## AIDS/HV Resources, Inc. official after yearlong trial run <br> toward coalescing

-Shanti and Willamette AIDS Council merge into new organization

By Daralyn Trappe Emerald Associate Edito

Lane County's two HIV/AIDS service organizations, Shanti in Oregon and the willamette ADDS Council, have officially merged after a successful yearlong trial.partnership.
As of July 1 , the combined forces are known as HIV/AIDS Resources, Inc.
Geena Southworth, former Executive Director of Shanti will retain her position with the new group. Southworth said the merger began in early 1991, when Willamette AIDS Council, because of some "organizational difficulties moved into the Shanti office.
Shortly thereafter the boards
of directors for both decided on a trial partnership with an aim

Southworth said the move made sense for several reasons. With Willamette AIDS Council doing education and prevention and services for HIV and Shanti doing direct support services, it was confusing for the community," she said People didn't know where to go for which services. With one comprehensive organization we have more strength
In addition, grant money may be easier to apply for and obtain. Southworth said
"Some resources will only fund education and others only support services, so before on of us would find out about a grant, but not be eligible for it and not know if other knew about it," she said. "Now we can apply for anything and hopefully be in a better position for funding
Southworth said the new group will provide the same ed ucation, prevention and sup port services as before with an eye toward expanding. espe
cially in the area of care giving problem. and support services.
A low-income housing project, with the help of Catholic Community Servites. is in the planning stages and the group is trying to develop an at-home food service program.
But funding is a constant
"We need money desperately just to maintain what we're doing now," Southworth said. Southworth estimates that HIV/AIDS Resources helped educate and served the needs of thousands of people last year. And the need for the services
continues to increase, South worth said. During the first six months of this year, the organi zation saw as many new clients as all of last year, Southworth said.
For more information on services, donations or volunteering, call 342-5088.

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