



MEDIA RELEASE

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Blue, the Dog, nominated for AIDS Service Award

Vancouver BC – Blue has served the HIV/AIDS community for over 11 years. She attends HIV/IDU Consumers Board meetings and takes the occasional shift at the needle exchange. Perhaps Blue would be just another dedicated AIDS activist, that is, if she wasn't a dog.

Blue, a blue healer cross, has been nominated for an AccolAIDS Award in the category of Health Promotion and Harm Reduction. AccolAIDS Awards, hosted by the BC Persons With AIDS Society, honour the extraordinary achievements and dedication of organizations, businesses, groups and individuals responding to the AIDS epidemic in BC.

While Blue's nomination is unique, it is also well deserved. Blue has attended 10 annual candle light vigils and 11 AIDS Walks. With her companion, John Cameron, she visits patients at St. Paul's Hospital, Lion's Manor and GF Strong Rehab. She is well known at most AIDS service organization where she attends countless committee meetings. She works on the Downtown Eastside, often helping social workers break-the ice in tough situations. Blue never demonstrates HIV/AIDS stigma and loves everyone equally.

"I know Blue well," says Glyn Townson, Chair of the BC Persons With AIDS Society. "I bet if we counted her volunteer hours she would have given thousands of hours to the HIV/AIDS movement. Her tail wagging and calming presence is always appreciated at BCPWA."



The AccolAIDS awards gala will be held at the Fairmount Hotel Vancouver (yes Blue will be in attendance) on April 13th from 6 to 10 pm. The gala includes gourmet cuisine, live entertainment and, silent and live auctions. Proceeds benefit the vital programs and services provided by the BC Persons With AIDS Society. Tickets are now on sale.

The British Columbia Persons With AIDS Society (BCPWA Society), a non-profit, consumer-driven organization is in its 21st year of operation, is dedicated to empowering persons living with HIV disease and AIDS through mutual support and collective action. As western Canada's largest AIDS organization, with a membership of more than 4,400 HIV+ individuals, the Society provides support and advocacy services, treatment information, and volunteer opportunities to its diverse membership