



PWA Responds to Critical Needs of PHA Seniors

For Immediate Release

Toronto, Ontario (April 5, 2007) - It is with great pleasure that the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA) announces its new Financial Assistance program, the Positive Seniors Fund. The Positive Seniors Fund offers up to \$200 every fiscal year (April 1st – March 31st) to clients who are 65 and older.

PWA recognizes that many people living with HIV/AIDS are living longer and struggling with episodic health issues, long-term side effects, quality of life issues, social isolation and financial stress. As some of our clients reach the age of 65, they are facing new challenges they never expected or planned for. One challenge we have identified is that people 65 and older receive less social assistance and health benefits from the Old Age Security program. The Positive Seniors Fund helps alleviate this reduction in government assistance by providing some financial assistance to help PHAs meet their basic needs and live well.

As these issues have emerged, PWA staff have responded by researching the issues and available resources, recommending responses and getting involved in the community. PWA staff have taken a lead role in bringing issues of Positive Seniors to the fore at community events and activities including presenting at the Senior Pride Network Conference in Toronto.

Individuals seeking to access the Positive Seniors Fund or to meet with a Case Manager to discuss related issues can contact PWA reception to set up an appointment.

Together, we can make a positive difference.

Suzanne Paddock
Director, Programs & Services

Murray Jose
Executive Director

-30-

For further information

Pamala Beavis
Director, Development & Communications
416-506-8606 ext 630
pbeavis@pwatoronto.org

About the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation Exists to promote the health and wellbeing of all people living with HIV/AIDS by providing accessible, direct, and practical support services. It is Canada's largest direct support service agency for people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information: www.pwatoronto.org