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**Jesse Helms**

**KING OF KILLER AMENDMENTS**

**H**elms' anti-gay amendments spread fear and bigotry and endanger effective government response to the AIDS crisis. Will he win? It's up to you!

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The *Speak Out* mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160.

## NEKAC Holds Open House

Approximately 20 people were on hand Friday, September 15 to help the Northeast Kingdom Aids Coalition (NEKAC) open its first office. The office is located on the third floor of the vicarage of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Mission at 7 West Church St. in Hardwick, VT.

NEKAC focuses on supplying education and support concerning HIV infection to Orleans, Essex and Caledonia counties and, whenever possible, to adjacent areas. This is accomplished by a buddy system, a lending library of books and tapes (both video and cassette), a support group for all affected by AIDS (people who are HIV positive and significant others), information about hundreds of treatments (experimental and approved, traditional and alternative), risk reduction counseling, and a hotline.

NEKAC was formed in November of 1988. A concerned Northeast Kingdom resident and employees at the Newport offices of the Vermont Dept. of Health and Northeast Kingdom Mental Health discussed the need in the Kingdom for increased AIDS education, greater community outreach, and a support group for people living with HIV infection and their significant others. That dialogue developed into a general meeting in January of this year. Notices were sent out inviting people to attend a gathering of what was then called the Newport AIDS Network. Approximately 25 people responded by attending that meeting and many continued to meet on a monthly basis thereafter.

At the same time the Newport AIDS Network was organizing, a group of people with HIV infection and their family and friends were beginning to meet biweekly in the Hardwick area as the Northeast Kingdom AIDS Support Group. It did not take very long before the two groups found out about each other and discussed joining forces. Thus began the Northeast Kingdom Aids Coalition.

The hotline/office telephone number is 474-6291 and the Coalition's mailing address in PO Box 40, Newport. We are in the Northeast Kingdom to serve you, so please contact us.

## OITM Calendar Dates

- | November   | December   |
|--|--|
| 7 Article Deadline for December's issue                                      | 7 Article Deadline for January's issue                             |
| 10 Editing and general meeting planning January's issue 7:30pm at our office | 11 Editing and general planning February's issue 8pm at our office |
| 18 Pouring galleys at Laserimage 10am-12                                     | 16 Pouring galleys at Laserimage 10am-12                           |
| TBA Layout at Laserimage call 865-9759 for info.                             | 23 Layout at Laserimage 10am-4pm                                   |
|  | 29 Stuffing subscription envelopes 8 pm at our office              |
| December   |  |
| 1 Stuffing subscription envelopes 8:00pm at our office                       |  |