



# The Poverello Center

*Serving the Nutritional Needs of People with HIV/AIDS*

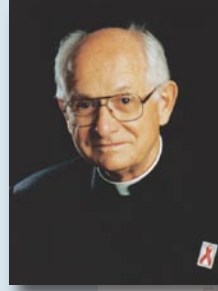
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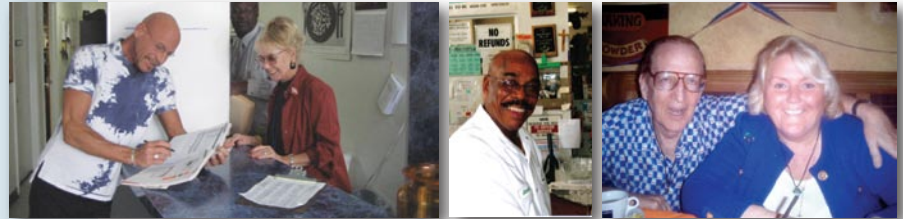
December, 2006

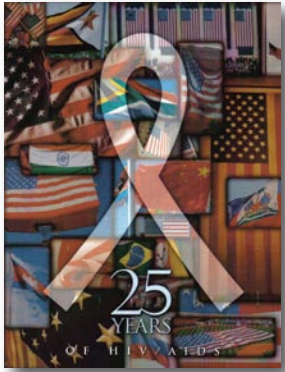


## A Note from Father Bill...

*"As our twentieth anniversary approaches, I can't help but reflect on the thousands of wonderful people that we have helped in as many years. I see their faces and feel their pain. After twenty years, we remain filled with great sorrow as we remember those that we have lost to this horrible disease we now know as HIV/AIDS.*

*Then I experience the joy of knowing that, with the help and generosity of people like you, our mission has been and remains a success. When I started feeding young people released from the hospital with nowhere to go and nothing to eat, I never imagined that one day, twenty years later, we would be helping client number 10,423. From all of us, may God bless you and may your generosity bring you and those you love the greatest rewards."*





## Twenty-Five Years of HIV/AIDS 1981 – 2006

In June 1981, news broadcasts reported that five young men had acquired

*Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia. These cases were later recognized as the first reported cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the United

States. Since that time, this disease has become one of the greatest national and global public health challenges. AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 22 million persons worldwide, including more than 500,000 persons in the United States. In 2006, more than 1 million persons are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, and an estimated 40,000 new HIV infections are expected to occur this year.

### Successes in HIV Prevention

The most notable success in HIV/AIDS prevention is the decrease in mother to child transmission. Drug treatment programs, peer outreach, and risk reduction strategies have contributed to a steady decline in new HIV/AIDS diagnoses among intravenous drug users. Another prevention success has been the widespread adoption of effective behavioral interventions by individuals, small groups, and communities. These interventions help to ensure that people at greatest risk for HIV infection obtain intensive support to reduce risky behaviors and to adopt protective strategies for their health and the health of their partners.

### New Strategies

Despite these challenges, opportunities remain to enhance the effectiveness of HIV-prevention measures. New strategies and the more widespread adoption of proven strategies are needed.

### Remaining Challenges

Despite these successes, several challenges remain. HIV/AIDS continues to be a leading cause of illness and death in the United States. The allocation of resources to the fight against HIV/AIDS and to the care of those living with the disease remains insufficient for the task.

### Partnerships

Eliminating HIV/AIDS cannot be achieved by any single agency or group, but rather, will require public health partnerships comprising persons, communities, agencies, and the private sector. More effective partnering will better identify those at greatest risk while better serving those living with the disease and its ravages.

### Increased access to voluntary HIV testing

For the estimated quarter of a million persons living with HIV who are unaware of their HIV status, testing is the gateway to lifesaving treatment. Persons who know they are infected with HIV are more likely to take steps to prevent themselves from transmitting the virus to others. To reduce the number of persons with undiagnosed HIV infections, a sustained expansion of access to and use of HIV testing will be required. Prevention messages

should focus on both HIV-positive and HIV-negative persons. Providing culturally and contextually appropriate messages is essential to help persons at risk avoid contracting HIV infection and to help those who are infected with HIV avoid transmitting the virus. The Poverello Center provides free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing. For more information call (954) 561-3663.

### Poverello's Role

Incorporated in 1987 in response to the rapid spread of the disease, The Poverello Center has maintained a focus on a simple mission: "to feed, clothe and love people affected by HIV/AIDS in Broward County." Through the Center's outreach efforts and the generosity of its family of donors, the Poverello Center has:

- Served over 10,000 individuals and families.
- Provided over 882,000 meals per year.
- Enrolled over 400 clients in our Nutrition Program.
- Enrolled over 2000 clients in our Friends Fitness Center.
- Provided free and confidential HIV testing.
- Empowered our clients by offering alternative therapies such as acupuncture, massage therapy and yoga.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Annual Spring Gala

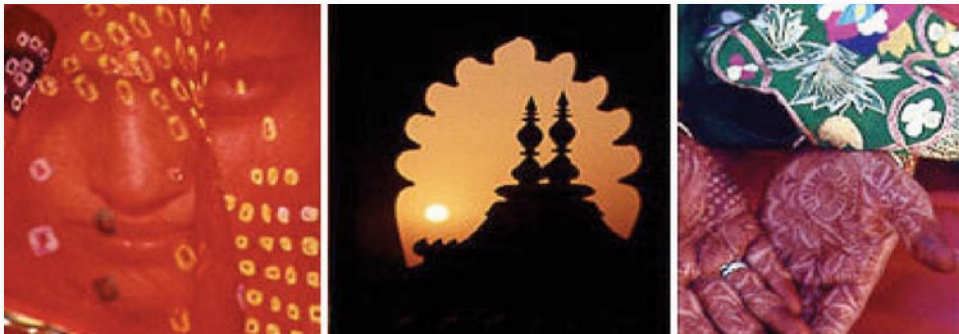
### March 24, 2007



On March 24, 2007, **The Poverello Center, Inc.** will hold its annual Spring Gala. This year's theme is **"An Evening in Marrakesh"**. Dinner and a silent auction in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hyatt Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale will be a whirlwind of color, music, and flavors, where you and your guests will be transported to an exotic, timeless land. In addition to supporting The Poverello mission, "An Evening in Marrakesh" will provide our corporate and other sponsors an opportunity to entertain their guests while affording a unique relationship building opportunity with other supporters of Poverello.

**You and other supporters of  
Poverello  
Will provide a great deal of the  
excitement!**

We are currently taking reservations for tables and accepting donations for our silent auction. Please contact Sam Taylor at 954.561.3663, extension 119. We welcome your participation in this year's event. As always, we thank you for your continued support to Poverello and our clients.



## "Written in Stone"

### Memorial Riverwalk Bricks



The Poverello Center offers friends and families a unique way to support our mission while memorializing their loved ones. Memorial Riverwalk Bricks engraved with your personal message are available for sale. Your memorial brick will be installed in a scenic location along the banks of the historic New River on Fort Lauderdale's Riverwalk. An exclusive Poverello Memorial section in front of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts has been reserved for your sentiments "written in stone."

Personalized Memorial Riverwalk Bricks are available at a cost of \$85.00 per brick. Each brick can be inscribed with up to three lines of twenty characters each. An enameled red ribbon distinguishes your brick as part of the larger Poverello Center Memorial. Proceeds from the sale of Memorial Riverwalk Bricks are used to fund Poverello's mission of feeding, clothing and bringing love to those living with HIV in Broward County.



**TO ORDER YOUR BRICK**

*Call us at 954.561.3663*

*Send a fax to 954.566.7868*

*Visit our website: [www.poverello.org](http://www.poverello.org)*

## *I Believe in Angels*

by Thomas M. Smith



### **TUESDAY'S ANGELS**

Fort Lauderdale, Florida



*In April of this year, I received a call from a local Fort Lauderdale group, Tuesday's Angels. They asked what it would cost to provide our clients with necessities such as bleach, dish detergent, paper towels, toilet tissue, laundry supplies and bath soap. I was told that Tuesday's Angels had been approached by several clients in need of such items. After checking prices, I informed Tuesday's Angels that it would take at least \$28,000.00 per year. They generously offered to fund \$7,000.00 each six months for at least one year.*

*I told them that Poverello would match the grant amount, and we would be able to offer the much needed items to our clients. Soon after the first check arrived, and within two weeks, the items were being added to the weekly boxes our clients receive each week a different item is added to their box until we rotate through the many items offered. Many of our clients made a special effort to offer their sincere thanks for these new found necessities of life.*

*Tuesday's Angels is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in Florida. Founded in 1993 by several gentlemen in Fort Lauderdale, their goal is to provide immediate assistance to those in need. We all know the high cost of paper*

*items and cleaning products. Many of our clients go without such items because they just cannot afford them. Funding cuts this year have placed a real burden on our budget at a time when the cost of food and other expenses continue to reach staggering levels. New clients come to our doors every day, and we are hopeful that we will never need to turn anyone away. It is only through the continued generosity of people like Tuesday's Angels that we are able to continue to better serve the real and immediate needs of the HIV/AIDS community in Broward County. At Poverello, we struggle each day to extend the hand of help to the many men, women and children living with HIV. And when we sometimes feel down, feel defeated and wonder where essential funding will come from, we are reminded that people like Tuesday's Angels are out there and that they care. That's why I believe in Angels.*



*Dr. Louis Ricci and Chuck Nicholls, Tuesday's Angels, presenting Thomas M. Smith a check*

## **"Unsung Hero" Recognized**



Our own Dan Sadowski, a 14 year volunteer/employee of Poverello Center, has been recognized by the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) at the United States Conference on AIDS for his unseen yet essential services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Broward County.

Established in 1987, the NMAC is the premiere national organization dedicated to developing leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

With over 4000 activists and community leaders in attendance, Dan was one of twenty "unsung heroes" honored by NMAC at this year's annual conference in Hollywood, Florida. Lisa Agate, Director of HIV/AIDS Services for the Broward County Health Department, presented the award to Dan.



Dan was appointed manager of the Poverello Food Bank in June of 1997. According to Poverello's Father Bill Collins, "Dan's day begins before daybreak and doesn't end until the last client's need is met. He has consistently been, and remains, an inspiration to our staff and volunteers."

The over 3,000 men, women and children who depend on Poverello for food, clothing and other household supplies are largely unaware of the massive logistical effort involved in meeting the needs of people living with AIDS in Broward. Most of the heavy lifting is performed by a cadre of dedicated volunteers who get their direction and motivation from Dan. Spending fifteen minutes with Dan in the Poverello Center's massive Food Bank, Dan's Domain, is a quick but effective lesson in inventory management, safe food handling, nutrition and kindness. In Dan's mind, the sole reason for Poverello's existence is to help.

We are always proud when a member of the Poverello Family is recognized for their caring and service. We congratulate Dan Sadowski for the NMAC honor, and, for his constant service on behalf of our clients.

## **POVERELLO EXPANDS TO E-BAY**



In keeping with the 21st century, Poverello has expanded its Thrift Store sales onto the world-wide web. "eBay Giving Works" is the dedicated program for charity listings on eBay where you can buy items to support nonprofit organizations like The Poverello Center. Expenses to use "eBay Giving Works", are donated back to The Poverello Center as a gift by eBay. Now you can harness the power of eBay to benefit The Poverello Center. The donations of house hold items to the Thrift Shop as "Gifts-in kind" are sold on eBay to get the maximum cash for your donations. Thank you for supporting The Poverello Thrift Shop with your donations. We will be happy to pick up large items for donation. Please call the Center for pick up arrangements (954-561-3663) EXT. 113.