



For Immediate Release

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The DC Center Announces First HIV/AIDS Grant

Grant Will Help Raise Awareness of HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research in the District.

Washington, DC: The Board of Directors of the Metro DC Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Community Center (The DC Center) are pleased to announce their first HIV/AIDS grant.

The National HIV Vaccine Research and Education Initiative Grant is designed to create a supportive local environment for HIV vaccine research by educating key communities about this research in areas where HIV vaccine clinical trials are ongoing or planned. The DC Center is one of several organizations that will be funded under this grant.

David Mariner, Executive Director of the DC Center stated: "This grant provides a unique opportunity to educate the GLBT community about the importance of HIV Vaccine research. We'll be coordinating activities of this grant closely with our HIV Working Group."

TheDC Center will continue to work with the local community advisory board for HIV Vaccine Research, the Capital Area Vaccine Effort, and the Vaccine Research Center at the NIH. This partnership first began when The DC Center organized an educational event on vaccine research on October 1st, 2007 at Dakota Cowgirl/Titan Bar. More recently, the groups collaborated on a community update on HIV prevention research, under the direction of The DC Center's Crystal Meth Working Group, which was held at the HRC Equality Center on May 14th of this year.

About The DC Center HIV Working Group

Following a December 4th Town Hall on HIV/AIDS, The DC Center launched their HIV Working Group in January of 2009. The HIV Working Group meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the DC Center, and meetings are open to the public. The group, chaired by Daniel O'Neil, currently distributes safer-sex kits at three locations: Zigfields, Town Dance Boutique, and The DC Center. More information about the safer-sex kit campaign is available at the website www.dctoolkit.org.

About The DC Center

The DC Center's mission is to celebrate, strengthen, and support community among the GLBT residents and organizations of Metropolitan Washington, DC. Programs of The DC Center include: Career Development, The David Bohnett CyberCenter, CenterArts, DC Crystal Meth Working Group, DC for Marriage, Elder Think Tank, GLOV – Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence (a Task Force of The DC Center), HIV Working Group, OutWrite Author Series, and the Tobacco Working Group. The DC Center issues a weekly newsletter of GLBT community events and information. For more information and to sign up for our newsletter, please visit www.TheDCCenter.org.

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