

Once we invited a friend and his wife for dinner. They, too, were struggling with HIV. At the last minute she called to say he was too sick to go out. There we were with a lovely meal and no one to share it with.

And there I was -- alone with the feeling that the next time the person too sick to go out could be me.

Three weeks later, my friend was dead. Living with suffering and loss is one of the terrible things AIDS makes you deal with.

But being involved with AIDS Action has helped me cope better. For instance, by volunteering on its Speakers Bureau I try to return the help I've been given by going out and talking with people of all ages, from all walks of life, in community centers, schools, workplaces, and elsewhere.

Last year, nearly 19,500 people heard our messages about life with AIDS -- and how to prevent it. I tell people the facts and fictions about AIDS, like why they don't need to be afraid of me.

AIDS Action also reaches out through its free, confidential Hotline. Here volunteers answered 45,589 urgent calls in the past year alone. This is a place where anyone can turn for vital information and support.

I know AIDS Action gets letters all the time from people in crisis who were so relieved when they turned to the Hotline.

And from others who come to AIDS Action for the kind of help they so desperately need to manage life with this deadly virus.

You can see how the lifeline services AIDS Action provides truly make a difference to people like me who are struggling to live with HIV. And who can possibly count how many others benefit from AIDS Action's vigorous efforts to prevent the spread of HIV?

It's terribly important that you join in. We really need your help. So, won't you please activate your support for AIDS Action, by giving as generously as you can -- today?

I'm counting on you to stand up with me and AIDS Action against this terrible disease. Thank you for joining us.

Yours truly,

Connie Fitzgerald

Connie Fitzgerald

P.S. The enclosed 1993 calendar is our gift of appreciation for your support. I know many people are on tight budgets in these tough times, but I very much hope you can help.

*P.P.S. Please give as much as you can,
as soon as you can! And thanks,
from all of us!*