



Contact: Ahmad Bahrami, CIC Coordinator
559-237-3420 Office
559-283-1416 Cell

Date: February 12, 2008

News Release

“Fresno Activist Selected for service on Statewide HIV/AIDS Planning Group”

Fresno, CA – Fresno and the Central Valley will finally have local representation within the California HIV/AIDS Planning Group (CHPG). CHPG is a statewide group of community members, providers, policy makers, advocates, and consumers who work to advise the California Office of AIDS on service needs, community planning, funding, and other pertinent issues. In recent years, the central valley and Fresno County have not been represented at this critical forum – leaving valley voices unheard.

At this time, The Living Room – a Project of WestCare California – is proud to announce that Ms. Toni Harrison has been selected to serve on this important statewide planning group. With this selection, Ms. Harrison will not only be a voice for The Living Room in Sacramento, but also represent the County of Fresno, and the Central Valley in this important advisory capacity. Ms. Harrison will continue her years-long commitment to persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, focusing on advocacy for service needs, participant rights, and access to care.

The State made the announcement on February 5, 2008. In response, Maurice Lee, Regional Vice President for WestCare said *“We are proud to have Ms. Harrison selected for this group. She has been a pivotal advocate in the community for sometime, and will provide great insight about issues important in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley to this statewide group.”*

Ms. Harrison is a 7-year employee of The Living Room, currently serving as Lead Case Manager. In addition to managing a caseload of diverse clients, Ms. Harrison plans and delivers training to WestCare staff throughout California, community organizations and the public. She is also Co-Chair of the Community Planning Working Council (CPWC), (the local equivalent of the Statewide CHPG), here in Fresno.

- more -

The Living Room – a project of WestCare, has been providing HIV prevention, education, and other HIV related services to the community for more than 11 years. With services designed for those infected and affected by HIV, we offer case management, food and pantry services, education and prevention services, support groups, recreational activities, and housing assistance. The Living Room is a project of WestCare California, a leading provider of health and human services for 35 years.

- end -