



Immediate Release

The Living Room a project of WestCare receives \$8,500 from local community group to sustain specialty programs for those living with HIV.

The Living Room a project of WestCare, has been providing services to those members of the community impacted by HIV/AIDS for the past 11 years, received \$8,500 grant from the Imperial Dove Court-Fresno/Madera Chapter. The IDC is a community group who conducts shows and performances locally to raise monies for local causes. This year they rose over \$13,000 and of that shared \$8,500 to the Living Room. Toni Harrison Lead Case Manager at The Living Room said *"we are so grateful to the IDC for their kindness and continued support"*.

These funds will help sustain some of the specialty and smaller services offered at The Living Room that have been impacted by tight economic times. The funds will allow the program to continue to distribute 100 turkeys to HIV+ persons and families during the upcoming holidays. The funds will also go to help provide those in need with basic daily necessities such as hygiene products, etc. The rest of the funds will be used to purchase bus passes, and bus tokens to assist clients in getting to necessary medical appointments which are critical.

The face of those at risk or infected with HIV/AIDS is still apparent within our own community. Gay men, people of color, and especially women are disproportionately impacted by the virus. New HIV/AIDS cases remain an issue in our community. The support of community groups such as the IDC has made a positive impact on the lives of those served through The Living Room. Its small donations and grants that allow The Living Room to provide the specialty services to those assisted by our programs. Maurice Lee, Sr. Vice President for WestCare said *"The IDC and community groups like them have consistently given to support these programs, and we are so grateful for their efforts"*.

To get any additional information, and or if you have any other questions, please feel free to contact Ahmad Bahrami, Coordinator of Community

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