

April 28, 2011



Open Letter to the Community

For more than 21 years, the Boston Living Center has provided thousands of individuals living with HIV/AIDS with critical support in all aspects of their lives. We have done so thanks to the tireless dedication of our staff, the commitment of our volunteers and the financial support of our donors – all of whom recognize how critical the BLC is to the individuals it serves.

We have always done a great deal of good with a very small budget; that budget has grown smaller in this difficult economy. That is why we were so disheartened to learn in November 2010 that the Executive Director at that time was misappropriating agency funds. The BLC Board took immediate action by terminating the Executive Director and beginning an intensive assessment of the impact of her actions.

We are proud that the BLC has continued to operate at the same high level of service our members have always known with no disruption in programming, despite the additional financial difficulties this situation has caused. However, the agency is facing significant challenges in the wake of this unthinkable event.

The BLC remains committed to creating a strong and vibrant future for the Center. Even prior to learning of the financial impropriety, the BLC had been considering partnerships as a way to strengthen our ability to provide important services to our clients. With this vision in mind the BLC has entered into an alliance with Victory Programs who has been a strong leader in the community for over 35 years and shares history and many common goals and values with the BLC.

The Board and Staff of both agencies see this partnership as a very viable step in helping the Center successfully through this transition and remaining the thriving and very important part of the safety net of care so many people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts rely on. **However we need your support to see us reach that goal.**

The short term financial goal for the BLC is to raise \$300,000 in the next few weeks in order to help us meet the real-time expenses required to operate the Center and continue to serve our members. Victory Programs agreed to commit the final \$100,000 towards this goal, to match the funds raised. As of this date \$102,750 has already been committed so we are well on our way. *

Many individuals, corporations and foundations have invested many years of support, financial and otherwise, in the BLC. These investments have made the Center the high quality, successful, state-of-the-art program that it is today. With this help the BLC provides thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS with access to the life-saving services we offer.

We need you to help us protect your investment by making a significant financial donation to the BLC immediately.

Together we can come through this difficult period and emerge stronger and more effective than ever before. We hope we can count on your support. To make an online donation please visit the BLC website – www.bostonlivingcenter.org. Or if you prefer, please mail a check to Marc Davino, Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope Street, Boston, MA 02116.

On behalf of our members living with HIV/AIDS, and the boards and staffs of both organizations, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sara Andrews
BLC Board Chair

Marc J. Davino
BLC Director of Development

Jonathan Scott
Victory Programs CEO

* Please contact Marc Davino – mdavino@livingcenter.org – or visit the BLC website for updates on the campaign.