



# PROGRESSREPORT

ISSUE 1  ALHI

The **Health Initiative** is grateful to all the donors

who made our successes in 2008 possible. Although the economy continues to cloud the future in general, we remain fiscally strong because you continue to support us.

In the first quarter of 2009, we are **moving forward** to build on our accomplishments of 2008. Here are some highlights of the work we are doing.

## SHARED SPACE

The **Health Initiative** has a long standing commitment to share our meeting space with our partnering LGBT organizations. This year, a generous grant from the Russell Foundation has allowed us to take that commitment a step further. In partnership with Georgia Equality, the **Health Initiative** is expanding our usable space to allow both organizations to share resources, cut expenses and expand our collaborative possibilities. In addition to housing the offices of the **Health Initiative** and Georgia Equality, our new space will include two separate private meeting rooms and space for other community organizations to access office equipment, the internet and other services needed to function more effectively.

## FOURTH TUESDAY'S SOCIAL NETWORK

Atlanta's 25 year-old lesbian network, Fourth Tuesday, has partnered with the **Health Initiative**. The alliance of the two organizations now provides an important social and support connection for lesbians throughout Atlanta and the state. The network supports geographically based chapters throughout the greater metropolitan Atlanta area and is expanding to meet the needs of LGBTQ women in other parts of Georgia. These chapters serve as a conduit for our support network, as well as for local health related resources and information.



## LIFESTYLE LINK

The Health Initiative's online health assessment, Lifestyle Link, was launched in October of 2008. Through the assessment, lesbians (and other members of the LGBTQ community) across Georgia and beyond can receive a customized report with information and referrals for resources in their area. To access the site visit [www.thehealthinitiative.org/lifestyleLink](http://www.thehealthinitiative.org/lifestyleLink).

## LESBIAN HEALTH FUND

Planned Parenthood of Georgia has partnered with the Lesbian Health Fund in our effort to provide physical examinations and health screenings to under and un-insured women. Other partners are the Feminist Women's Health Center, Family Health Enterprise and the Center for Black Women's Wellness. Under and un-insured working women are particularly vulnerable—one catastrophic illness can cost a family their home. Armed with the knowledge that having preventive health screenings allows chronic diseases to be caught early, before they become catastrophic, the Health Initiative established the fund to make it possible for lower income women to access the same preventive screenings as those women with adequate health insurance.

## LESBIAN WEIGHT LOSS

For two years running, our Weight Watchers program has won awards for highest performance through out metro Atlanta. We are currently conducting research with Vanderbilt University to assess the success of our program—and look at how we can expand it and make it even more effective.

## THE FUTURE

While the economic future looks uncertain, our outlook remains optimistic. All of our efforts focus on building collaborative partnerships and stretching every resource we have to meet the needs of the community. We take your continued support very seriously and pledge to provide the best possible return on your investment.

