epicentro

CENTRO COMUNITARIO GAY DE LIMA

A NEW COMMUNITY-DIRECTED ORGANIZATION FOR GAY MEN IN LIMA, PERU

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Pangaea presents Epicentro Directors with funding for start-up activities.

July 16 2008:
Let's Talk about Sex

July 02 2008:
HIV and STIs

Epicento Presenta: twice-monthly discussion groups on community-generated topics.

ABSTRACT

• Twinning is a collaboration between organizations in developed and developing countries to address issues such as delivery system re-design, capacity building, practice guidelines and active mentoring.

• UCLA, Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation and San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) are collaborating with gay men in Peru to provide clinical, programmatic, and organizational development support for a new Gay Men's Community Center offering HIV/STI services in Lima, Peru: "Epicentro".

• This Twinning relationship adapts SFAF's Magnet community center-HIV/STI testing site to urban Peru's sociocultural context.

• Though Twinning provides essential experience and advice on strategic planning, organizational structure, and financial development for the local organization, Peruvian community members assume all decision-making control and planning responsibility.

• Multiple levels of vision and substantial investments of time, patience, and financial resources are necessary to develop gay community organizations in areas without visible gay communities.

• Through Epicentro, gay men in Lima will create a self-sustaining model and locate the center within an international network of organizations to fight the spread of HIV among MSM globally.

TIMELINE

2007

Jun — Idea to open gay Men's community in Lima proposed

Jul — Focus groups with different populations to assess needs and identify target group

Aug — Presentation of idea to San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF)

Sep — Weekend retreat in San Francisco to meet SFAF and draft proposal

Oct — Continued refinement of proposal and relationship building with SFAF

Nov — SFAF visits Lima; meets with community leaders, visits clinics and other venues; Twinning agreement formalized between Peru team and SFAF

Dec — Proposal refined and preparations made to convene community regularly in 2008

2008

Jan — Beginning of bimonthly community planning meetings; Initiation of legal process to become a non-profit organization

Feb — Organization of workgroups for marketing, activities, health and logistics

Mar — Continued community meetings; Seed funding provided by Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation

Apr — Selection of Center Directors; Legal recognition of non-profit organization

May — Vision and Mission formalized and name Epicentro selected by community: SFAF returns to Lima to meet with Directors and community members

Jun — Directors focus work on creation of Epicentro logo, website, procurement of physical space and funding

Jul — Continued work in key areas; community seminars on HIV/STIs, and sexual pleasure for gay men initiated

Aug — PROJECTED: Space identified, logo identified, Website ready to launch

Sep — PROJECTED: **GRAND OPENING OF EPICENTRO**

2009

1. Procurement of stable, long term funding.
2. Supplementation of HIV testing with testing and treatment for other STIs.
3. Provision of mental health services.
4. Growth of volunteer base.
5. Advancement of business plan to offset at least 10% of annual operating costs by Year 2.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

UCLA Program in Global Health

pangaea Global AIDS Foundation

AIDS Foundation

magnet

epicentro
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