

# NWA GLBT Community Center



Linking Together to Build a Better Future

## NWA Positive Links Buddy Program

*"Until there is a cure, and beyond, we have each other!"*

The Northwest Arkansas Positive Links Buddy Program is a peer to peer support group for those in NW Arkansas living with HIV/AIDS. Our members and sponsors are a network of "people helping people" through monthly support meetings and social activities. This network of friends is unique in that every member has something to offer to others. Members, in many cases, help with day to day chores, transportation needs, advice, nutrition, companionship as well as a pleasant voice to talk to when discouraged. Through a variety of support and social activities each member is sure to find an opportunity to get involved. We are not a professional medical advice service. We simply want to share our experiences of living with HIV/AIDS with others and learn from others what they have experienced. We have a private discussion board on the NWA GLBT Community Center's web site and use Yahoo Instant Messenger to keep in touch as well as regular phone calls and personal visits.

Founded in August of 2006 the program has grown to more than 30 members as of December 2007. All who are HIV Positive are welcome to join regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, faith or disability. This program is offered through the NWA GLBT Community Center and strictly adheres to the Community Centers By-Laws and Code of Conduct.

Your privacy is important to us and your personal information and HIV status will not be shared with others outside the program unless you divulge that information yourself.

Our Founder and Director is Chris Hannon, a 24 year survivor who has found great pleasure in helping other people cope with life on the "positive side". Born in Portland OR and has lived in California, Arizona, Oklahoma and Arkansas. He is a United States Veteran, holds an Associates of Arts Degree in Commercial Design. He has worked in various occupations in retail sales, the highway repair field and has 18 years of experience in the Custom Yacht Builders industry. His attitude and positive outlook is contagious and he encourages you to join the Buddy program to experience the joy of "linking together with other people to build a better future" for yourself. Get involved and see what we are doing visit [www.nwaglbtc.org](http://www.nwaglbtc.org)!

***To Enroll or get more info contact:***

*NWA GLBT CC: 1-888-391-9222*

*Chris Hannon's Email: [chris@nwaglbtc.org](mailto:chris@nwaglbtc.org)*

*<http://www.nwaglbtc.org>*

*Mailing Address: NWA GLBT Community Center  
P.O. Box 1161,  
Bentonville, AR 72712-1161*

## **NWA Positive Links Buddy Program Mission Statement**

### **Our Mission:**

The NWA Positive Links Buddy Program will offer strength and emotional support to the HIV/AIDS Community of NW Arkansas across lines of age, ethnicity, faith, ability, gender and economics. The mission will be achieved through advocacy, support and education through the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program meetings and in cooperation with the NWA GLBT Community Center. The NWA Positive Links Buddy Program will provide a safe and inclusive atmosphere for information, education, support, advocacy and resources for HIV/AIDS individuals. The NWA Positive Links Buddy Program will be an umbrella to link, for a better future, new and existing organizations, programs and services to meet the emerging needs of the HIV/AIDS community in Northwest Arkansas.

It is the intent of the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program to be inclusive and honor all humans, regardless of sexual orientation, marital status, religious affiliation, age, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, ability, gender, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status and economic status. In other words, we will not tolerate discrimination against anyone for any reason.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program shall be to enhance the health and well-being of those living with HIV/AIDS by providing support programs and meetings, social activities and services that;

- Create a sense of community spirit and commonality
- Foster unity among members,
- Provide essential resources, which are subject to availability.

### **Code of Conduct:**

The following activities are not allowed at NWA Positive Links Buddy functions, GLBT Community Center Functions or on GLBT Community Center property, website or online groups.

1. Physically or verbally threatening or harassing any person in any way.
2. Using verbally explicit language, gestures, or racial, religious or ethnic slurs that are likely to upset or disturb the peace of members and volunteers.
3. Engaging in sexual behavior
4. Defacing or damaging property.
5. Possession, use or sale of illegal drugs, weapons or contraband in any public area or private home.
6. Possession or consumption of alcohol in any public area or private home without prior authorization.
7. Soliciting, for any purpose, including asking for money, contributions, or donations unless such activity has been approved by the Director and Steering Committee members.
8. Assembling for the purpose of disturbing the public peace.
9. Committing any unlawful act.
10. Fighting, disrupting other activities, or in any way creating a disturbance that is disruptive or dangerous to others or the activities of the NWA Positive Links Buddy members.
11. Throwing, discarding, or depositing any paper, glass, or other matter of any kind except in designated receptacles.
12. Posting or distributing flyers or notices without prior approval of the Director and Steering Committee.
13. Smoking inside a building or private home unless prior authorization has been given.
14. Sleeping.
15. Using the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program, its facilities, website, online groups or name for other than the intended purpose.

We are not a dating service; we do not match people with others. We take a neutral stand on members dating each other. However, if you find someone within the NWA Positive Links Buddy Group of whom you are interested in dating, that decision and activity is your personal decision. We do not advise in personal relations between members. We request that you; 1.) Remain mature and courteous toward each other if things do not work out as you anticipate and 2.) Do not allow such dating/relations or lack thereof to hinder your individual involvement in group activities.

Everyone has something unique to offer. Your level of participation is at your discretion, however, we strongly encourage you to become involved in helping and networking with others in the group to build lasting friendships and allies.

# NWA Positive Links Buddy Program Enrollment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First & Last)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address, City, State, Zip)

Are you? M\_\_\_ or F\_\_\_

How do you identify? Gay\_\_\_ Lesbian\_\_\_ Straight\_\_\_ Bisexual\_\_\_ Queer\_\_\_ or Transgender  
(M-F\_\_\_ or F-M\_\_\_)

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_ Can a message be left? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Emergency contact person and number: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Yahoo IM Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, where: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If yes, where: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation Needs: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Month and Year Diagnosed with HIV or AIDS: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Health Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For referral purposes)

Volunteer services you can provide to other Buddy members: (Check all that apply)

Transportation\_\_\_ Yard Work\_\_\_ House Cleaning\_\_\_ Laundry\_\_\_ Food\_\_\_  
Medications\_\_\_ Friendship\_\_\_ Conversation\_\_\_ Housing\_\_\_ Legal\_\_\_ Personal Visits\_\_\_  
Recreation\_\_\_ Activities\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours can you volunteer to help others: (0 or more) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs or Considerations: (Can include any of the above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **The “NWA Positive Links” Buddy Program Confidentiality Agreement**

The NWA Positive Links Buddy Program and its members respect the privacy of personal medical information and are committed to maintaining the privacy of protected medical information concerning its members. This commitment is demonstrated by the adoption of the confidentiality agreement, its policies, procedures and forms to govern the process of information confidentiality and the means of proper information sharing.

### **I. TRAINING:**

All members will be trained and informed on the regulations of this policy. Training will be ongoing as a part of the new member orientation process. New members will be required to sign the confidentiality agreement detailing the consent given, if any, prior to membership activation.

### **II. MEMBER ACCESS:**

Access to the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program member’s contact and personal information found on the NWA GLBT Community Center’s internet discussion forum is limited to members of the buddy program. Access by any other person who is not a member is prohibited. All information listed on the contact list is subject to each member’s authorization to release said information. Information you wish to remain private should be selected within this agreement.

### **III. BUDDY LINKS PRIVACY OFFICIALS:**

All information contained in personal selections will be administered through and with the approval of our privacy officials. The activation of new members, changes to existing members, personal contact information and protected medical information within the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program database are administered through the Privacy Officials. Officials of the Buddy Links Program Memberships are: NWA Positive Links Buddy Program Executive Director and Steering Committee as well as the NWA GLBT Community Center Board Members.

### **IV. ANNUAL REVIEWS:**

Policies, procedures and forms will reviewed annually to assure that the program is modified to meet any changes in the standards for which information is disclosed or undisclosed. Revisions or additions approved in the annual reviews will become a binding part of this agreement.

### **V. UNAUTHORIZED USE:**

Any unauthorized use or disclosure of protected information shall be reported to the Privacy Officer(s). The Privacy Officer(s) will investigate the complaint. Should the findings of the investigation indicate a breach in the confidentiality agreement; the Privacy Officials will take corrective action.

**VI. WE MAY DISCLOSE:**

To Secure Funding Or Support: We may disclose your name, address, phone number along with any details of your specific needs for the sole purpose of securing funds for services, treatment, aid and support. Information disclosed is limited to the minimal amount necessary to acquire the services, treatment, aid or support requested. When services requiring funds are requested the NWA GLBT Community Center Board Members are required to receive such funds.

For Law Enforcement: we may disclose your personal health information for certain law enforcement purpose, including

- Compliance with a court order, warrant, subpoena, summons
- To report information in emergency circumstance about a crime
- In the issue of mental health
- Intent to commit a crime against a person or facility

To Avert Serious Threat To Health Or Safety: We may use and disclose personal health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of the public or another person. However, any disclosure would be made only to someone able to help prevent the threat.

**VII. YOUR AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED:**

We will use and disclose personal health information (other than as described in this notice or required by law) only with your written authorization. You may revoke your Authorization to use or disclose personal health information in writing at any time. If you revoke your Authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your personal health information for the purposes covered by the Authorization, except where we have already relied on the Authorization.

**VIII. COMPLAINTS:**

If you believe your privacy has been violated you may file a written complaint with the privacy officials. The Privacy Officials will follow the guidelines set forth in Section V. concerning Unauthorized Use.

**I understand my rights and agree to the terms of this Confidentiality Agreement. I further agree to support the services of the NWA GLBT Community Center, it's policies, Codes of Conduct and the NWA Positive Links Buddy Program.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Full signature is required)*

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_