successful prevention strategies remains an invaluable part of our mission. GMHC spent the last fiscal year focusing its priorities on engaging communities in New York City with populations that are the most at risk for becoming infected with HIV, including: young people, communities of African, Caribbean, Latin and Asian descent, gay, and homosexually-active men and women, and immigrants. Connecting these communities with HIV testing and prevention earlier than ever before allowed us to interrupt the progression of HIV disease, prevent additional transmission, and enhance the quality of their lives.

After fighting for (and winning) increased accessibility to rapid HIV testing technology, GMHC launched the rapid test (with results in 20 minutes) during National HIV Testing Week in June. GMHC's David Geffen Center for HIV Prevention and Health Education's extensive targeted outreach around this new technology—which included extensive referrals from trained volunteers on our AIDS Hotline—led to a significant jump in the number of tests taken and enhanced our ability to offer early intervention. Because the rapid HIV test is fully integrated into GMHC's already successful testing and counseling model, we increased people's knowledge about their HIV status, armed them with the information they need to stay healthy, and connected them to appropriate services and care with efficiency and ease.

Prevention *for* HIV-positive people is also an important part of what we do. For example, GMHC's Prevention Case Management program enrolls HIV-positive men who have sex with men (not all of whom identify themselves as gay) and who are active drug users, in an intensive three-month program where they receive counseling and support in an effort to stabilize their lives. Many of these men are unable to access care, and are woefully lacking resources to maintain their health. While enrolled in the program, they are connected to HIV-positive peer buddies who assist them in navigating and accessing resources in and out of GMHC.

The goal of GMHC's Institute for Gay Men's Health is to promote the well-being of gay men in a way that promotes HIV prevention as part of sexual health. Through rigorous participation in a number of social and behavioral research activities over the past year, the Institute was successful in enhancing and targeting its prevention messages and services to the communities it serves—black, Latino, Caucasian, and gay men, as well as young people involved in the House and Ball community. Through widespread individual outreach in bathhouses, clubs, and on Fire Island, the Institute's trained volunteers disseminated condoms and information about how to avoid HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis. In addition, the Institute conducted critical workshops addressing the risks associated with sexual activity and substance use (like crystal methamphetamine and sex); hosted monthly Friday Forums that provided opportunities for respected researchers to have honest medical discussions of best practices in prevention and treatment with the public; and spearheaded "street level" research of sexual behavior that generated enormous amounts of data that will help us develop the next generation of programs.

The Women and Family Services Department continued to break new ground in HIV prevention, creating important education and advocacy partnerships with sister organizations in the community. The department distributed over 18,000 safer sex kits to women, along with education materials, and referrals to care. GMHC's women-focused services addressed the complex issues that affect women's ability to access HIV care and remain in care, such as poverty, domestic violence, substance use, parenting and child care. The Child Life Program provided critical support for families who face the multiple challenges of child-rearing, family re-integration, HIV disclosure, and permanency planning. Child Life also helped families strengthen their networks of support in order to help alleviate the stigma and discrimination they experience around HIV and AIDS. Marking its 10th year, the Lesbian AIDS Project continued to be one of the few programs in the country to address the specific HIV education, prevention and support needs of lesbians and other women who have sex with women.



*GMHC SUSTAINS AND ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS*

The struggle to sustain and enhance the lives of people living with HIV is complex and filled with obstacles. Advances in therapies have made it possible to live longer, but not necessarily with greater ease. Thousands of people struggle daily to adhere to medical protocols and gain access to medical care while fighting the paralyzing stigma attached to HIV. This struggle is often compounded by socio-economic factors such as discrimination based on race, nationality, immigration status, gender, sexuality, and poverty. GMHC continued to confront the totality of emerging demands of the AIDS epidemic by working to ensure that every man, woman, and child has the highest level of access to life-saving treatments and the support needed to make those treatments successful.

One common denominator among our vastly diverse client population is their poverty—last year, 77% of GMHC clients received an income of less than \$10,000 a year. Struggling to raise a family, keep a home, or find employment, substantially decreases the ability to sustain one's health. GMHC's financial advocacy services continued to help clients stabilize their lives by assisting them in securing and retaining housing through rental support, eviction interruption, financial management and utilization of the Sustainable Living Fund (which helps to prevent homelessness among impoverished immigrants). We also worked with clients to maintain and increase their access to health care and health insurance, and assisted them in navigating the complicated maze of income support, benefits, and entitlements. This past year, GMHC expanded these services through its coordination of the Sustainable Living Fund for the City of New York.

GMHC's successful Meals Program continued to operate above capacity, and provided clients and families with nutritious meals and social support. The socializing benefits of the Meals Program add to the existing resources available through our Life Steps programs including scholarships, books from the client-run lending library, and free theatre tickets from the Jerry Herman Theatre Desk. To help families face the difficult challenges of living with AIDS, GMHC provided individual and group support to family members coping with the sensitive issue of HIV disclosure. In addition, our Child Life Program helped families by providing child-sitting services, nutrition counseling, and nourishment through our Elizabeth Ross Johnson food pantry.

GMHC recently refurbished the popular Rachel Berger Treatment Library—which experienced a marked 300% increase in usage last year. The Treatment Library offers computer and print resources that detail the most advanced protocols in HIV treatment. The Library also provides training to clients on how to successfully access information on the Internet. In conjunction with the Library, GMHC increased access to treatment adherence resources, women-centered treatment options, and created new wellness publications, such as "Ten Ways to Take Care of Yourself When You Have HIV Disease." The training and work component of the Terry K. Watanabe Volunteer and Work Center was launched this year to provide education, vocational training, computer-skill application, college scholarships, and on- and off-site internships for clients who are physically and emotionally ready to transition to work or enter the work force for the first time.

Our clients face many legal obstacles which have increased in number and complexity after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Last year, our specially trained legal and client advocacy teams helped more than 3,000 people resolve their legal issues with legal counsel and/or representation in the fields of landlord/tenant, family and domestic unity law, immigrant legal rights, permanency planning and employment discrimination. In addition, clients were provided with assistance in the areas of Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance, estate planning, bankruptcy, and private disability insurance.

Through the coordinated efforts of our programs, GMHC continued its concerted effort to meet the increasingly complex needs of HIV-positive men, women, and children. Our wellness philosophy and approach emphasizes life affirmation and self sufficiency, and continues to shape and influence the services we offer, resulting in increased autonomy, self-reliance, and stability in the lives of the people we serve.



GMHC'S PUBLIC POLICY WORK BENEFITS THE LIVES OF EVERYONE  
INFECTED OR AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS

It has long been GMHC's mission to amplify the voices of HIV-positive people so that they can better achieve meaningful change in their lives through grassroots organizing, lobbying, and effective advocacy. In addition, GMHC has held firm to the belief that federal, state, and local governments must keep HIV and AIDS prevention and care a fully-funded priority. This past year, GMHC's public policy actions reached all levels of government to defend, protect, and maintain the stream of resources available to HIV-positive people and their right to a quality life.

By leading a demonstration last July at the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, GMHC issued a loud salvo in the HIV/AIDS community's ongoing battle with the federal government to demand that more attention be paid to domestic and global AIDS issues. The demonstration was just one example of GMHC's national leadership role in forming and maintaining significant coalitions of AIDS organizations, like the AIDS Action Council, whose Board GMHC chaired during the year, and the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), of which GMHC is a founding member. Through its leadership roles in AIDS Action Council and FAPP, and through its membership in organizations like the National Minority AIDS Council and Cities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition, GMHC influences federal AIDS public policy on issues of prevention, research, treatment, care, and housing. One highlight of the year was organizing—in tandem with our coalition partners—several days of extensive lobbying in Washington, D.C. on HIV prevention, Medicaid, and federal funding.

During the year, GMHC responded vigorously to shifts in federal HIV/AIDS public policy that threatened to undermine an effective response to the epidemic. GMHC established and chaired the HIV Prevention Defense Working Group, which challenged lawmakers and government officials to protect the value of current HIV prevention strategies. As part of this important fight, GMHC remained strongly opposed to the federal government's attacks on HIV prevention, such as its heavy focus on abstinence as the primary means of preventing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. We also worked with our local partners that were targeted by the federal government for punitive financial audits—an imminent threat to all organizations who promote condoms as an effective means of HIV prevention, and who use sexually realistic approaches in their prevention messages. The impact of the events of September 11, 2001, and a sluggish economy continued to be exhibited in state and city-wide fiscal fatigue, increased unemployment, and pervasive budget tightening. Mindful of both the reality of reduced resources and increasing needs of people affected by AIDS, GMHC renewed its fight against dramatic cuts in essential federal, state, and local AIDS funding—like Medicaid, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and funding for communities of color—successfully preventing potentially devastating shortfalls in services and health care for thousands of men, women, and children.

GMHC's Public Policy and Volunteer Departments, in conjunction with the Open Society Institute, brought interns to GMHC from various countries in Eastern Europe as part of the Eastern European Fellowship Program. The fellows brought valuable insights to GMHC and received important on-site training in treatment advocacy, grassroots organizing, and service provision. Bringing these skills back to their home countries, the fellows in the program increased the capacity of their regional AIDS organizations.

GMHC actively works to empower its clients with information and resources to better manage their own care. On the front lines of the effort to make Medicaid enrollment and coverage stipulations "user friendly," GMHC continued to offer its *SNiP Tips*—a user's guide to New York State's Medicaid Special Needs Plans. GMHC also continued to hold workshops and forums every week to help clients understand the complicated system of health entitlements and eligibility. Similarly, GMHC's flagship publication, *Treatment Issues*, offered scholarly information on HIV treatment options, advocacy, and policy. The men, women, and children affected by HIV and AIDS, both here and around the world, are all too often the people least likely to have their voices heard or their needs met. Through sophisticated, passionate, and committed public policy analysis and advocacy, GMHC continued to assist HIV-positive people and people living with AIDS in their efforts to be heard.



ON THE FRONT LINE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS SINCE 1981, GMHC CONTINUES TO REFINE AND DEVELOP ITS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO PROVIDE AN UNPARALLELED CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR OUR CLIENTS. PRINCIPLE PROGRAMS OF THE AGENCY INCLUDE:

\* \* \*

THE DAVID GEFFEN CENTER FOR HIV PREVENTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION: The Geffen Center combines a highly successful HIV and STI testing and counseling program with immediate connection to care. It also provides programs that empower clients with the knowledge to maximize their well-being in the context of broader health concerns.

THE GMHC HOTLINE: The GMHC hotline responds to over 35,000 phone calls and email requests yearly with detailed information, emotional support, and an expansive referral service.

THE MICHAEL PALM CENTER FOR AIDS CARE AND SUPPORT: The Palm Center offers a full range of early engagement and linkage to services, including adult mental health, case management, support groups and in-home buddy services.

WOMEN AND FAMILY SERVICES: Women and Family Services focuses on addressing the full range of issues facing women and families at risk for, or living with, HIV and AIDS. It also includes specific prevention, outreach, and support for lesbians through the Lesbian AIDS Project. The Child Life Program offers a wide range of family health and nutrition services, including a widely-used food pantry.

THE INSTITUTE FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH: The Institute for Gay Men's Health uses community-specific outreach and networking to connect gay and bisexual men with safer sex information, substance use education, counseling, workshops, and discussion groups, to reduce HIV transmission.

CARE MANAGEMENT: Care Management provides a health care safety net for clients at high risk of losing essential services and resources through assistance with housing, food, financial benefits, and medical care.

LEGAL SERVICES AND CLIENT ADVOCACY: Legal Services and Client Advocacy offers services critical to obtaining and maintaining access to food, housing, medical care and employment. Client Advocacy assists clients in navigating their HIV public benefits and health care insurance.

THE TERRY K. WATANABE VOLUNTEER AND WORK CENTER: The Watanabe Center is a hub for volunteers and offers a comprehensive array of educational, job readiness, training, job placement and supportive retention services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

PUBLIC POLICY: Public Policy advocates for fair and effective AIDS policies at all levels of government and for expanded access to health care and services.

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION ADVOCACY: Treatment and Prevention Advocacy focuses the agency's advocacy efforts on the development of new, better, and less expensive methods for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV and AIDS.

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FROM THE TREASURER OF THE GMHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

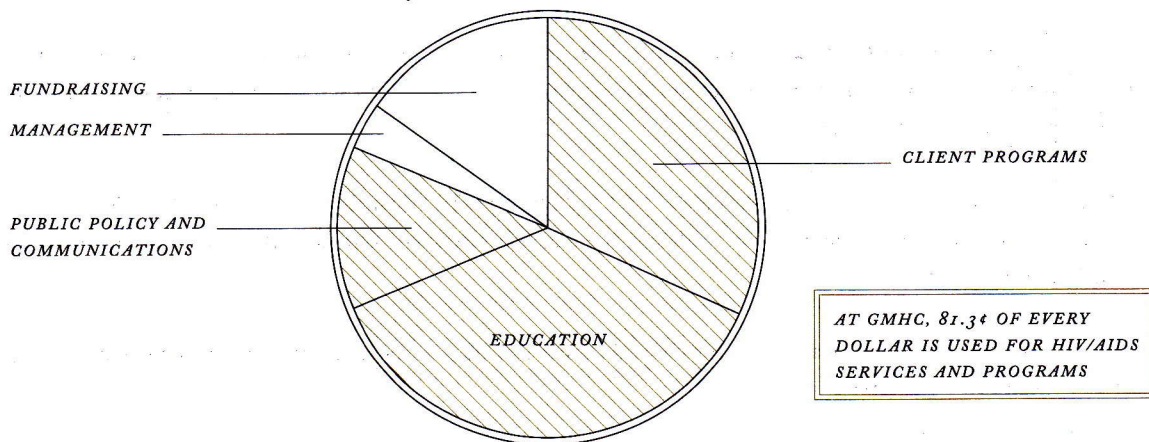
I AM PROUD TO REPORT that GMHC continues to operate at the highest level of efficiency while remaining stable, flexible, and responsive to the issues surrounding the epidemic. We continue to improve our operations and refine our programs and services to better serve the ever-growing number of clients who rely on GMHC.

As our family of clients expands—now more than 15,000 men, women, and children—so do our needs for the continuing generosity of our family of friends and supporters. We are truly grateful to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and public sources of support that are featured in the pages that follow. It is their steadfast support that enables us to develop and prosper as an institution and deliver the critical direct services and global advocacy that are our hallmarks.

With combined support and revenue of \$25.3 million—\$13.5 million from private contributions, donated services, and special events, \$10.1 million from government grants, and the remainder from specific services fees, contributed services, and sales of publications—GMHC recorded a surplus for the third year in a row. A strong indication of our efficient use of resources is that 81.3% of expenses go to support our programs—and the vast majority of our donors' contributions were directly allocated to client services.

In these challenging times, the GMHC Board of Directors continues to invest in the financial and operational infrastructure of the agency through leadership, partnership, and support to achieve the highest levels of cost-efficiency with our private and public resources. We remain committed to exploring new sources of revenue that complement our mission while serving the changing needs of our clients, thereby sustaining our proud tradition of leadership, efficacy, and success in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Thank you for your continued confidence in the fiscal management of GMHC.

JAMES F. CAPALINO  
TREASURER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

CLIENT PROGRAMS: 31.8% / EDUCATION: 37% / PUBLIC POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS: 12.5%  
MANAGEMENT: 3.6% / FUNDRAISING: 15.1%



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*Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-supported and community based organization committed to national leadership in the fight against AIDS. Our mission is to reduce the spread of HIV disease, help people with HIV maintain and improve their health and independence, and keep the prevention, treatment, and cure of HIV an urgent national and local priority. In fulfilling this mission, we will remain true to our heritage by fighting homophobia and affirming the individual dignity of all gay men and lesbians.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.GMHC.ORG](http://WWW.GMHC.ORG)



GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

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