

Spring 2006

Dear Friend of Christie's Place,

Spring greetings! As always, your support this year has meant so much to our families, staff and volunteers. I want to share with you the latest happenings at Christie's Place.

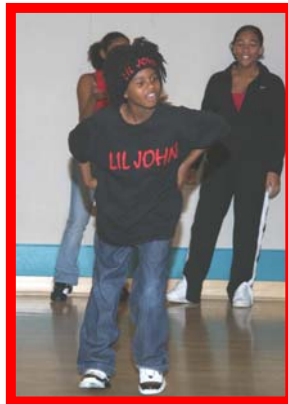
**Holiday Party**

Thanks to key community partners and caring community members, our Holiday Party was a huge success. Over 400 people were in attendance! Children and adults enjoyed:

- ⌘ 400 presents
- ⌘ 150 stockings
- ⌘ Holiday dinner
- ⌘ Singing & dance performances by 7 year old "J Smooth" and 9 year old "Little John"
- ⌘ Face painting
- ⌘ Stilt walkers
- ⌘ A visit from Santa
- ⌘ Photos with Santa
- ⌘ Arts & crafts
- ⌘ Dance performance by Small Frye Dance Academy
- ⌘ \$15 gift cards for teens



Stilt Walkers



Lil John



Brothers Memo & Angel with Santa

**Christie's Place would like to thank the community for making this a successful holiday party!**

**Family-Centered Services Make a Difference**

Christie's Place is unique in that we serve the whole family, not just the HIV+ individual. We recognize that HIV is a family disease - it does not just affect the infected individual, it affects the whole family. In fact, the HIV Cost and Services Utilization Study (HCSUS) found that HIV-infected women are disproportionately responsible for children. A mother and child with HIV usually are not the only family members with the disease. Often, the mother's partner is infected, and other children in the family may be infected as well. Frequently, a parent with AIDS does not survive to care for her or his HIV-infected child.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Allergies & Infectious Diseases, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services-HIV Infections in Infants & Children Factsheet

This is what Christie's Place means to 10 year old Mario:

*"For me Christie's Place is where my parents go to learn about HIV. My mother and my father are infected. And thanks to the information you give them, they can keep from dying. That helps me in return. I have learned that I need to be careful in my life. Sincerely, Mario"*

Ivan, age 15, says,

*"Christie's Place is a place where I can go and talk to someone about my problems. Christie's Place has a lot of good programs, such as free babysitting, free food, free hygiene supplies, free haircuts and a computer room where I can go and do my homework. But most importantly, they help my parents at the Sunday support group to teach them more about HIV and how to live longer. Christie's Place is important to me, and I know I can count on them anytime."*

Overall, clients report the following outcomes as a result of accessing services at Christie's Place: brought out of isolation, increased knowledge of HIV disease & secondary prevention, increased knowledge of HIV care & treatment options, increased access to health care & other supportive services, improved health and quality of life.

#### **Other News at Christie's Place**

- ✂ Hygiene supplies for our families are running low. If you are interested in hosting a hygiene product drive at your job, church, or other organization(s) you belong to, please contact Niki Marsden at (619) 702-4186.
- ✂ Christie's Place has a new partnership with Toussaint Academy of Arts and Science, a school for homeless youth. Several youth will be volunteering at Christie's Place on a long term basis.

#### **10 Year Anniversary Gala Update - Celebrating A Decade of Transforming Lives**

Christie Milton-Torres dreamed that one day there would be a haven for women and families living with HIV/AIDS. This spring will mark 10 years that Irene and Doug Milton made Christie's dream a reality by founding Christie's Place. Plans for our fundraising gala are in full swing. There is an update; **a new date has been set for the gala – Friday, November 3, 2006 at the Bahia Resort Hotel.** We hope you can join us in celebrating this milestone. For sponsorship information, please contact Niki Marsden at (619) 702-4186.

Best wishes,

Niki Marsden  
Program Analyst

Elizabeth Brosnan  
Executive Director

Reneé Sievert  
President, Board of Directors

*Christie's Place would like to thank the following donors for making magic happen for our children & families this holiday season:*

*Agape House, SDSU  
America's Finest City Softball League  
Angela Brannon - It's All About the Kids Foundation  
Barbara Baillargeon  
BEARS Club of San Diego  
Big Animals  
Brenda Coberly  
Chee Chee Club & The Redwing Bar-Teri Rea, Carlos Silva & David Gilfoil  
Christie Leavitt & Family  
Christ United Presbyterian Church  
Crooms Catering & BBQ  
Curves for Women - Dee Everson  
Eric Geiger  
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Pfizer Rainbow Alliance  
Photography by Frank Cortese  
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