

Ms. Vanessa Smith  
*Executive Director*

To whom it may Concern:

McKenzie W. Smith  
*Chairman*

Ms. Barbara Morris  
*Secretary*

Ms. Jennie Betton  
*Assistant Secretary*

Mr. Anthony Stoll  
*Treasurer*

Mr. Vannish Smith  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Mr. Lewis W. Powell, III  
Pastor Barney S. Saulsby  
Steve Teichner  
Mr. Matthew Ingram  
Ms. Mattie Curtis  
Ms. Hazel White


The mission of South Side Help Center (SSHC) is to provide families with positive and healthy alternatives for building better communities. In 1987, SSHC began its HIV/AIDS program as an outreach effort to African-Americans who were affected by AIDS in large numbers. Today, SSHC provides HIV/AIDS prevention intervention programs in various community venues and target populations on Chicago's south side. SSHC is especially proud of the unique and innovative educational and support programs for African American women. Below is a description of some of the programs we offer for women.

#### Women Prevention Services

- **Shelter Women's AIDS Program (SWAP):** HIV Education via SISTA curriculum, Prevention Case Management (PCM), support group, onsite counseling & testing (CT), and referrals services to high-risk African American Women living facilities and homeless shelters.
- **Female IDU Street outreach Initiative** -Provides CT, individual and group risk reduction education and referrals services to African- American female IDUs.
- **Young Women's Project (BRIGHT)** –provides HIV Group education and PCM to young women ages 19 -29 who are at risk for HIV. Date started:1995
- **Women's Collaborative-** Provides HIV education and Testing in Beauty Salons across Chicago
- **Corrections Initiative-** Providing case management services to HIV positive women recently released from Cook County Jail.

In addition, South Side Help Center was the initiating and lead agency for the highly successful Illinois Women Preventing AIDS Campaign (IWPA). This campaign was presented as a conference for two consecutive years and targeted African American women and health care providers. Included in the campaign were culturally-sensitive brochures, posters, bumper stickers and campaign buttons. The mission of the conference was to empower and educate women and connect them with appropriate support services, while providing an opportunity for service providers to forge collaborations and have access to new and emerging information. The conference included a series of workshops facilitated by a multi-disciplinary team of providers, behavioral scientists/researchers, consumers and government representatives. The campaign targeted all women of color including those living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian and bisexual, case managers, executive directors/administrators, service providers, health department personnel, community activists, and young women.

Respectfully,



Vanessa Smith  
Executive Director