

**BENEFITS COUNSELING:  
THE NECESSITY OF BENEFITS ADVOCACY**

Our economic and health care systems have visibly unraveled, negatively impacting the vast majority of people in this country and around the world. Amidst stunning national crises, we have an extraordinary opportunity to challenge the underlying attitudes, policies and laws that have led to extreme economic inequality, including the dismantling of government safety net programs for those most impacted by systemic oppression.

Public benefits, such as SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and Medicare, provide crucial income and health insurance for people living with disabilities, contribute to overall economic and social equality, and strengthen county and state budgets. The benefit systems in this country have resulted in significant outcomes, lifting 38 million people out

of poverty (cutting the number of people living in poverty by half) and providing health insurance to tens of millions of individuals (although leaving over 45 million people uninsured).

Despite hostile systems that have restricted access to benefits, our staff of attorneys and advocates remain experts in their field, representing over 1,200 people a year, and are invigorated by the tremendous impact on clients' lives when benefit claims are won.

We are firmly committed to providing direct, free, culturally competent, legal benefits representation to people who are most underserved, and we look forward to a future when benefit programs are significantly strengthened and health insurance is provided for all.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES: BENJAMIN'S NEW BEGINNING**

When twenty-one year old Benjamin learned he was HIV positive, his world came to a stop. He was forced to take a leave from his job and his academic pursuits to focus on taking care of his health. While he was on leave, his employer went out of business. He was forced to leave his parent's home when he disclosed his HIV status to his family. Jobless, homeless and distraught, Benjamin spent the night in a hospital waiting room. Among the referrals the hospital staff gave him was Positive Resource Center's Employment Services Program.

At PRC, Benjamin worked with an Employment Services Coordinator who created an Individual Service Plan that included referrals to housing, medical care and emotional support. Over the next few months, Benjamin obtained housing,

started antiretroviral medication for his HIV, and began to feel hopeful about creating long term goals for his life and career. With his life stabilized, Benjamin began a job search with one of PRC's Employment Specialists, who assisted him in identifying a career goal, designing a resume, and preparing for interviews. After several months of interviewing he received two job offers. Today, Benjamin works as an Events Associate for a local museum where he is earning over \$45,000 a year with benefits.

Benjamin faced significant life challenges that impact many of PRC's clients: stigma, loss of housing and unemployment. With PRC's help, Benjamin was able to overcome all of these challenges and more.

**STAFF SHOWCASE**



[Back Row L-R] Andy Chu, Esq., Bilingual Staff Attorney; Melissa Cardoza, Esq., Staff Attorney; Melanie Raygoza, Employment Specialist; Matthew Bandiera, Finance Manager; Tina Glezakos, Esq., Staff Attorney  
[Front Row L-R] Yumi Maeda, Esq., Staff Attorney; Vaughn Villaverde, Legal Assistant; Samir Kalra, Esq., Staff Attorney  
[Not in photo] Ashley Tomlinson, Front Office/Volunteer Coordinator

**BOARD CORNER**

Positive Resource Center is pleased to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors.



■ **Diane Easterwood** — Diane is the Interim Human Resources Business Partner with Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Area.



■ **Tom Hehir** — Tom is a Senior Organizational Development Consultant and founder of Aspire Consulting.



■ **Michael Steingraber** — Michael is an agent with Zephyr Real Estate.

**COMMUNITY VOICES**

There is no other organization that provides the support services that are available at Positive Resource Center. I have found the guidance and support to rebuild my life essential to my mental and emotional health. Thank you for really saving my life!

—PRC Client

PRC has really helped me tremendously during this transition period in my life. They helped me find answers to my financial problems, which allowed me the time and space to focus on healing.

—PRC Client

**THE FRONTLINE**



**A NEW VIEW:  
www.positiveresource.org**

Positive Resource Center is proud to announce the launch of our new website. The culmination of a year long project spearheaded by PRC's Board of Directors, the site has a fresh new look and feel and the most up-to-date information and navigation technology.

The new site was designed to ensure ease of access to the broadest possible audience. Prioritizing the importance of disability access, the site meets or exceeds both industry and government web access standards.

Visitors to the site will find:

- Clear, easy to access information for both the Benefits Counseling and Employment Services programs
- Simplified communication with PRC's staff
- Calendar of events supporting PRC
- Recognition of our loyal corporate and community supporters
- Online access to PRC publications (Annual Reports & Frontline newsletters)
- Easy ways to support PRC through financial donations or volunteering
- Links to external sources of information

Our new site also looks back over PRC's 21+ years of providing life saving services to our clients along with a timeline of agency milestones.

We would like to thank Kaiser Permanente Northern California and Castro Lions Club for their generous support of this project.

We invite you to visit our new website at [www.positiveresource.org](http://www.positiveresource.org) to discover more about our essential work, how to access our services, and how you can support PRC!

POSITIVE  
RESOURCE  
CENTER

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San Francisco, CA 94103  
phone 415.777.0333  
fax 415.777.1770  
www.positiveresource.org

## STAFF

**Fernando Aguayo-García**, Senior Bilingual Benefits Advocate  
**Brett Andrews**, Executive Director  
**Matthew Bandiera**, Finance Manager  
**Melissa Cardoza**, Esq., Staff Attorney  
**Danny Castelow**, Senior Service Coordinator  
**Andy Chu**, Esq., Bilingual Staff Attorney  
**John Cunningham**, Development Director  
**Mark Davey**, Esq., Supervising Attorney  
**Scott Gardner**, Employment Specialist  
**Jane Gelfand**, Esq., Managing Legal Director—BC Program  
**Tina Glezakos**, Esq., Staff Attorney  
**Mario Gomez**, Bilingual Service Coordinator  
**Alisa Jackson**, Legal Assistant  
**Samir Kalra**, Esq., Staff Attorney  
**Yumi Maeda**, Esq., Staff Attorney  
**Nyla Moujaes**, Esq., Supervising Attorney  
**Joe Ramirez-Forcier**, Managing Director—ES Program  
**Melanie Raygoza**, Employment Specialist  
**Dennis Reilly**, Employment Specialist  
**Pat Riley**, Deputy Director  
**Jennifer Roemer**, Esq., Staff Attorney  
**Julie Saltzman**, MS, NCC, Vocational Counselor  
**JT Swanson**, Esq., Associate Legal Director  
**Annabrooke Temple**, Esq., Supervising Attorney  
**Ashley Tomlinson**, Front Office/Volunteer Coordinator  
**Vaughn Villaverde**, Legal Assistant  
**Jim Wegman**, Information Technology Manager  
**Brian Whitford**, Computer Training Coordinator  
**Jolene Wong**, Esq., Staff Attorney

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Bill Matheson**, Esq.  
**Jacques Michaels**  
**Michael Steingraber**  
**Daryl Walker**

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**Michael Bernick**, Esq.  
**Donna Sachet**  
**Gary Virginia**

## Inevitable Ends, New Beginnings

Although our society has never been perfect, there was always a generally shared belief that, at our highest order, we would work hard to create employment and educational opportunities for those who pursued them, while providing for those in need. I am not sure where or how, but it appears we have lost our way.



Well-intentioned yet misplaced trust has left us questioning our government, our leaders, and even ourselves. We allowed our prudent judgment to be clouded. We were baited into a housing bubble, victimized by growing corporate greed and held hostage by inflated gas prices, all loosely regulated by an unaccountable, if not absent government. The stark reality is that like most everything in life, it was all destined to reach some inevitable end. Fortunately, what often follows an inevitable end is a new beginning.

So much of our latest edition of the *Frontline* is about new beginnings. One of our new beginnings is the launch of our redesigned website [www.positiveresource.org](http://www.positiveresource.org). I hope you take a moment to visit our website to see what we have done to better represent the vital work of our programs. Additionally in this edition, you will find Benjamin's moving client story, and a feature on the continued necessity for disability benefits advocacy and how we address that need. Lastly, you will find highlights of our community and individual support, for which we are exceedingly grateful.

Through our unwavering advocacy, PRC continues to work hard to turn seemingly inevitable ends into new beginnings for our clients; and while the realities we face may be daunting, I, for one, have great hope in our ability to overcome them. Remember, we can begin again.

BRETT ANDREWS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# THE FRONT RUNNERS 2008 IN REVIEW

AIDS Walk San Francisco  
Dominick Albano  
Joseph R. Amaroso  
American Express Foundation  
Paul Anderson  
Brett Andrews  
Hooman Anvar  
Carl Bailey  
Scott Balentine  
The Bank of America Foundation  
Barclays Global Investors  
Bare Chest Calendar  
Alvin Baum, Jr.  
Bears of San Francisco, Inc.  
P. Robert Beatty, Ph.D.  
David Bell  
Michael Bell  
John Berge  
Best In Show  
The Bob Ross Foundation  
Michael Bories  
Zoe Borkowski and John Doughty  
Paula Braveman and John Levin  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.  
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS  
Louis Bryan  
Robert Burke  
Mark Burns  
Collin Burry  
James Campbell  
Richard Campbell  
The Castro Lions Club Charities  
Joseph Cecere, MPA  
Andy Chen  
Chevron Foundation  
Joseph Cincotta  
Oliver Cleary  
Commercial Partners, Inc.

Commonweal Foundation  
Fund of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region  
Community Thrift Store  
Larry Cook  
John Corey  
William Corr and Miguel Gomez  
Philip Crawford  
Cubs of San Francisco  
Ken Danko  
Thornton Davidson, Esq.  
James Davis, Jr.  
Defenders San Francisco  
Douglas Del Paggio  
Harry Denton  
Louis Devereux  
Henry Doering  
Daniel Dougan and Bryan Harris  
Rajat Dutta  
EMD Serono  
Robert Emerson  
ERISA Law Group  
Caroline Everts  
Susan Fahey  
David Farr and Margaret Farr  
Glenn Finch  
David Fink  
Patrick Fitzgerald  
Tom Fleming, Jr.  
Folsom Street Events  
Wayne Forester  
Foundation of the State Bar of California  
Fraenkel Gallery, Inc.  
Jonathan Funk and John Arnold  
Ann Gelfand and Martin Gelfand, M.D.  
Geller Sullivan Rentals  
Jerome Goldstein, M.D.  
Findley Golod  
Joe Granese  
The Hafner-Glenn Donor Advised Fund

Dan Healy  
Tom Hehir  
Denise Helfstein and Todd Helfstein  
Leslie Hemphill  
Allen Herro  
Christopher Hest  
Jeffrey Hest  
Hewlett-Packard Company Foundation  
Bill Hirsh  
Holiday Leather Brunch  
Steven Holt and Rob Wiggins  
Horizons Foundation  
James C. Hormel  
Mark Huggins  
Christina Ihm and Patrice Rodda  
Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc.  
Ison Design  
Craig Johnson  
Richard Jones  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.  
Alan Kates  
Tom Kelly  
Lawrence Kim  
Robert King  
Max Kirkeberg  
Jeffrey Knollmiller  
David Kominz, MD  
Kristine Larson  
Lazy Bear Fund, Inc.  
Leslie Family Foundation  
Jim Leuker  
Levi Strauss Foundation  
Jennifer Levin and Edward Sklar  
Lewis, Feinberg, Renaker & Jackson, P.C.  
Yan Liu  
Jason Macario  
Macy's West Public Relations  
Darrin Martin

Bill Matheson and Tim Matheson  
Erin Matias and Alexander Walley, M.D.  
McKeever Realty  
Mairi McKeever and Chuck Lewkowicz  
Robert McCloud  
Michael Medeiros  
Joseph Mendenhall  
Mental Wellness Foundation  
Julian Munoz  
Doug Mylcraine  
Natali Inc.  
Nordstrom, Inc.  
Office Depot  
Jen Olson  
O'Shea Foundation  
David Otto  
Ken Pearce  
Michael Polansky and Stephen Polansky  
Michael Poplaro  
The Powerhouse  
Pride Brunch  
Tony Procaccini  
Sandy Reinhard  
Todd Renschler  
The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation  
Don Roberts and Frank Brechka  
Butler Rondeno, Jr.  
Joseph Rosenthal  
Rebecca Ross  
Charles Russell  
Bruce Rutan  
Ryan White CARE Act Part A  
Donna Sachet  
Libby Sajo  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
The San Francisco Department of Public Health

The San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Investment  
Ramon Santos  
Robert Sass  
Gregg Schoen  
Judith Sensibar  
Jay Shapiro and Elizabeth Shapiro  
The Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund  
Alan Smith  
Chuck Smith  
William J. Smith Trust  
Anthony Stabile  
Joel Stahl  
The State of California Department of Rehabilitation  
Edward Steinforth  
Thomas Stewart  
Sue Strang  
Peter Straus and Lili Byers  
Strong Consulting  
Bruce Sturzl  
The Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing  
Barry Sundermeier  
Mark Tangard  
Judy Teshima  
Titan Media  
Richard Titus  
Under One Roof  
United Way of the Bay Area  
van Löben Sels/Rembe Rock Foundation  
Oscar Velasquez  
Gary Virginia  
Visa International  
Daryl Walker  
Wallis Foundation  
Rebecca Wilson  
Dan Wolf  
Jay Wood  
Zephyr Real Estate



2009 Bare Chest Calendar Men are on track to break 2008's fundraising record of \$90,000. Thanks for your hard work!



Donna Sachet and the "Sunday's A Drag" ladies raised \$2,000 for PRC at their 2nd anniversary show at Harry Denton's.



Advisory Board Members Donna Sachet and Gary Virginia hosted the 11th Annual Pride Brunch generating a record setting \$14,170 for PRC.



Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation Board Member David Walovich presented Brett Andrews with a check for \$15,000 from Help is On the Way XIV.

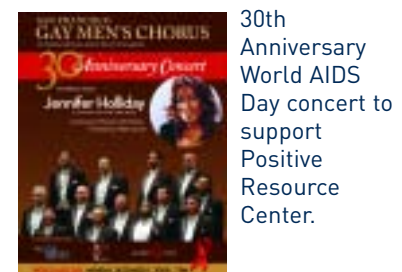
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Under One Roof

Crocker Galleria (50 Post St.)  
Holiday Store opens — November 14  
Holiday Store in the Castro located at 518A Castro St.

For more information visit [www.underoneroof.org](http://www.underoneroof.org)

### San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus



30th Anniversary World AIDS Day concert to support Positive Resource Center.  
Monday, December 1, 2008, 7pm  
Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall  
Performance by Jennifer Holliday  
Tickets available at: [www.SFGMC.org](http://www.SFGMC.org) or 415.865.ARTS

### Krewe de Kinque presents 12th Annual Holiday Leather Brunch

Sunday, December 7, 2008, 11am – 2pm  
Don Ramon's, 225 11th St. @ Howard  
Tickets available at: [www.frantix.net](http://www.frantix.net) or 415.867.5004

### 29th Annual Academy of Friends Gala

February 22, 2009, 5pm  
Herbst Pavilion @ Fort Mason Pavilion  
Tickets available at: [www.academyoffriends.org](http://www.academyoffriends.org) or 415.995.9890