Dear Friend,

It's a terrible thing to outlive your child.

When my son Charles died, I felt as if my life was over, too. For three agonizing years I had fed and bathed him, turned him over, cried for him. After that, I was nearly paralyzed with grief.

Then I came to work as a volunteer at AIDS Action. At first, I was too sad to do much. But in this healing environment, I began to work out my pain and see what I could do to help others.

That's when I took over the reception desk, greeting other mothers' children who are struggling with HIV disease. They come to AIDS Action, New England's oldest and largest AIDS organization, for the lifeline services they so desperately need.

I am proud to be part of this warm and welcoming place where people with HIV and AIDS can find a sympathetic ear, answers to questions, referrals to the services they need, and help resolving problems.

Often they arrive scared and nervous. My job is to welcome and comfort them. When I can make someone laugh, I feel like a million dollars -- and I know I've done a good job.

But this is terribly hard work. When I lose another friend from among the many I've made here, the tears of Charles' death come back to me. I feel all over again the heartbreak of HIV and the suffering it causes.

And I fear for those other mothers' children who, without AIDS Action, would have nowhere to turn. That's why I keep working here, even on the bad days.

Each of us, in our own way, must help fight this deadly virus. It's so important that AIDS Action keep on caring for people living with AIDS -- and keep on educating about how to prevent its spread.

Won't you please join me in showing your support for this pressing work? The best way you can do that is to send your most generous gift to AIDS Action, today.

As a mother who lost her child, I thank you for showing how much you care about people with HIV disease.

Sincerely,

Bernice Time

Bernice Time

P.S. Here is a flier that adds up the many things AIDS Action does for people like my son. If you aren't sure about giving, I hope you will take a look at it, think again, and send your gift right now.

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc.

131 Clarendon Street
Boston, MA 02116

617.437.6200
Fax 617.437.6445

AIDS Action Hotline
617.536.7733
MA: 1.800.235.2331