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AIDS Foundation Houston Pioneer Member Releases Memoir

Freda Wagman writes narrative of her life in the trenches of the AIDS epidemic

HOUSTON (June 4, 2008) — A longtime volunteer of AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH), Freda Wagman, has recently released her first book entitled “Snippets from the Trenches: a mother’s AIDS memoir” (BookSurge Publishing 2007).

In “Snippets from the Trenches,” Wagman chronicles her life as the mother of a young, gay man infected with the HIV virus in 1983. Wagman details her sensitive relationship with her son, her struggle to cope with his illness and the people she met through her subsequent involvement with HIV/AIDS support services and programs.

“Freda’s book reveals a deeply personal journey of living and working with people infected with AIDS with which many readers will feel a connection,” said Patty Armstrong, Chief Operating Officer of AFH. “It reminds all of us that everyone deserves patience, dignity and compassion.”

When Wagman began her volunteer work, AFH was an all-volunteer based organization and she, along with other members, struggled to provide assistance and comfort to people and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

AFH was founded in 1982 as Texas’ first organization dedicated to HIV prevention education and services. AFH provides services to more than 5,000 clients annually through more than 40 client-based programs, including permanent and transitional housing for many living with HIV/AIDS.

In Houston, HIV/AIDS infection rates have reached alarming numbers—nearly 25,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in Houston since 1981. It is estimated that one in every 100 Houstonians is HIV-positive and every eight hours, someone new contracts the virus.

To learn more about “Snippets from the Trenches” or to order a copy, contact Freda Wagman at Freda.Wagman@sbcglobal.net.

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About AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating positive social impact through the innovative management of HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. Founded in 1982, AFH is one of the oldest HIV/AIDS service organizations in the U.S. and remains a national leader in HIV/STD programming with initiatives targeting the core areas of food, housing, youth, prevention and incarcerated and recently-released offenders. This year, AFH will provide direct services to more than 5,000 HIV-positive men, women and children, and will reach more than 50,000 Houstonians with prevention education in the Greater Houston area. For more information, please visit www.AIDSHelp.org.