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NORTHWEST newsbriefs

distribute a safer-sex pamphlet at the beginning of the AIDS crisis. Since then, other orders have been established across the United States and around the world.

After working with the Sisters from the Abbey of St. Joan in Seattle, organizers felt there was a need in Portland for an order. The order formed June 18 and has begun working with community organizations like Cascade AIDS Project, the Friends of People with AIDS Foundation and the Oregon Bears and with Ms. Gay Oregon.

The Sisters helped the Cubs/Bears/Grizzlies softball teams with their bingo fund-raiser Aug. 14. The event was successful, raising more than \$1,000 to help the teams represent Portland at out-of-state tournaments.

The order is incorporated in the state of Oregon as a nonprofit/charitable organization. It is in the process of applying for 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service.

If you'd like to know more about the Order of Benevolent Bliss, visit the Web site www.benevolentbliss.org. If you'd like to learn more about the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Web site of the San Francisco Mother House is www.thesisters.org.

Now our leaders must commit to getting those tools to people living with and at risk for HIV worldwide."

The caravans are creating dynamic new networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, emboldening many to stand up and be counted in rural areas where AIDS stigma is high and underfunding has led to waiting lists for crucial AIDS drugs.

"We need to increase the number of people getting HIV care and meds," says Tami Gaines of Overbrook, Kan., an HIV-positive mother of three and organizer of the Oakland, Calif., caravan, which will cut through her state, where patients often drive hours to see an AIDS doctor. "I don't want other kids worrying their moms might die the way my sons have. This disease is treatable and preventable."

For more information, or to donate to the caravan, visit portland.endaidsnow.org.

COLAGE RELAUNCHES PORTLAND CHAPTER

Portland Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere will gear back up this fall, and they are looking for children of queer parents for community events, support, activism, conversation and fun.

COLAGE provides community, support and fun for people of all ages with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents. The age range and the type of group varies from chapter to chapter. Some chapters provide regular events, support groups or activities; others act as the primary source for information and resources in their community. COLAGE groups provide important modeling for our families (and ourselves) that our families are natural, normal and numerous. Kids have fun, meet other kids from sex-



Sister Mona Little-Moore, mistress of novices, plays a rousing game of bingo for charity.

CAMPAIGN TO END AIDS CARAVAN SEND-OFF SEPT. 22

With nine committed caravanners, the Portland contingent of the Campaign to End AIDS has reached its fund-raising goals and is preparing to take off across the country Sept. 22.

The group will leave from the HIV Day Center, 2941 N.E. Ainsworth St., about 10 a.m. and head for its first stop in Boise, Idaho.

Calling itself the American Heritage Caravan, the group is one of 10 caravans traveling from coastal cities on a three-week, 24-city trek. Caravanners will join in local events and pick up new caravanners in Boise then Laramie, Cheyenne and Casper, Wyo.; Rapid City and Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lincoln and Omaha, Neb.; Sioux City, Des Moines and Iowa City, Iowa; Chicago, Batavia and Aurora, Ill.; Indianapolis and Gary, Ind.; Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio; Lexington, Ky.; Charleston, W.Va.; and Charlottesville, Va., arriving Oct. 7 in Washington, D.C., for four days of lobbying Congress and other training and change-focused events.

Nationwide, thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS are preparing with loved ones and supporters to travel across the United States in these 10 colorful caravans this month, stopping en route in towns from Boston to Brownsville, Texas, to tell national and global leaders: "We have the tools to stop AIDS here and abroad.



COLAGE marches on Washington in 2004.

ual minority families and have a safe place to talk about what it's like being part of a sexual minority family.

Check out the national organization's link at www.colage.org, or subscribe to the yahoo group at colagenw-subscribe@yahoo.com. If you are interested in finding out more about the Portland chapter, e-mail colagepdx@gmail.com.

STUDY SEEKS WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED ABUSE

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Portland researcher Nancy Glass is sending out a call to women in the area to help provide vital information for her study through Oregon Health & Science University. Titled *Assessing Risk of Repeat Violence in Abusive Female Same-Sex Intimate Partner Relationships*, the study is being conducted with the Health Disparities Research Center and community