

AIDS ALIVE

News Flash

MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE

After five years of providing AIDS awareness and prevention education to thousands of students, AIDS Alive has come to the conclusion that, in many ways, HIV/AIDS is only a symptom. The underlying issue is often that our youth do not realize their value and potential as individuals. They are starving for clear and consistent guidance and leadership from their parents and teachers. To address this issue, AIDS Alive envisioned coordinating a conference called SpeakUp 2000! to address some of the issues that concern all of us today. After months of planning, conducting focus group meetings throughout the area, and harnessing the energies of a talented corps of individuals and organizations, we are excited that this dream is now a reality as we host our SpeakUp 2000! Conference slated for Saturday, October 7th at St. Joseph's University.

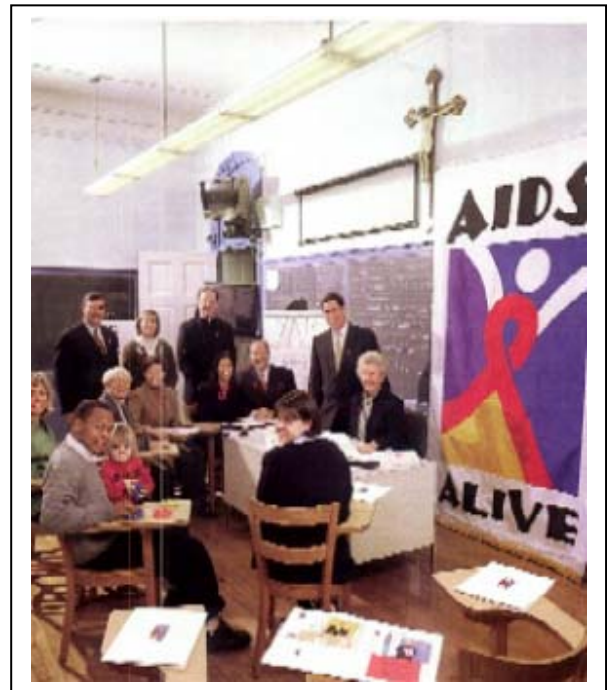
SpeakUp 2000! Conference Brings Together Youth, Educators, and Parents/Guardians



On Saturday, October 7th, SpeakUp 2000! will kick-off a unique, all-day conference, which is a first step for urban and suburban committed youth, dedicated educators, and involved parents/guardians to come together for a common goal. As a community, we are sometimes overwhelmed by daily struggles that concern us. We have seen adults and youth who have eating disorders; perhaps we have even experienced drug and alcohol abuse in our homes. We have stood by and watched the devastation of AIDS to so many. We read about violence and crime. The media, TV and the Internet have influenced our country

in many positive and negative ways. Many in our community have given up in despair to suicide because they no longer believe in themselves and don't see a reason to live.

SpeakUp 2000! is convinced that we must begin by uniting our youth, educators and parents/guardians through communication, mutual respect, and trust. We need to listen and talk as we explore the world around us and view the future ahead of us.



Planning the upcoming SpeakUp 2000! Conference are Jeanine Billizi of Hallahan High School; Sean Gavin, Youth at Peace; Mary Theresa Corcoran; Karen Theune, AIDS Alive; Gail Willard, Parents of Murdered Children; Cheryl Nichols, Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Patricia and Alex Wolfington; Martie Gillin, AIDS Alive; Joseph T. Cox, The Haverford School; Lisa Corcoran, Family Forum; Fr. Don Reilly, SILOAM; and Sam Katz of Greater Philadelphia First.

At this groundbreaking conference, SpeakUp 2000! will emphasize the development of communication skills to foster productive dialogue at home, at school, and within the community to enable participants to make positive choices in order to **Make a Difference**.

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Twenty-three regional organizations have joined in this undertaking. Several of these partners, along with a wealth of contributors and speakers from various backgrounds, will be sharing their inspirational stories. These speakers are led by AIDS Alive/SpeakUp 2000! founder Martie Gillin, as well as Cheryl Nichols of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Gail Willard from Parents of Murdered Children.

SpeakUp 2000! will take a proactive approach in educating youth, educators, and parents/guardians of the responsibilities each incurs in their respective roles. The mission is to empower all participants to make informed decisions for positive life choices. Organizations that encourage these life choices will be linked to the SpeakUp 2000! website to provide guidance and resources on the issues and concerns of the conference.

The design of this conference borrows elements from the "Future Search" model and other approaches to large group meetings. The conference will utilize open dialogue and a graphic description of how the past and present trends have impacted our lives. We will work together to discover how each of us sees and has experienced the world. From there, we will look forward in time to create a vision of our collective future and decide on individual actions.

SpeakUp 2000! is committed to change – a change for the better in the relationships of youth, educators, and parents/guardians. Through hard work, passion and love, this conference will provide a platform for all of us to have a safe place, to have moral strength, to value life, and to respect ourselves and others.

We all have the right and want to exercise that right to make choices that have good outcomes; sometimes we just need to know how it is done. Our greatest strength is in each other and, together at SpeakUp 2000!, the participants will develop an understanding of how to listen, explore, acknowledge and respond to others. SpeakUp 2000! and AIDS Alive affirm a belief long held but often forgotten that individuals, families and organizations working together can and do **Make a Difference.** **On October 7, 2000, through your prayers, support, and participation, we will Make that Difference!**

SpeakUp 2000! Partners

Advancement for Delaware Valley
 Independent Schools
 Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Youth Association
 CYO Leadership Institute
 Center for Greater Philadelphia
 Center for Youth Development
 Champions of Caring
 City Year
 Comcast Cable Communications
 Family Forum
 Family Resource Network
 Future Search
 Lower Merion School
 MADD/Mothers Against Drunk Driving
 Parents of Murdered Children
 Partnership for a Drug Free America
 Passionate Leaders
 Philadelphia's Promise
 Philadelphia Board of Education
 PTA – Philadelphia School District
 Roman Catholic High School
 Safe & Sound
 SILOAM Ministries

SPEAK UP 2000! CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ School/Affiliation: _____

Mark One: Youth (Grade____) Educator Parent/Guardian
(Open to Students in Grades 6-12)

Choose two (2) of the Breakout Topics listed below:

- Violence • Sex & AIDS • Eating Disorders
- Drugs & Alcohol • Teen Suicide • Family Dynamics
- The Internet & Television

Breakout Session listed Choices:

Session I: _____
 Session II: _____

Fee: \$10.00 total per person. (includes continental breakfast, boxed lunch, and snacks) Please make check payable to *AIDS Alive* and return to 1084 E. Lancaster Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010.

RSVP by September 12, 2000.

In keeping with the theme of our Conference, we are publishing an attractive full-size Program Journal "Yearbook." If you would like to advertise in our SpeakUp 2000! Program Journal, please complete and return this form along with your "camera ready" artwork, business card or message and a check made payable to AIDS Alive. **Ad artwork must be received by 9/8/00.**



PROGRAM JOURNAL YEARBOOK ADVERTISEMENT FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Team: 8.5" X 11" w/Gold Trim	\$15,000	Amount Paid \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Team: 8.5" X 11" w/ Silver Trim	\$10,000	Type of payment:
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Team: 8.5" X 11" w/Blue Trim	\$5,000	_____ Check _____ Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Team: 8.5" X 11" w/Red Trim	\$2,500	_____ Amex _____ Visa _____ MasterCard
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