

1319 Locust Street \* Philadelphia, PA 19107

*"Safe sex? It's a little too late for me. Someone should have told me a long time ago."*

*--Gary Lyles  
Person With AIDS  
1965-1986*

Dear Friend:

Gary Lyles didn't know how to protect himself against AIDS until it was too late.

And while that's the fault of no specific individual or organization, it's a responsibility we all share.

Because Gary's tragedy could have been prevented, if someone had reached him in time with the life-saving news of what causes AIDS and how you protect yourself against it.

His life--and his death at the age of 21--is a clear warning about the price of continuing to fail to meaningfully combat the spread of AIDS among Philadelphia's blacks and Latinos.

**Gary died because we weren't paying attention.**

AIDS is a disease, not a lifestyle. And the methods through which it spreads are no longer a mystery or hard to explain.

But while hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent on AIDS education and service efforts aimed primarily at the white gay victims of the disease, minority-oriented efforts have had to go begging.

The reality is that those who are learning how to protect themselves against this disease are those who have traditionally had greater access to health care and educational opportunities generally. And those who have traditionally been forgotten are again being forgotten--with tragic, almost genocidal consequences for Philadelphia's African-American and Latino people.

AIDS will become a disease mostly of the poor, of the non-white, of the uninsured and under-insured, of the uneducated and illiterate, of the homeless and outcast, unless there is an urgent shift in the direction of AIDS policy, funding, education and service efforts.

**The statistics are grim--and getting worse.**

The growing majority of AIDS cases (54%) in Philadelphia have occurred among non-whites--not gay white men.

All of the children with AIDS in Philadelphia are black or Latino.

All of the teenagers who've contracted AIDS --in fact, almost 80% of all cases under 25 years old-- have been black or Latino.

**We believe it's time we paid attention.**

When the disease is AIDS, it's information and education that saves lives. And BEBASHI believes that creative, activist community education campaigns such as we've developed will turn the tide against the spread of AIDS in Philadelphia's poor and non-white communities.

But we can't do it without resources. Like time, and money.

**Will you help us?**

Now is the time to choose between going through the motions and actually doing the job.

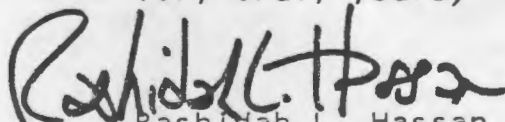
Because good intentions will not save the life of the next Gary Lyles. Money, and time, and commitment will.

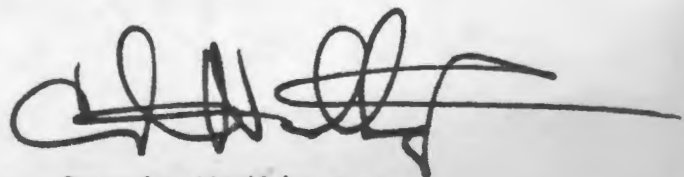
We're writing to you because we think you have something to offer BEBASHI that will help us get the job done.

Won't you help? Enclosed with this letter are various items which will help you figure out how you might be able to help. We hope you'll give it serious thought.

Because there is a cure for AIDS. It's information, and enough caring people to make sure that the people who most need the information are able to get it. Won't you be one of them?

Very truly yours,

  
Rashidah L. Hassan  
Executive Director

  
Curtis Wadlington  
Program Director