



are homeless or are on the brink of homelessness in the Portland metro area.

The grant also ensures three additional years of operation for Working Choices, a program offering workshops, one-on-one assistance and networking groups for HIV-positive job seekers.

This is all great news for CAP, whose annual AIDS Walk Portland took to the streets October 2 with lofty fundraising goals. With participation hovering around the 10,000 mark—roughly the same as in the last three years—CAP's fundraising totals handily eclipsed the 2010 sum of \$379,000, as \$450,000 had been tallied as of press time.

Speakers at pre-walk events included Mayor Sam Adams, former Governor Barbara Roberts and Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle.

For CAP executive director Michael Kaplan, the event's continued growth is a testament to the visibility and awareness that CAP works so hard at promoting throughout the year.

"In many of the midsize cities across this country, AIDS Walks have had a tough time, and several have seen declining results over the past several years," Kaplan says. "As such, to see an increase for the third year in a row, and such a substantial increase this year, really means a lot."

Funds raised through AIDS Walk go to support the work of CAP, primarily, but also in 2011 support local agencies like Martha's Pantry, the HIV Day Center and Our House of Portland.

Particularly inspiring has been the story of this year's number one fundraiser, 11-

Above: More than 10,000 people gathered for AIDS Walk Portland 2011.

Below: This year's top fundraiser, 11-year-old Alazar Manning



year-old Alazar Manning. With a goal of \$9,000, and topping Kaplan as the highest fundraiser for 2011, Manning launched an effort based on raising awareness that HIV is spreading seven times faster in the black population than in the white population. Manning raised \$9,050, narrowly besting Kaplan at the deadline.

"It makes me feel proud," Manning says. His walking group, The A-Team, raised approximately \$9,300 for AIDS Walk Portland. Manning also received donations from actress Angela Bassett and musician Kenny Loggins following a campaign to enlist celebrity sponsors for the cause.

"I couldn't be more thrilled," Kaplan says of Manning's accomplishment. "He's amazing! To see an 11-year-old young man come at this with such passion and energy gives me hope for how we get to the other side of this epidemic." JO

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