

August 19, 2008

The Honorable Michael A. Nutter  
City of Philadelphia  
City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Nutter,

The Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) is building a powerful, national activist movement bridging HIV/AIDS, human rights, and struggles for social and economic justice. We amplify the voices of a new generation of leaders to ensure the development and use of a broad and effective range of HIV prevention options, programs and policies.

When CHAMP launched in 2003, we embraced Critical Path Internet Services to establish a national network of HIV prevention advocates, policy makers and community-based activists. Critical Path's support was critical to our facilitation of a domestic dialog around HIV prevention. As you may be aware, the US HIV/AIDS epidemic is among the worst in the world, a reality recently confirmed when the Centers for Disease control announced that statistics on HIV acquisition in the US has been underestimated by 40% for over a decade. Not only have we got the word out about prevention advocacy; but also, by utilizing Critical Path, we rapidly cultivated a network enabling us to make a significant impact on critical problems we face in HIV prevention in the US.

CHAMP, as a national organization that works with HIV prevention programs all over the United States, has always been impressed that Philadelphia offers this needed and forward-thinking service. To our knowledge, the city of Philadelphia is the only local government that identified the need for its citizens and advocates to connect to the Internet and that assisted the HIV/AIDS community in developing the means to communicate, share information, and work together to improve policy and programmatic response to the epidemic. This resource is still especially important to newer initiatives. The loss of Critical Path would have a national as well as a local impact, and we hope that you will continue to support this extremely important program.

Sincerely,



Julie Davids  
Executive Director