The number of clients Iris House helped in 2006, 75% of whom were women.
A Message from the Executive director

For 15 years, Iris House has improved the lives of women with HIV/AIDS in New York City. It has been an interesting journey for our organization but, despite the many successes we’ve achieved, there are still many challenges ahead.

After 15 years of service and progress, HIV and AIDS are even more prevalent in communities of color, especially with minority women. The statistics are alarming. In New York City, women represent 1 in 3 newly diagnosed with HIV and 90% of those women living with HIV are African American or Hispanic. This translates to AIDS being the leading cause of death for women of color, ages 25 to 34 in New York City. Meanwhile, Central and East Harlem rank first and second in the death rates per 1,000 living with AIDS in Manhattan. This has been due mostly to the many factors which underlie HIV infection including high rates of homelessness, substance abuse and lack of access to medical care, issues which tend to be more prevalent in communities of color. Iris House attempts to eliminate such disparities and ensure that women and men living with HIV have access to the care and support services they need and deserve.

Perhaps this is why the New York Post called Iris House “A Safe Haven.” Our agency offers a refuge to receive services without the stigma associated with HIV to so many women, men and families living in New York City.

We hope that you will join in our 15th Year Celebration of ‘Women Helping Women’ by supporting our work so that we can continue our services for the next 15 years and beyond.

A Message from the Chairman of the Board

Supporting Iris House is not just another donation to an HIV/AIDS-related charity. Supporting Iris House means sustaining our unique approach toward our clients. We are not just treating the individual, but the entire household impacted by a loved one with HIV/AIDS through a comprehensive and holistic approach to HIV supportive services for women, men and families. The agency’s unique model of providing an array of assistance programs in one location, from individual mental health counseling to childcare, ensures that those needing services can get support without the burden of going to different agencies.

Your support of our mission ensures that those living with HIV and AIDS obtain medical care and find housing, food and the right support to prevent the disease from progressing. AIDS is not a cause, but a symptom of poverty, drug abuse, mental illness, and lack of education. Iris House is different from other AIDS organizations because it treats the disease as well as alleviates the root causes through its spectrum of programs. This holistic approach to care is both innovative and effective in addressing a complex disease. Currently, Iris House is the only organization in New York City with a special focus on women and their families living with HIV/AIDS.

As Iris House approaches its 15th year anniversary, we thank you for your commitment to help reduce the disparity in communities of color. We thank you for your willingness to help ensure those living with HIV or AIDS have the services they need. And, we thank you for supporting the idea that we are not only helping women with HIV/AIDS live, but we are helping them to live better lives.
In 1990, a group of New York City women from the foundation, government and private sectors, as well as some infected with HIV/AIDS, embarked on a two-year initiative to assess the unmet needs of HIV positive women of color. The result of their efforts was the recommendation to form an agency to aid this under-served population. This agency was Iris House.

**History of Iris House**

Iris House was named as a tribute to the work of Iris De La Cruz, an advocate who called for compassion and care for women infected with HIV/AIDS. The organization opened its doors in 1992 as the nation's first agency to provide family-focused services to women of color infected and affected by HIV.

**The Changing Face of AIDS**

Initially staffed by only three people with limited funding at the East Harlem location, Iris House focused on meeting the needs of HIV positive women that were sick and dying, helping them to make plans for their children's future, and connecting them to medical and home care. With the advent of medications, the terror of the epidemic changed from an outcome of death to living with and managing a chronic disease. Thus, Iris House has had to provide enhanced services for those living longer while continuing to provide services for the newly infected.

Programs that help people live better address both the physical and mental aspects of clients' lives. Iris House provides nutrition and housing support as well as mental health counseling, life skills training, prevention, stress relief, referrals and family programs. Iris House views AIDS as a symptom of poverty, mental illness and/or lack of education. By helping alleviate many of these issues, clients are able to live more fulfilling and independent lives.

This holistic approach also takes into special consideration the children of clients who are often neglected or forced to serve as caretakers as a mother loses the energy needed to devote to her children. Iris House does not just treat the HIV positive individual but the entire household impacted by HIV/AIDS.

**A Legacy of Advocacy**

Today, after 14 years of operation, Iris House has a staff of 65 employees, an operating budget of $5,000,000 and programs at both the East Harlem and Central Harlem sites. It has become a strong, vocal advocate for funding of services to meet the needs of HIV positive women of color and those at greatest risk for becoming infected: African-Americans and those of Hispanic origin. The organization's leadership cooperates with various other agencies to advance the needs of these populations.

Iris House is a dynamic organization that responds to the ever-changing HIV/AIDS public health initiatives in New York City and the needs of the people of color infected and at risk of HIV/AIDS living in NYC. The organization is sufficiently flexible to enhance and adjust its programs as the needs of the infected and affected popula-
2006-07 Accomplishments

The mission of Iris House is to provide services for women with HIV/AIDS, their children and families in a supportive and respectful environment. We see our success when we compare our clients to the general HIV/AIDS population: 90% of Iris House clients are in regular HIV care versus the 42-59% of HIV positive people in NY that are not. But we do not stop there. During the past fiscal year, the Iris House staff has expanded its services to meet the needs of this growing community within New York City with comprehensive HIV positive services provided to 547 clients, an increase of 13% from last year. In addition, over 175 children from infancy to 21 years of age benefited from Iris House services.

OTHER IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2006-07 INCLUDE:

Increasing awareness and providing education on HIV/AIDS through Community and Professional Education
• Hosted the 2nd Annual Iris House Summit on Women Living with HIV/AIDS: Women as the Face of AIDS with over 300 attendees including HIV positive persons, providers, funders, policymakers and advocates
Encouraging women and men to become proactive and independent in their daily living
• Approximately 193 individuals received individual counseling and 15 families received crisis management
• More than 800 HIV positive women and men participated in culturally competent and gender-focused Empowerment groups
Increasing life expectancy of its HIV positive clients through one-on-one nutrition counseling, cooking classes and meal services
• 399 HIV positive women and men received nutritional counseling on a bi-weekly basis
• 24 clients enrolled in a morbid obesity program to promote weight reduction
• 9,826 pantry bags were distributed
• 6,937 hot lunches were served
• 3,621 bagged lunches were prepared
• 233 cooking classes were held with 1,449 attendees
Reducing infection through outreach and prevention education activities
• More than 1,000,000 condoms and HIV literature were distributed throughout Central and East Harlem improving access to free condoms for members of the community
• 80 businesses partnered with Iris House in the distribution of condoms in the community
• Approximately 100 teenagers attended quarterly teen HIV prevention workshops
Empowering clients and increasing independence by providing opportunities and skills to re-enter the job market
• 34 clients completed a 10 week course in The Basics of Financial Management classes
• 22 clients completed a 10 week course in Advanced Financial Management
Offering constructive activities that provide an opportunity for the clients to escape from the unknown in their lives
• 184 children attended recreational and educational activities including a family picnic, trips to the American Museum of Natural History, the Big Apple Circus and Universal Soul Circus, as well as three holiday parties
• 11 adolescents attended a college preparation workshop
• 5 children attended summer camp
• 170 backpacks filled with notebooks, dictionaries, pencils and crayons, were distributed to children of clients to relieve the financial burden that purchasing school supplies places on parents with limited income
Programs and Services

Iris House strives to promote and support independent functioning, improve quality of life and maintain the optimum health status of clients and their families in New York City while simultaneously educating policymakers, public officials, and health and human service professionals about the issues and concerns of its clients. The following programs detail efforts in both these arenas to address the needs of clients and express those needs to policymakers who can make a difference.

**PROGRAMS:**

**CODR- CASE MANAGEMENT**
• Community Follow-up Services

**COMMUNITY / PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**
In the spring of 2006, Iris House launched the first summit, Women as the Face of AIDS, at the New York Academy of Medicine. Its success provided the impetus to hold a second summit in 2007 with more than 300 clients, providers, funders, policymakers and advocates attending.

**FOOD AND NUTRITION**
• Food Pantry
• Cooking Classes
• Hot lunches/bagged lunches

Iris House is the only agency in Central and East Harlem providing one-on-one nutrition counseling, daily cooking classes in conjunction with pantry distribution and meal services to people living with HIV/AIDS. About 75% of clients participate in the program which staffs four registered dietitians and provides weekly nutrition counseling and a weight loss program for obese and/or diabetic clients.

**HOUSING**
Iris House helps its homeless clients find permanent housing, which makes HIV positive people more likely to maintain access to care and improve their health. Iris House manages and leases 66 scatter site units to HIV positive women and men who have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

**MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
• Assessment
• Counseling
• Women’s Empowerment Group
• Men’s Empowerment Group

Issues related to domestic violence, substance abuse, and personal and family relationships may eventually surface after the initial needs of HIV positive clients are addressed. At Iris House, these issues may be discussed in a supportive group environment or in individual counseling. The on-site clinical psychologist assesses a client’s mental status and, as appropriate, will see a client for short-term therapy. Alternative therapies such as art therapy have facilitated clients talking about personal stories that had been suppressed prior. The psychologist is available to clients concerned about their child’s behavior at home and school.

**PREVENTION EDUCATION**
• Peer Outreach

To reduce the number of those who could become infected, Iris House conducts HIV Prevention Education activities through peer outreach, at health fairs, with sex workers, in the New York City Health Clinics and through workshops conducted at Iris House. Outreach is targeted to all at-risk persons and to HIV positive women in the community.

**Condom Distribution**
In 2007, Iris House partnered with 90 community businesses to distribute over 100,000 condoms per month. This unique program, aimed at getting condoms into the hands of those at high-risk, offers free condoms to the site’s customers and provides a vital resource to neighborhood residents.

**WOMEN’S SUPPORT SERVICES (WSS)**
• Case Management
• Emotional Support
• Individual and Family Counseling
• Support Groups (Sister to Sister, Women over 50, Spanish and Creole)

After Iris House helps HIV positive women and men with food, housing or managing their illness, a case manager meets with a client to assess what healthy, family and social supports are in place and what further information and services are needed that will assist the client in developing a plan of service.

**SERVICES: LIFE SKILLS TRAINING**
• Resume writing

Carol had a history of drug use and incarceration for drug sales and possession. After being released from the Tucson Correctional Facility, Carol and her then 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, had no place to live. Both were HIV positive.

In November 2003, Carol and Lucy were accepted into the Iris House Scatter Site Program. During her stay in the program, Carol received consistent assistance from her case manager. Through years of steady support, Carol achieved her three goals: maintaining sobriety, going back to school and becoming independent. Carol graduated with a certificate as a Nurse’s Assistant and obtained a full time job.

In the spring of 2006, Iris House launched the first summit, Women as the Face of AIDS, at the New York Academy of Medicine. Its success provided the impetus to hold a second summit in 2007 with more than 300 clients, providers, funders, policymakers and advocates attending.

Carol received consistent assistance from her case manager. Through years of steady support, Carol achieved her three goals: maintaining sobriety, going back to school and becoming independent. Carol graduated with a certificate as a Nurse’s Assistant and obtained a full time job. Lucy, now 17 years old, is also attending college. Carol has stayed sober these past 6 years and recently moved into independent housing. She thanks Iris House for its support, advocacy and services.

Iris House offers alternative therapies of massage and acupuncture as well as a weekly exercise class to help clients manage pain, strengthens their bodies and relax.

**FAMILY AND PARTNER SERVICES**
• LGBT Group
• On-site child care
• Family Activities

The needs of children with HIV positive parents are often neglected as a mother loses the energy needed to devote to her children. Most of the children live in a single parent household and worry about who will be there to care for them if their mothers should become ill or die.

Iris House offers constructive activities that provide an opportunity for these children to escape from the unknown in their lives such as recreational and educational activities (outings, parties and picnics), college preparation workshops, summer camp and school supplies.
Nelly has been with WSS for over 2 years. When she came to the program, she was non-compliant with medical treatment and medications. She was extremely depressed and resistant to case management services.

Through the combined effort of the Mental Health staff and the WSS team, Nelly has been in medical treatment for the past 8 months. She has also attended group support and prevention counseling. Her change in demeanor has resulted in Nelly securing a full-time position at the CAMBA organization as a Peer Educator / CAMBA organization position at the Mental Health case management team, Nelly has been extremely depressed since she was non-compliant with treatments when she came to the program, WSS for over 2 years. Nelly has been with WSS for over 2 years. When she came to the program, she was non-compliant with medical treatment and medications. She was extremely depressed and resistant to case management services.

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Financials

Statement of financial position at June 30, 2007 and 2006 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>749,956</td>
<td>1,129,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security deposits</td>
<td>61,592</td>
<td>87,004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>35,935</td>
<td>49,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract and grant receivable (Note 4)</td>
<td>967,006</td>
<td>829,993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other receivable</td>
<td>36,502</td>
<td>29,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>1,693,759</td>
<td>1,771,989</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,544,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,896,845</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>217,151</td>
<td>161,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes payable</td>
<td>21,49</td>
<td>8,570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract advances</td>
<td>38,664</td>
<td>169,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current and long term liabilities</td>
<td>37,365</td>
<td>43,628</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,249,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,513,684</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,544,750</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,896,845</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>722,181</td>
<td>631,778</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract revenue</td>
<td>3,242,315</td>
<td>3,498,858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events</td>
<td>44,950</td>
<td>726,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated services and in-kind support</td>
<td>83,964</td>
<td>219,692</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,375,168</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,077,288</strong></td>
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</table>

EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>3,828,912</td>
<td>4,116,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td>687,561</td>
<td>592,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
<td>254,328</td>
<td>328,011</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,770,801</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,036,030</strong></td>
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Change in net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(395,633)</td>
<td>41,258</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>3,645,054</td>
<td>3,472,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>3,249,421</td>
<td>3,513,684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iris House
2348 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
New York, NY 10030

IRIS HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

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*Added FY 07-08