



**THE NAMES
PROJECT**

FOUNDATION

Executive Director
Anthony Turney

Director of Communications
Greg Lugliani

**Associate Director/
International Relations**
Juan-Carlos Castaño

Design Coordinator
Martha Fitzgerald

Special Thanks to:
United Airlines
AETna Life
Insurance (Taiwan)
Lori Lee
Danny Sauro
Manny Dacalanio-Duazo
Cesar Cadabes
Noel Talens
Michael Bongiorno

Visit our Web Site at:
<http://www.aidsquilt.org>

**or contact the Interna-
tional Relations Dept.
through e-mail at:**
intlquilt@aidsquilt.org

**The NAMES Project
Foundation**

310 Townsend St., Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94107 USA
Tel: USA+415/882-5500
Fax: USA+415/882-6200

Common Threads

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*The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Plaza, Taipei, Taiwan.
Photo: Manny Dacalanio-Duazo*

1995 World AIDS Day Activities in Taiwan

By Doris Y.S. Owyang

I participated in an amazing trip to Taiwan from November 26 to December 11, 1995, where I coordinated the first display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in that country. This was also the largest Foundation display of the Quilt to travel outside of the continental United States. Seventy-two sections of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt were displayed in Taipei during the World AIDS Day observance. The display also included 20 new panels made by local panelmakers, and 20 pieces of the ABC Quilts, a Japanese organization which makes small quilts for children with AIDS.

A group of volunteers assembled in San Francisco to help plan the events and travel with the Quilt sections. The members of the group were Lori Lee from the Asian Women's Shelter; Danny Sauro, California AIDS Ride coordinator, and a former NAMES Project staff member;

Manny Dacalanio-Duazo, Cesar Cadabes, and Noel Talens who are members of the HIV+ Speakers Bureau of the Living Well Project, an AIDS agency serving Asian and Pacific Islanders.

To give you some idea of the situation in Taiwan, I will relate a few facts. We were invited to display the Quilt in Taipei despite the fact that Magic Johnson was denied entry to the country because of his HIV status. Clinicians in some of the designated hospitals offer HIV testing and provide free medical care to people living with HIV, but also report their names to the Department of Health, and in some cases contact their family members without the patient's consent. Our volunteers from the Living Well Project could not expose their status without fearing expulsion from the country. The number of HIV positive persons in Taiwan has exceeded the 1,000 mark and is escalating drastically. The official statistics of HIV positive cases as announced by the Department of Health in Taiwan on December 23, 1995 was 1,015 persons, but in reality the figures may be ten times higher. Condoms are readily available but

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Acknowledgments:

We were amazed by the work of the six staff persons at Living With Hope Organization: Chien Ching-Shu, Hansen Wu, Jacky Jan, Sang Liang-Yu, Ivy Yang and Tung Su-Fang; a temporary staff person, Hank Hsu; and the core group of volunteers, Prof. Arthur Chen, Dr. Ian Jen, Karren Lu, Grace Jan and Albert Tseng. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to them for being our hosts and taking very good care of us. Their work continues to inspire me.

Doris Y.S. Owyang



"The bonds created by our shared experience and understanding will last long into the future. They have given me new energy and a deeper sense of why we, as HIV+ Asians and Pacific Islanders, must go out and share our stories."

Manny Dacalanio

there is no structure in place for providing safer sex education.

The Quilt was displayed on December 1, 1995, World AIDS Day, at the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Plaza, and again from December 3-8 at the Taipei City Hall, in an event hosted by Aetna Life Insurance, Living With Hope Organization and the NAMES Project Foundation.

Media response to the Quilt was overwhelming. Photos of the Quilt were published in numerous English and Chinese language newspapers. One of the media's most significant contributions was made by the journalists from the Ming-Sheng Daily's Department of Medical News, who dedicated a Quilt panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Its message states "Where there is regardness, there is hope", and shows charts of the Department of Health statistics of the rate of HIV infection in Taiwan from 1983-1995. I brought the panel back to San Francisco, where it will be sewn in a section of the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Other events related to the World AIDS Day observance included a floating lantern ceremony to remember those who have died of AIDS and to show support to those living with HIV; a week-long corporate display in the lobby of the Aetna Training center in Taipei's financial district; a Quilt display in Chungli, Central Taiwan; a Quilt display in Kaohsiung Medical College in Southern Taiwan; and the Fourth Annual "Walking for AIDS Because I Care" walk-a-thon from Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Plaza to Taipei City Hall.

The Quilt displays and the World AIDS Day activities had an important impact in the city of Taipei, helping its residents see the human dimension of the epidemic.

Doris Ouyang is Associate Director of Administration at the NAMES Project Foundation; Chien Ching-Shu, Director of Information and Education at Living With Hope Organization, contributed to this report.

Taiwan AIDS Memorial Quilt Project

Volunteers at Living With Hope Organization in Taipei have started the Taiwan AIDS Memorial Quilt Project. Twenty

local panels have already been received by the project. Taiwan is the 33rd country to adapt the idea of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Living With Hope Organization staff and volunteers visit AIDS patients in hospitals and operate a shelter for AIDS patients, the only provider of this service in Taiwan. They also offer an information hotline service, volunteer training, and publish a monthly newsletter. The group is already planning a return of the Quilt to Taipei in 1996. They also plan to start other programs such as counseling and anonymous HIV testing.

For more information, please contact the Taiwan AIDS Memorial Quilt Project, c/o Living With Hope Organization, P.O. Box 2-43, Pei-Tow, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C., or contact Ms. Chien Ching-Shu or Mr. Hansen Wu at (886) 2-825-0444 or (886) 2-820-0979; fax: (886) 2-820-5837; e-mail: cspm@pc2.hinet.net.

AIDS Memorial Quilt will provide "Presence of Absence" at XI International Conference on AIDS

By Melissa M. Bomben

Now that it's 1996, the XI International Conference on AIDS is looming in the near future (July 7-12), and the city of Vancouver, Canada, is alive with the buzz of pre-conference planning and preparations.

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Conference has been working closely with me to designate the appropriate venues and forums for the AIDS Memorial Quilt to be displayed during the conference. The NAMES Project-Canada/Le projet des NOMS-Canada has already committed for their entire Quilt inventory to be in Vancouver for this event (anticipated over 60 Sections by July 1996), and the NAMES Project Foundation in San Francisco is considering the inclusion of Quilt sections from the U.S. project as well.

To date, we are contemplating exhibiting Quilt sections in various sites through-

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out the city of Vancouver, which may include: the Vancouver Public Library; the Vancouver Trade & Convention Centre (the main conference site); the University of British Columbia; the Medical Sciences Building (pre-conference site); street-level windows of various downtown Vancouver department stores; and some of the larger conference venues such as BC Place Stadium and GM Place Arena

We are eager to hear from all of the international Quilt affiliates, as to whether or not they will be coming to Vancouver bringing (or sending with other delegates) portions of their Quilt. Ideally, it would be great to have a least a couple of sections from each International Affiliate to ensure international representation.

Please contact me as soon as possible, so we can discuss your Quilt project's participation in this global event. Telephone: 1-604-681-2796 (days), 1-604-681-3950 (evenings); fax: 1-604-689-1879; e-mail: cips@unixg.ubc.ca, or write to The NAMES Project-Canada, Pacific Region, #214 - 950 Drake Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2B9, Canada.

Melissa Bomben is the Pacific Region Director of the NAMES Project-Canada/Le projet des NOMS-Canada, and resides in Vancouver.

Barcelona City Hall site of Quilt display

By Juan-Carlos Castaño

With the endorsement and support of the *Ajuntament de Barcelona* (the city's government body), *Projecte dels NOMS Catalunya* and the NAMES Project Foundation displayed sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt during the World AIDS Day observance, December 1, 1995.

A section of the Quilt was hung from the Mayor's balcony on that day, flanked by tapestries representing the coats-of-arms of Barcelona and Catalunya to which red ribbons had been added to honor the memory of those lost to the disease. The idea of the involvement of the city government in the different World AIDS Day activities was initiated and carried through by the representatives of the Civil Rights Commission and the ERC (*Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya*), and supported by the different municipal political groups.

The city government also approved the creation of an AIDS work group which will coordinate, discuss and generate proposals involving City Hall and the AIDS services organizations, as well as a Municipal Action Program on AIDS to be put in effect as soon as possible.

A day-long event took place in Las Ramblas, one of the main thoroughfares in Barcelona's historic district. Members from the different ASOs distributed condoms and literature about HIV and AIDS to passers-by. In the evening, a candlelight march attended by approximately 1,000 people took place along Las Ramblas to Plaza Sant Jaume, in front of the *Ajuntament* building. Six sections of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, and seven sections of the *Catalán Quilt* from *Projecte dels NOMS Catalunya* were carried by members of *Voluntarios 2000*, a local volunteer organization.

Rosa Novel, a well-known actress and singer, read words of remembrance in memory of the thousands of *Catalán* and Spanish men, women and children who have died due to AIDS, her brother among them. She also made a plea for action to all people present, as well as to the city and state governments to make resources available to help put a stop to the spread of the disease, and to provide support to those living with HIV and AIDS and their families. "Alone and Frightened", a song by the late Ugandan singer and AIDS activist, Philly Bongoley Lutaaya, served as background music as the hundreds of participants walked among the panels.

Earlier that week, the Quilt sections were displayed in the plenary room of the Vth European Conference of AIDS Nurses, also taking place in Barcelona. Nurses and medical personnel from several European countries, including Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Italy, France and the United Kingdom, among others, participated in the three-day event.

Ferran Pujol i Roca, President of *Projecte dels NOMS Catalunya*, and myself, representing the NAMES Project Foundation, gave a joint presentation about the International AIDS Memorial Quilt and its use for remembrance and as a tool for promoting awareness about AIDS.

On December 4, Quilt sections were hung on the stage of the *Teatre Poliorama*, one of the oldest theaters in Barcelona, as

Quilt Facts
(as of 12/95)

Funds Raised for Direct Services for People with AIDS:

\$1,658,077 (U.S.)

Number of Visitors to Quilt:

5,921,807

Number of Individual

Panels:

31,911

Total Weight:

36 tons without walkway

41 tons with walkway

International Quilt affiliates have been started in:

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Denmark
France
Germany
Guatemala
Hong Kong
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Northern Ireland
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Romania
Russia
South Africa
Spain
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Thailand
Trinidad & Tobago
Uganda
United Kingdom
Zambia

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AIDS Facts and Figures (as of 5/95)

- WHO estimates that 18 million adults, and about 1.5 million children, have been infected with HIV since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Today, WHO believes that over 4.5 million individuals infected with HIV have developed AIDS.
- By the end of the century, developing countries will account for over 90% of all people with HIV infection.
- Women are becoming increasingly affected by HIV. Worldwide, the cumulative number of infected women is expected to reach 15 million by the year 2000.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has by far the largest number of people living with HIV - 11 million. But the region where HIV is spreading fastest is South and South-East Asia, with 3 million infected adults - double the estimated number in mid-1993.
- By the year 2000, as many as 5-10 million children may have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS.

- from WHO's *In Point of Fact*, May 1995

part of a World AIDS Day event with free-admission to the public. The event included a dramatized reading of "The Baltimore Waltz" by Paula Vogel, written in memory of her brother Carl who died of AIDS, and a collection of songs by Lidia Pujol and Sílvia Comes. Projecte dels NOMS was one of the event organizers.

Juan-Carlos Castaño is Associate Director for International Relations at The NAMES Project Foundation in San Francisco.

Quilt displays during AIDS Awareness Week in Sydney, Australia

A display of the entire Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt was hosted by the Quilt Project Sydney on Saturday, November 25, 1995, as one of the activities to help launch AIDS Awareness Week 1995 in Sydney, Australia.

The plans called for an outdoor display in The Domain, the park lands behind the State Parliament House. "Everything was ready," explains Sue Clark, education officer for the Quilt Project Sydney. "The posters were up, the merchandise ordered (sun hats), water coolers and donated food, volunteers in place, when...RAIN, and lots of it! 48 hours before the display we had to face the inevitable, the display could not go on—it was too wet."

The host committee met to discuss whether to work on finding an alternative site or cancel the display altogether. Taking a chance, they contacted the Sydney Convention Centre, the only indoor space large enough to hold a display of the entire Australian Quilt, and requested the use of any available hall at no cost. To the surprise and delight of the committee, the Centre agreed. The display was on again, and the committee had 36 hours to let the public know of the changes.

"Somehow we did it!," smiles Ms. Clark. "The display took place in Exhibition Hall 3, Darling Harbour. The State Minister of Health gave the keynote address and then, with his wife and children, stayed for two hours looking at the Quilt. Fifteen new panels were presented and we received lots of coverage on radio and television, as well as in the gay press."

After the display was over, the Health Department sponsored a tour of the Quilt in New South Wales, with nearly every health district in the State displaying two sections of the Quilt during AIDS Awareness Week.

On December 1, World AIDS Day, the Quilt was seen by lawmakers and government officials when two sections of the Quilt were displayed in the Parliament House, in Sydney.

"For all of us at the Quilt Project Sydney, the display and tour were enormous successes and proof positive that when needed to, the power of the Quilt can truly move mountains," said Ms. Clark.

Quilt Project started in Germany

With the support of the Münchner AIDS-Hilfe, an AIDS service organization in Munich, Germany, a group of volunteers have initiated the "Münchner AIDS-Quilt-Projekt." The group will provide a venue for panel making for people whose lives have been touched by AIDS in the Munich area and across Germany.

By contacting businesses in Munich, and other parts of Germany, the group hopes to get donations of cloth, thread, stencils, and other items, to be able to offer free materials to those wishing to make a panel. "Many people are concerned about their sewing abilities," said Quaide Williams, one of the volunteers spearheading the effort, "so we will provide the assistance of a skilled tailor at each of our sewing meetings." The first two meetings, will serve as an opportunity to provide more information about the goals of the project, and will take place on February 25 and March 3, 1996.

In May, Mr. Williams and Mr. Thomas Wahl, who is also involved in starting the project, will represent the "Münchner AIDS-Quilt-Projekt" at a four-day retreat for PWAs at the spa Bad Abach. The event will include a panelmaking workshop.

For more information about the "Münchner AIDS-Quilt-Projekt," please contact Mr. Quaide Williams at: Tel.(49) 89 746 04 71, fax (49) 89 236 80 811, or by e-mail at: qwilliams@nw80.cip.fak14.uni-muenchen.de