



I'm very excited about the joining because, living on this side of the river, I'm hoping that having a unified registration process and all of that presents us with a great opportunity to provide comprehensive support services to a larger number of people.

-Client, AIDS Action Committee

I am looking forward to uniting forces and let's see what we can do to make a better organization.

-Client, AIDS Action Committee

For the Black community, Cambridge Cares is not where we're at. The fact that [AIDS Action] is in Jamaica Plain, that's half the battle for the folks in the Roxbury and Dorchester area that don't come out to Cambridge, that location is perfect. ...I know first hand that a lot of them want services, but they don't want to come across town. It takes a lot to get them there. Now they can go to Jamaica Plain because they feel they're in familiar territory, and the location...is an easy place to go in. I think it will make a good result that we can make it out to my community.

-Client, Cambridge Cares

I'm looking forward to see what we can do to help each other.

-Client, AIDS Action Committee

### ***A Word From John Gatto, Executive Director***

We are excited to announce that Cambridge Cares About AIDS and AIDS Action Committee have made a joint decision to merge our organizations into a single agency. We are planning to start operations together July 1, 2010.

Our goals in the merger are to influence and improve the current HIV/AIDS service delivery system and to address the social and economic inequalities that drive the spread of the epidemic. Together, we expect to achieve improvements in three areas: effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

In the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, we built the service delivery system to reflect the nature of the disease, mainly developing  
(continued on back: "Executive")



### ***Improving Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS***

The main goal for this merger is to provide the best services to our clients with the resources available. Clients who are living with HIV and AIDS should see immediate benefits from the merger. Not only will they be able to access services both in Cambridge and in Jamaica Plain, shared information between the sites means that clients will have to go through only a single intake process in order to receive the services that both sites offer. This will not only increase efficiency, but also reduce the stress that clients may experience when retelling their story to multiple people. (continued on back: "Improving Services")

### ***Expanding Prevention and Education Programs***

The Prevention and Education programs at CCA currently reach people in the Boston and Cambridge areas, which include many of the areas served by AIDS Action. CCA has a strong reputation in Cambridge, and will maintain this presence. Our services for homeless and street-involved youth, transgender women, and injection drug users are unique in this area and will continue. Combining our programs will eliminate overlap so that we can bring increased focus to addressing social and economic factors that influence the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We expect this to result in the expansion and improvement of these programs, including increased outreach efforts into surrounding areas such as Somerville and Malden.

**Continued: Executive**

crisis intervention services. These systems, put in place over twenty years ago, were not designed to provide long-term services. Today, people who are living with HIV and AIDS are living longer, healthier lives, and, as a result, we need the capacity to serve larger numbers of people, and in more sustained ways. Though the nature of the disease has developed, the service system has remained relatively unchanged. Therefore, we need to work together to redesign the system, and improve the effectiveness of our programs at providing services that reflect the needs of our community.

In order to effectively serve people living with and at risk for HIV, we also have to address the factors that put them at risk. We know that the spread of HIV is directly connected to issues such as sexual health and poverty, and our programs should reflect that. We believe that sustainability for our programs means that we should broaden our definitions of health and disease so that we also address the social and economic causes of health inequality. Although we will still be providing services directly to people living with HIV and AIDS, we plan to increase our efforts to alleviate these inequalities.

The combined administrative capacity created by this merger will also allow us provide services more efficiently. Eliminating duplication in facilities, operations, finance, human resources, and development areas will free up resources. Case managers will better support clients, and outreach teams will be able to strengthen their efforts to reach underserved populations.

I would like to thank all of our donors for the support and commitment you have shown to Cambridge Cares over the years. I look forward to the next chapter of HIV/AIDS care in our community, and hope you continue the journey with us.

**Continued: Improving Services**

Shared information will also reduce the time case managers spend on paperwork, which will give them time to do more intensive work with clients.

Another significant benefit to clients who receive case management services will be the expansion into Cambridge of the Volunteer Check-in Program, a program that utilizes community volunteers to telephone clients on a regular basis. This will allow staff to keep in touch with clients, and provides an opportunity to serve clients who may not be able to regularly access on-site services.

