

the women's collective

sharing our stories, saving our lives

March 5, 2009

Dr. Shannon Hader
Director
HIV/AIDS Administration
64 New York Avenue, NE
Suite 5001
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Dr. Hader:

The Women's Collective (TWC) has leased approximately 12,000 square feet of space in Northeast, DC on Rhode Island Ave. The space is in an area that is only now undergoing major restructuring and revitalization. It is also the area that has a high incidence of HIV/AIDS infection rates and one in which few if any service centers address the needs of this population. To expand its ability to provide state of the art services and to ensure that larger numbers of affected and infected women, girls and families have increased access to education and care, The Women's Collective is in the process of moving to this new site

The Women's Collective was established to provide services to women and girls living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS and to support and help educate their family members and the community at large. In addition, it has become the voice for many of those seeking help with prevention, detection, housing, medical care, treatment and a variety of support services that address the overwhelming issues faced by women, girls and families.

Over the years, TWC has increased in size and capacity to provide services to District residents. For the past few years, it has had to confine and in some instances limit its capacity to service the needs of its clients because of physical space constraints. The opportunity to enlarge its capacity by moving to a larger space will be realized once the new space is renovated. As part of the strategic vision of the agency services such as substance abuse counseling, mental health therapy, and the exploration of initially limited but later full woman-focused medical services.

Toward that end, in 2008, Founder/Executive Director, Patricia Nalls enlisted the aid of professionals to help design the new space and negotiate the lease for that space. An architect from CUH2A and an attorney from Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP donated months

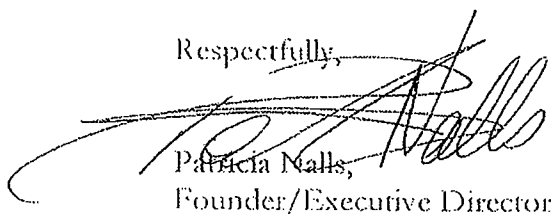
of time to prepare concept drawings and provide legal representation during the lease negotiations. In addition, Ms. Nalls successfully negotiated the build out costs down from \$1.2 million to approximately \$300,000.

In order to occupy the new space, TWC has to undertake the renovation of the Rhode Island Ave. site. While it is estimated to cost approximately \$300,000 to build out the new space, that build out is calculated to:

1. Geographically expand the panoply of services offered by TWC in an underserved area of the District;
2. Increase the number of clients who can be serviced at the same fixed cost;
3. Increase the overall effectiveness of TWC by expanding its ability to service more clients;
4. Routinely employ a total of 30 full and part time jobs including several new positions that would be available with the expansion of our HIV care and HIV prevention services such as a Mental Health Therapist, Receptionist, Book keeper, HIV Tester/Counselors, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, etc.; and
5. Provide at least 6 contracts for services of: an architect, electrical and mechanical engineers, project manager, construction manager, and office furniture movers. It will provide a total of 20 jobs, for a period of from 4 to 6 months, to District residents who are in the building and construction trade, specifically, plumbers, electricians, HVAC systems technicians, painters, masons, and carpenters. It provide at least 20 hours of employment for 10 office movers.

In closing, this project is important and timely for ensuring that women, girls and families living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS in the District have access to the care and services that support their health and well-being across the lifespan. This project is “shovel ready” and would have a clear, beneficial, and long lasting impact on residents of the District.

Respectfully,



Patricia Nalls,
Founder/Executive Director