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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WNCAP Begins Capital Campaign for New Facilities

Asheville, NC (May 29, 2008) – The Western North Carolina AIDS Project has begun a region-wide capital campaign to raise \$265,000 for the renovation of its new facilities on Fairview Road. The new facilities will replace the cramped offices near downtown Asheville where WNCAP has operated for the past thirteen years.

Located on the city bus line and with ample parking, the new building will be more accessible to clients in Asheville and those driving in from the 16 Western North Carolina counties served by WNCAP. Approximately 340 clients depend on WNCAP for services, a number that has increased significantly in recent years. Thousands more benefit from the agency's prevention education and outreach activities.

Through a "quiet phase" of fundraising, WNCAP already has reached \$166,000 in contributions and pledges, including a lead gift of \$50,000 pledged by the Janirve Foundation. Gifts from WNCAP's Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and many of its 200 other volunteers comprise much of the rest of the amount raised thus far.

The campaign, called On Solid Ground, will enable WNCAP to greatly enhance its services. Ron Curran, Executive Director, said, "Fundamentally, this move is about improving the way we serve clients and the community."

Angela Jones, WNCAP Board President, said, "We are expanding services to embrace clients with Hepatitis-C and substance abuse. We are situating ourselves in a new location so clients will have easy access to our offices. This move will enhance services to our clients in many ways."

WNCAP hopes to be in its new facilities at 554 Fairview Road by August.

With 3,200 square feet of space, the new facilities will allow for program expansion that is not possible in the current WNCAP offices. One example is the inclusion of Hep-C education into the agency's HIV/AIDS prevention and care program. Co-infection is common, and Hep-C has become one of the leading causes of death in HIV patients. In January, WNCAP was awarded a three-year, \$240,000 grant to design and implement Hep-C prevention programs, reaching out to healthcare providers and high-risk individuals to raise awareness about these issues.

A recent grant from the National AIDS Fund also will enable the agency to hire a certified Substance Abuse Specialist to offer outpatient services to WNCAP clients beginning in 2009. This program will help meet a need for services by WNCAP clients and close the gap that exists in Western North Carolina – and nationwide – between the need for substance abuse treatment and the availability of substance abuse services.

The mission of WNCAP, founded in 1986, is to provide HIV-related services to the people of Western North Carolina through client services, prevention education and outreach in a collaborative and financially responsible manner.

Contributions to the capital campaign may be sent to On Solid Ground, Western North Carolina AIDS Project, P.O. Box 2411, Asheville, NC 28802. More information about the campaign can be found on the agency's web site, [www.wncap.org](http://www.wncap.org), or by calling Laura Kirby, Development Director, at 828.252.7489, or writing her at [lkirby@wncap.org](mailto:lkirby@wncap.org).

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