



**Raise the Roof: Housing advocate Susan Howe**

## On the March! POZ's C2EA countdown

*HIVer Susan Howe, 60, is rowdier than most retired nurses: The minister's daughter is trying to save Pittsburgh's endangered Housing Opportunities for PWAs (HOPWA), the agency that helps her pay rent. She's petitioning legislators, and in October, she'll march on Washington in the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA; visit [www.endaidsnow.org](http://www.endaidsnow.org)). If money is tight, Howe says fight.*

### Why are you marching?

Since I'm an AIDS patient, how can I not? We shouldn't be cutting PWA housing to run a war.

### How would housing cuts affect you?

If Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Penn.) cuts HOPWA funding as proposed, I and many Pittsburgh AIDS patients will be in the streets.

Can you afford to get to the march? On supplemental security income (SSI), I get \$579 a month and Medicaid. I'll join the planned cross-country caravan or drive up by myself.

### How can poor folks get to DC?

Everyone lives in a federally funded Ryan White region; you could ask your local coalition for funding. Beyond that, people should ask local AIDS service organizations, corporations and churches to fund their trip.

### How have you won HIVer rights?

We won housing priority for PWAs by repeatedly writing letters and embarrassing authorities into doing the right thing. I present myself so that I can't be dismissed. Other advocates call me the bulldog. —*Josh Sparber*

## MILESTONES



### In the Spotlight

On March 31, ex-Baywatch babe **Pamela Anderson** was crowned HIV-testing spokeswoman for the M\*A\*C makeup company's VIVA GLAM lipstick AIDS fundraising campaign.

### In the Office

AIDS services vet **Mark Cloutier** will head the San Francisco AIDS Foundation starting June 1.

After four years of AIDS-advocacy triumphs, Project Inform chief **Ellen LaPointe** stepped down April 1.

### In the Courts

On March 4, **Walber Leonel**, **Richard Branton** and **Vincent Fusco** won a federal appeal to sue American Airlines for discrimination; the men were denied jobs after refusing to disclose their HIV status and then testing positive in a physical.

### In the Recovery Room

South African Treatment Action Campaigner **Zackie Achmat** is healing from a March 24 heart attack.

### In Memoriam

New York Times reporter and novelist **Christopher Marquis** died of AIDS February 11 at 43.

HIV/cancer crusader **Blanche Wynn**, 41, who recounted her 38 radiation treatments in the October 2004 POZ, died from complications of cancer March 24. —*Emmy Favilla*



## WHEN PUSH COMES TO DRAG A Rural ASO Gets Footloose for Funds

**R**ural areas suffered the brunt of private and federal AIDS cutbacks after 9/11—but Susan MacNeil's town, steeped in AIDS stigma, hardly cared. The ASO she directs in Keene, New Hampshire—AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region—lost nearly a third of its funding by 2003. So MacNeil (kneeling, below) proposed an HIVer boardinghouse in nearby Gilsum—and locals immediately banned boardinghouses.

Without money or support, MacNeil went searching for glass slippers—size 13. “Some locals thought the sky would fall when I brought in drag queens,” she says. Instead the Ladies of the Rainbow Lounge and their pumps brought the house down—one townsman even leaped onstage. The fourth performance, on March 19, sold out all 127 seats, raising \$2,500.

In MacNeil's April 8 fundraiser, *Living Beyond the Lab Results*, five positive women recounted their life stories. The director, Jo Schneiderman, says it shows “how these women live their lives in [areas] where people think there's no AIDS.” On June 25, look for the “Karaoke Idol” competition—and community cheer even Simon Cowell couldn't sour.

—*Suzy Martin*

For more ASMR info, check out [www.asmr-online.org](http://www.asmr-online.org). Want to see your ASO in POZ? E-mail [aso@poz.com](mailto:aso@poz.com).



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