

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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***Community United Against Violence To Announce New Vision At 30th Anniversary Event
Organization Shifts To a Shared Leadership Model***

San Francisco, CA (March 9, 2009) - Community United Against Violence (CUAV) will announce its new vision for transforming violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) communities at its 30th anniversary celebration on Friday, March 20th, 2009. As part of this plan, the organization is shifting to a shared leadership staffing model. Executive Director Jovida Ross will support this transitional period before her departure from the organization this summer.

Over the past three decades, CUAV has been a leader in addressing violence and trauma against and within LGBTQQ communities. CUAV's vision for the next thirty years will increase community involvement in transforming cycles of violence, trauma and oppression into cycles of safety, healing & empowerment. More information about program strategies will be shared in the full strategic plan, to be released at "CUAV XXX", the 30th Anniversary Celebration that is scheduled for March 20, 2009, from 7pm-10pm at 111 Minna Gallery in San Francisco, CA.

Shared Leadership

To better reflect the values of the organization, CUAV will shift to a shared leadership model. Collaborative teams of staff and community members will coordinate intervention & healing, leadership development, community organizing, organizational management and fundraising efforts. The goal of this model is to develop sustainable community leadership by the people most affected by violence.

CUAV's Executive Director Jovida Ross will mentor leadership and programmatic teams before formally passing full leadership to the staff team on June 30, 2009. Since joining CUAV as Executive Director in August 2006, she has helped lead the organization out of debt and onto solid financial footing, as well as guiding the organization through an intensive planning and renewal process.

"I have been so honored to work with this incredible organization. I am excited about CUAV's new vision for transforming violence through healing, accountability, and leadership development, and I look forward to helping this amazing team transition to a shared leadership model," said Jovida Ross, CUAV executive director.

Inviting Community Participation

CUAV invites you to become a partner in transforming the cycles of violence, trauma and oppression that LGBTQQ communities face into cycles of safety, healing and empowerment. Staff member Tamara Costa said, "We are creating more opportunities to participate and engage, and hope you'll join us." CUAV will be recruiting volunteer hotline counselors for a training in a few months; watch the CUAV web site for details. We also invite you to sign up and/or continue your monthly donations. No amount is too small; please give generously!

Honoring the past, Celebrating Renewal

On March 20, 2009, CUAV will celebrate "CUAV XXX: Three Decades of Healing and Transformation", to honor our groundbreaking efforts to support LGBTQQ survivors of abuse and transform communities. We will be recognizing the contributions of Speakers Bureau founders Tom Ammiano & Hank Wilson; INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence; GroundSpark (formerly Women's Educational Media); and Fresh Meat Productions. In addition to honorees, the event will feature Inspiring honorees, dynamic performers, delicious food, a glamorous silent auction, and fabulous company. It's an event not to miss. Buy your tickets now before they sell out!

For more information, please visit CUAV's web site: www.cuav.org.

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Founded in 1979, Community United Against Violence works to transform the cycles of violence, trauma, and oppression that our communities face into cycles of safety, power, and healing. For more information, visit: www.cuav.org.