I decided then that I was going to use every resource available to help me through this, and that included AIDS ACTION. I had heard a lot about their work on behalf of people with AIDS. How ironic that before my diagnosis, I had decided to become an AIDS ACTION volunteer. Now I would need their help.

It isn't that people who care aren't in my life. I am proud of my friends and co-workers and I'm moved by the way so many people, especially the gay community, have responded with compassion and understanding to this epidemic.

I am also thankful for the presence of AIDS ACTION. As one of the 700 people with AIDS they serve in New England, I know now what a difference AIDS ACTION has made in my life. I remember that difference whenever I get a call from Paul, my AIDS ACTION "buddy," who has become a dearly loved friend. There are days when I don't know how I would get through without him.

And I'm reminded how AIDS ACTION has helped whenever I receive a massage from Arlene, a professional masseuse who volunteers her services to their Wholistic Therapies Program.

Having AIDS, I'm struck even more by what I have come to understand is important in my life: a treasured conversation with a friend, sharing a moment with someone you love. . . all the details that make up the fabric of everyday life.

AIDS ACTION still remembers those details. During each of my hospital stays they sent me flowers. That simple gesture has meant so much to me, just to know that someone was there who cared enough to reach out. For all of us, AIDS ACTION has been there and, I know, will continue to be there.

I love life. But I don't feel that I'm going to beat AIDS. That's why I'm doing whatever I can to help AIDS ACTION now.

I am writing to ask you to also help. Please make a generous gift to ensure that AIDS ACTION will have the funds it needs to continue fighting AIDS with education, support services, and compassion. And please mail your gift of $25, $50, or $100 today in the enclosed reply card.

How can I not give something back to one of the few organizations that is struggling to cope with the disease which is taking my life?

I am asking you to give as generously as you can to AIDS ACTION.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark.

Mark Pfetsch

P.S. AIDS ACTION welcomes your gift in any amount, but $50 will really make a difference in helping AIDS ACTION help people like me live with AIDS. Please mail your check today.