

We also try to give peace of mind to those newly diagnosed with AIDS by helping them with the many decisions they now will be facing.

Last year alone, AIDS Action improved the lives of thousands of people with AIDS by:

- * Making sure that people have a good meal at Thanksgiving by providing 400 clients with supermarket gift certificates.
- * Furnishing 11,265 prepared meals to men and women living with AIDS.
- * Helping coordinate a program that delivers hundreds of holiday gift bags to people with AIDS.
- * Distributing 300 gift certificates to children in families affected by HIV.
- * Filling 1,192 requests for donations of needed household items, medical equipment and furniture.

All of AIDS Action's support services are free of charge, and they have assisted half of all state residents who have ever been diagnosed with AIDS.

In order to bring these programs to those who need them most, AIDS Action relies on 1,500 dedicated volunteers like me, who last year alone donated over 135,000 hours of service.

AIDS Action is also working hard to educate people that AIDS is preventable. Education is the only way we have of stopping AIDS but there is still much work to do...every day another four to five Massachusetts residents become infected with HIV.

However, in order to continue this important work and to reach as many people as possible, I ask that you consider sending a special gift to AIDS Action of at least \$20, \$35 or even \$50.

If you could come to work with me tomorrow and see how many people are served by AIDS Action, I know you'd be very generous.