

May 11, 2009



PWA Suspending the Financial Assistance Program until September 1st, 2009

Dear PWA Client,

Due to program usage, PWA will be suspending the Financial Assistance program until September 1st, 2009.

As Murray Jose, Executive Director, previously communicated, this year PWA had to reduce the Financial Assistance budget due to the loss of fundraising sources for the program. In response, PWA staff and Board worked together to create a budget that was equitable to our clients while being accountable to our fundraising capacity. However, due to high program usage, PWA has spent close to 50% of the yearly Financial Assistance program budget already.

In order to be equitable to clients, PWA has decided to stagger the budget so that some level of financial assistance will be available to clients throughout the year. Therefore, PWA has decided to suspend the Financial Assistance program until September 1st, 2009. At which time, PWA will make available another 25% of the Financial Assistance budget. When that is reached, the program will be suspended again until December 1st, 2009, when the remaining 25% of the budget will be made available.

This means that the last day PWA will accept receipts is Friday, May 15th at 12pm. Receipts will be accepted again starting September 1st, 2009. This also means that PWA will no longer be granting financial assistance through our Positive Children's Fund, Positive Senior's Fund or for those applying to long-term disability programs until September 1st, 2009 as well.

PWA will be working hard to raise additional money that can go directly towards the Financial Assistance program. The majority of our fundraising occurs in the summer through our Friends for Life Bike Rally and other events in the fall. If we are able to raise more than our current budget costs, money can be put directly into the Financial Assistance program at any point in the year.

The Financial Assistance program, as part of our Income Support programs, continues to be a critical direct practical support service that PWA staff and Board are committed to offering as a cornerstone of our work and our strategic directions. We know that it is a key aspect of making a positive difference in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. We are committed to replenishing the financial resources for the program and hope to do so; if not in 2009/2010 then in the following year.

If you have further questions, we will be holding an information session on May 20th at 6pm or you may contact Greg Downer, Service Access Manager at ext 203, Murray Jose, Executive Director at ext 218 or me at ext 204.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Paddock
Director, Programs and Services