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**Health and Wellness**

**New Hampshire and Vermont Unite in Joint Health Ventures**

**HANOVER NH** — Vermont and New Hampshire have joined forces to produce an on-line information network of HIV/AIDS organizations. With its home base on the server at Dartmouth College, the site seeks to present up-to-date information on the various resources available to people infected with or affected by the virus.

The site was made possible by a contract between the National Library of Medicine to the Biomedical Libraries of Dartmouth and the Adult and Pediatric HIV Programs of Dartmouth's Hitchcock Medical Center. Its address is <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~hivnet/>.

The site provides addresses and contact numbers for most of the New Hampshire and Vermont AIDS service organizations. Where possible, it also provides links to those agencies' own Web Sites or offers an e-mail address. Its simple design makes it easy to navigate from screen to screen.

While listings on the calendar page still include many more New Hampshire events than Vermont happenings, the site has the potential to provide one central on-line location for a large amount of HIV/AIDS information. Links to other sites allow Net-surfers to learn more about home HIV tests, the difference between confidential and anonymous HIV testing, and recent findings about the disease and its prevention.

One link on the site directs individuals to the Twin State Women's Network (TSWN), another example of the two states combining available resources. TSWN seeks to create a safe environment which

allows women infected or affected by HIV/AIDS to live their lives to the fullest extent possible. The group addresses the needs of those women, along with their children, partners, and families.

TSWN offers a weekly phone support group for HIV+ women on Wednesday nights at 8:30. Interested women should contact Donna McCullough at (802) 763-2950 or [donnaerin@sover.net](mailto:donnaerin@sover.net) for more information.

The group also provides "last resort" homemaker services for women and families infected/affected by HIV/AIDS (this service can pay for up to twelve weeks, four hours per week); a retreat for HIV+ women on June 12-15 at the Weston Priory in Weston, VT; and another retreat for families which are infected/affected by HIV/AIDS to be held in late summer.

TSWN also offers a variety of resources on safer sex for lesbians. "Contrary to the CDC, lesbians *do* have HIV, and they are very much apart of the TSWN family," said Margo Caulfield, one of the on-line contacts for TSWN.

TSWN works with existing AIDS service organizations, health care providers, the Vermont Health Department, and other women's groups. It is governed by a board of directors comprised of infected and affected women, providers who work with women and children with HIV, and women who have a special interest in this area.

For more information about TSWN, call Margo at (802) 226-7807, Donna at (802) 763-2950, or Peggy at (603) 353-4554. ▼

**Don't forget your rubbers.**

You don't get it from toilet seats. You don't get it from coffee cups. You don't get it from desk tops in a school room. It doesn't fly through the air or swim around in hot tubs. You don't catch it from shaking hands, kissing, sneezing, wrestling or dancing.

According to the Surgeon General, your best protection against AIDS, barring abstinence, is use of a condom. For the facts about AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline.

**VERMONT AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-882-AIDS**  
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 60 Main Street, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, Vermont 05402