



18 August 2009

Dear Friend of Vermont CARES,

On the reverse of this letter, we've included a copy of one of the hundreds of thank-you notes we have received from students after they learn how to protect themselves from HIV. This is one small demonstration that a little information, honestly shared, promotes positive public health.

We are writing you this month to ask for your help with our local education and outreach efforts to slow the spread of HIV in our state. Education is essential to preventing new HIV infections. HIV is still 100% preventable and cannot be cured.

One of our donors has laid down a generous challenge grant to encourage donors to support HIV education, and we reach out to you to help meet our challenge goal of \$4,000 by September 15th. Prevention programs at Vermont CARES are almost entirely privately funded, and this is an important way you can help.

Additionally, you can help Vermont CARES by talking to your friends, family, or children about HIV risks, or by inviting an educator or HIV+ speaker from Vermont CARES to meet with you and others. Further, encouraging school boards to include HIV in comprehensive sexual health education is critical, especially as we see HIV infection rates among young people increasing due to lack of education.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about our education work, or to make an online (and paper-free!) donation this month. www.vtcares.org

With sincere thanks,

Peter Jacobsen
Executive Director

P.S. Your donation of any amount is very important at this time! Please help us meet the challenge grant match.

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