

# Community Alliance and Action Network



## Annual Report



2005-2006  
The Beginning....



August 1, 2006

Dear CAAN Member:

I am pleased to sign off on this year's Community Alliance and Action Network's Annual Report for 2005-2006. It's amazing when I look back over the last year and see how much a brand new organization accomplished. I'm hopeful as you read through this report, you will also notice and be proud of what this infant organization has accomplished.

As you flip through these pages, you will notice a lot of photos. I wanted to share with you some of the photographs that I took at various events that either CAAN sponsored, co-sponsored, or CAAN members were participants in. It really does suggest the cliché of a picture is worth a thousand words true.

Most of our fiscal year was dedicated to obtaining 501(c)(3) status. It is difficult to obtain grant funding without that status and while it took almost 10 months, the IRS did give CAAN 501(c)(3) funding in June. I'll never forget going to the post office to see if there was any mail before Eric and I went off to Key West for our yearly vacation and seeing that envelope from the IRS. The first thing running through my mind was, "what now" but when I opened up that envelope in my vehicle I remember jumping up and down in my seat. It was one of the greatest feelings that I can remember feeling realizing that we were able to get the IRS's seal of approval.

CAAN has done a lot over the last year. Some organizations have a staff that helps to coordinate all that we do, but not us. Everyone at CAAN is a volunteer and it's because of people like you, I've been blessed with the number of people I've met.

The next year will continue to challenge CAAN as we begin to be more recognized and as we begin to work on more substantial projects for the larger community. We are mindful of the need for expansion that will occur as we broaden our membership base. We are beginning discussions to recruit a college intern to work in the office to keep it open five days a week and to work on public relations projects to get the CAAN name out there in the larger community. We will broaden the library and we will continue working with other organizations to develop programs that will serve the community. Yet, in one-year's time, we have done so much and I'm so thankful for all that people have done.

If you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact me at [tpierce@caanmidwest.org](mailto:tpierce@caanmidwest.org) or at 815-726-7906.

Sincerely,

Tim Piece, President



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## Community

*Community Alliance and Action Network is all about community.*



When people think about the word “community,” what first comes to mind? One way to think of community is people working together to reach a common goal. Community Alliance and Action Network first came together in March of 2005 in the home of Tim Pierce and Eric Schor as six people sat around their dining room table talking about the state of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people who live in Chicago’s suburbs. Out of that discussion, one thing became quickly clear: LGBTQ people are not visible here and there ought to be some way of making these lives more public. Research shows that people are less likely to fear what they know.

The next meeting occurred in April at Joliet Junior College and the idea of a community center began to take shape. The work would not be easy, but there is no telling what could be done if people were willing to come together. Amazingly, by the end of 2005, CAAN was finding ways of building community and CAAN was able to secure space for a community center in downtown Joliet in the Barber Building. While the space is small and it seems like the center is already busting at the seams, it’s exciting because CAAN’s future can only be better.

## Library

Gini Lester, CAAN’s Second Vice-President, felt that one way to draw people to the center was to provide a library with books and videos that members can check out. By July of 2006, CAAN has accumulated almost 600 titles. The library has brought people to the center and people have gotten memberships because of the library. Here is a random sample of books and videos that people can check out:

- Jayne Mansfield Collection—Multi DVD collection of films
- *Defying Gravity*—DVD
- Heinz Heger, *The Man with the Pink Triangle: The True Life and Death Story of Homosexuals in Nazi Death Camps*
- Michelangelo Signorile, *Life Outside—The Signorile Report on Gay Men: Sex, Drugs, Muscels, and the Passages of Life*
- Dennis Altman, *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*
- Khaled El-Rouayheb, *Before Homosexuality in the Arab-Islamic World, 1500-1800*
- Jeanette Winterson, *Gut Symmetries*

- Sonia Johnson, *From Housewife to Heretic: One Women's Spiritual Awakening and Her Excommunication from the Mormon Church*
- Reinaldo Arenas, *Farewell to the Sea: A Novel of Cuba*
- Clarissa Pinkola Estes, *Women Who Run with the Wolves*

## Fish Can't Fly

CAAN had its “coming out” in October with its first event, “Fish Can’t Fly” a documentary by Tom Murray. The film focused on the ex-gay movement and in how people become ex-ex-gays in learning how to come to grips with their homosexuality. Mr. Murray came to Joliet to show and talk about the film to an audience at Grace United Methodist Church. He even brought a couple of people who were featured in the film with him.

## First Saturday Potluck and a Movie Nights

On the first Saturday of any given month, CAAN holds a potluck and movie night to give



people a chance to socialize with other people and to watch a movie on a LGBTQ theme. There is a focus on more documentary-oriented films so that we can spend time talking about its themes. We showed the following films:

- *Prom Queen*: a film based on a true story of a young man, Marc Hall, a Canadian high school student who wanted to bring his boyfriend to a Catholic high school prom.
- *Paris is Burning*: a documentary about “drag nights” among

New York’s underclass.

- *Put the Camera on Me*: a documentary about director Darren Stein and his childhood videos where they touch on themes such as jealousy, cruelty, and sexuality.
- *Tarnation*: a documentary about a man growing up with a schizophrenic mother.
- *Tying the Knot*: a documentary over the debate of same-sex marriage in the United States.
- *I Can't Marry You*: another documentary over the debate of same-sex marriage in the United States.

- *TransGeneration*: a documentary that looked at four college students as they underwent gender transition.
- *Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World*: a documentary that looks at the lives of gay people living in Egypt who were arrested and tried for being homosexual.

## Fifth Saturday Extravaganzas



On April 29<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, CAAN had what is called the Fifth Saturday Extravaganza. The idea of this evening is to bring in special people to talk about specific subjects that relate to the LGBTQ community.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, George Miller, a competitive slam poet, came to the center to talk about slam poetry and to read some of his poetry, especially one that he dedicated to his lesbian daughter and what happened to her when she was in high school. He even encouraged people to write their own poems and to read them in a mock competition.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Brian Rzepczynski, also known as the Gay Love Coach,

gave a talk about how to find the right person. He talked about how people need to find someone who meets their requirements and to separate that from what someone may want or need in a relationship.

## Les, Bi and Straight Women Get Down With Safer Sex

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Christina Santiago, Women's Health Patient Navigator from the Lesbian Community Cancer Project of Howard Brown Health Center, came to the CAAN center to talk about safe sex for women who are intimate with other women as well as for women who are looking for some variety with their male intimate partners. While there are no studies that look at HIV/AIDS transmission from one woman to another, the human papilloma virus (HPV) DNA was present in 19% of lesbians who have reported having no sexual history with men. HPV can cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

## Community Center Open House

Community Alliance and Action Network had an open house for the community center on February 4, 2006. People from throughout the community came to the open house to check out the facilities, have something to eat and drink, enjoy the music, and stick around afterwards for CAAN's first official First Saturday Night movie *Paris is Burning*. It was unfortunate that there were sound problems that evening though everyone did their best to hear the sound that was coming out of the tiny speakers on the projector.

## Alliance

*Community Alliance and Action Network exists to create and build alliances with other organizations that share CAAN's mission.*

In CAAN's first year, the organization worked hard to collaborate with other organizations. CAAN cannot exist within a vacuum considering that the offices are in the same building as two other organizations that deal with a LGBTQ population: Regional Care and Agape Ministries. However, the Board had to work on establishing CAAN's credibility as an organization, which was challenging.

## Gay Games Chicago

Gay Games Chicago's executive director came to a CAAN meeting to talk about the games and even inspired CAAN's president, Tim Pierce, to sign up to bowl. While it was unfortunate that Tim couldn't bowl because of a pulled tendon caused from practicing, CAAN pushed the games at different venues and even hosted a uniform try on party for people who live in the suburbs that was held at the center in conjunction with Team Chicago.



## Take Back the Night

CAAN was invited to have a table at Naperville's Take Back the Night that was held at Centennial Park in downtown Naperville in October. Several hundred people came by to learn about CAAN and the Gay Games.

Take Back the Night is an event that was designed to allow women to take back the night by marching in the streets to bring awareness to domestic violence issues. Over the years Take Back the Night expanded to include homophobia and transgender phobia. It was empowering to be a part of that event, especially during both the march that took place in downtown Naperville that evening

and the candlelight ceremony that took place at the park afterwards.

CAAN did participate in Joliet's Take Back the Night in an unofficial capacity. That night was moving as well as people marched at Joliet West High School's field.

## Guardian Angel Community Services

After the Take Back the Night event, the Board felt that there was a need to do something to bring attention to domestic violence in the LGBTQ community. The Board presented to

Guardian Angel Community Service’s board about the plight of gays and lesbians. We learned that people in homosexual relationships are less likely to report domestic violence situations because the person may be afraid of being outed to family or to the larger community.



## Oswego High School Gay-Straight Alliance

After a news story appeared about the problems that a group of students had in forming a gay-straight alliance at the high school, the Board wrote a letter of support to the Oswego paper and Tim Pierce, CAAN’s President, even met with the group of students to give them some options about starting their GSA. The students were able to operate under the school’s existing BIONIC club.

## Equal Marriage Illinois

Community Alliance and Action Network has been a proud partner

with the ACLU, Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, the Unitarian Universalist Churches of both Joliet and Naperville, among other organizations to work on several programs related to this initiative. In April, CAAN was a co-sponsor of a marriage equality panel discussion. It was held at the Unitarian Universalist church in Joliet and was well attended by several people in the community.

In May, CAAN helped to find people to attend a marriage equality training that was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville. The training consisted of talking what has worked and what hasn’t worked in the fight for marriage equality. People also met in smaller groups to brainstorm ideas for what to do to begin having conversations with the “moveable middle.” The key in this discussion for marriage equality is that we shouldn’t be focusing our conversations to people who already agree with us or with people who strongly disagree with us. Rather, we need to have conversations with the people who are in-between the two extremes to help them to better understand how marriage equality will only strengthen the institution of marriage.

## Pride Picnic at Joliet Unitarian Universalist Church

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, two CAAN Board members—Paul Brumbaugh and Gini Lester—manned a tent at the UU’s first Pride Picnic. They had a chance to interact with church members along with members of the community who came by for the festival and were able to sign up people for CAAN’s mailing list.

## Chicago Pride Parade

CAAN was a proud participant of Chicago's Pride Parade that was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Chicago's parade is one of the largest in the country and we were number 170 out of approximately 250 parade entries. While the day started off rainy and cold, the weather cleared just as the parade was getting ready to start and it ended up being a great day to walk the route. Some of CAAN's marchers wore veils in support of the theme, "Pride not Prejudice." Flyers were handed out to people along the parade route and there were people in the crowd that recognized whom CAAN was. It was amazing to see how supportive people were even as the group turned the last corner onto Belmont where the protestors were waiting. The crowd did their best to block the protestors and cheered the group on as the marchers reached the end of the parade route.

## Action

*Though Community Alliance and Action Network is a 501(c)(3) organization, we can still do small amounts of advocacy as part of our mission.*

Being a 501(c)(3) organization does present challenges for any organization. The Board has to be careful, as an organization, that anything that it advocates for people to do clearly fits within CAAN's mission statement. CAAN cannot endorse candidates or can it do anything that is directly political. The Board clearly makes sure that CAAN's advocacy is centered on educating people about issues at hand. Therefore, we have not done much direct advocacy with the exception of finding people to go through petitions filed by the Illinois

Family Institute and to work on a voter's guide for the 2006 election.



## Oswego High School

When the students at Oswego High School wanted their gay-straight alliance, the school principal did not want it. The students were meeting at a restaurant in Oswego when a group of White Power kids began to hassle the students and the police were called in to resolve the situation. One of the students wrote a letter to the Oswego paper

detailing what was going on with the students, the group, and the high school.

CAAN's board members wrote a letter to the principal explaining the importance of having a GSA for the students and even offered to help mediate the discussion. In a voice mail message that was left on Tim Pierce's voice mail, the basic gist of the message was that if he was to allow the GSA to have their group, he would have to allow a group of White Power students to have a group on school grounds, too. Not to be deterred, Tim Pierce met with the group of students to help strategize ways to talk to the principal. CAAN also sent emails to people on the mailing list urging people to write letters to the Oswego paper in support of the students. The overall response was very positive with the end result that the students can meet on campus.

## Illinois Family Institute's Marriage Referendum

Protect Marriage Illinois, an arm of the Illinois Family Institute, filed a petition with the Illinois State Board of Elections for a ballot referendum in the fall 2006 election to define marriage as between one man and one woman. While the vote would be non-binding, the idea was to put

pressure on the state legislature to put on a future ballot a binding referendum to change the state constitution. It was clear that the referendum that they filed was not statistically valid but the challenge would be to find enough volunteers to go through 50,000+ pages of petitions in roughly six weeks to find invalid signatures. Illinois election law states that signatories on petitions must be registered voters, must be registered at the address they live in at the time of the signature, and must use the same signature that is on their voter's registration. Also, all voters on a petition must reside in the same county or election jurisdiction.



While Equal Marriage Illinois was going through the petitions, the State Board of Elections were going through a statistical sample of their

own to determine whether there was a statistically valid sample of signatures regardless of what Equal Marriage Illinois would find. The State of Board of Elections determined that the Illinois Family Institute did not have a statistically valid sample and the Illinois Family Institute could not remedy this defect so there was no reason for Equal Marriage Illinois to go forward.

CAAN's role was to find volunteers. While we could not advocate directly for marriage equality or could we lobby the state legislature for this cause, we could and did forward Equal Marriage Illinois's request for volunteers to the mailing list. The turnout was amazing considering that in Wheaton, for example, volunteers could only work on them while the Election Board's offices were open. In Chicago, on the other hand, Equal Marriage Illinois had a dedicated office to check petitions throughout Illinois. There were times when Tim Pierce, CAAN's President, would show up in Chicago and find CAAN members and friends going through stacks of petitions.

## Network

*Community Alliance and Action Network is ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century using the Internet to communicate with a much larger audience.*

When starting a new organization, there is a need to get the organization’s message to a larger audience that is economical but also is effective in getting out to as many people as possible. In creating a website, the Board wanted something that would let people know that CAAN is a LGBTQ organization and provide information about CAAN that is organized and easy to find.

The board looked at a lot of websites and saw what was called the good, the bad, and the ugly. There was a lot that bothered the Board: insecure websites, websites that used cookies to track people that seemed inappropriate, graphics and colors that made the site look cartoonish, and sites that were disorganized or led to out-of-date information or to pages that did not exist.

The Board, along with CAAN’s web goddess, Barbara Strand, spent a lot of time talking about the wording of the different pages and attempted to create a site that was very easy to navigate so that people can find needed information in no more than three clicks into the website.

The following sections detail statistics about the website that was collected as people visited the website. Most of the information collected is not done through the use of cookies. CAAN’s position is not to create profiles of its website visitors but to collect general information about how people find CAAN’s website and where people go while they are on the website.

## Visitor Statistics

The website went live in September of 2005. The table below illustrates some information about people visiting the website:

*Table 1 Summary by Month*

Month	Daily Average			Monthly Average							
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	Kbytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits	
Sep-05	788	474	72	12	308	228577	380	2162	14241	23642	
Oct-05	758	497	61	14	314	133935	449	1909	15428	23548	
Nov-05	712	470	60	18	319	133752	548	1828	14116	21379	
Dec-05	436	276	43	12	269	82631	376	1344	8582	13544	
Jan-06	520	347	52	15	357	99928	468	1627	10766	16124	
Feb-06	758	457	73	20	378	155026	580	2056	12807	21246	
Mar-06	567	402	70	21	412	120963	670	2199	12467	17577	
Apr-06	748	503	78	27	478	170125	837	2366	15105	22466	
May-06	1415	865	116	31	567	416476	977	3597	26829	43892	
Jun-06	381	250	51	19	414	110456	578	1551	7505	11455	
Jul-06	676	347	69	22	488	152455	703	2145	10772	20956	
Totals						1804324	6566	22784	148618	235829	

While there is some fluctuation from one month to the next, there has been a general upward movement in the number of people who come the CAAN website. The question that ought to be answered is, “How do people find CAAN?” When people go to a search engine, the terms that people use to search for a website are “carried over” to the actual website and becomes part of the statistics that an organization can use. Of the 74 people who searched for CAAN used the search terms in the table below.

*Table 2 Search Terms Used by People to Find CAAN*

Hits	Hit %	Search String
11	14.86	caanmidwest.org
10	13.51	caan joliet
7	9.46	caanmidwest
4	5.41	www.caanmidwest.org
3	4.05	c.a.a.n. joliet
3	4.05	gini lester
2	2.70	eric schor
2	2.70	caan festival
2	2.70	joliet gay
2	2.70	community alliance and action network
1	1.35	community alliance and action network - joliet
1	1.35	gay bars dekalb illinois
1	1.35	naperville's gay community
1	1.35	babs sehring
1	1.35	caan illinois
1	1.35	community center form 1023
1	1.35	fabulous sylvester
1	1.35	community alliance and action network il
1	1.35	gay naperville
1	1.35	guardian angel's joliet
1	1.35	how to form a community action alliance
1	1.35	transgender organization naperville
1	1.35	c.a.a.n website joliet
1	1.35	caan festival 2006 dates
1	1.35	community action in joliet
1	1.35	gay center and joliet
1	1.35	glt naperville
1	1.35	join the community alliance
1	1.35	paul brumbaugh
1	1.35	tim pierce joliet
1	1.35	poetry slam in downtown joliet
1	1.35	shawn o'donnell
1	1.35	slam poetry at caan
1	1.35	glt caan
1	1.35	caan in joliet
1	1.35	chicago suburbs transgender support groups
1	1.35	gay in joliet and caan
1	1.35	glt-caan
74		

The other aspect of the website that CAAN can look at is how people are getting to the website. The website hosting company does provide statistics that makes this easy to determine as the following table illustrates:

Hits	%	URL
75	22.06	google.com
64	18.82	outinthesuburbs.com
42	12.35	dogpile.com
36	10.59	lgbtcenters.org
30	8.82	joanjettblakk.com
26	7.65	msn.com
21	6.18	yahoo.com
11	3.24	boogiemonkey.com
9	2.65	opendoorclinic.org
6	1.76	outburbs.com
6	1.76	windycitymediagroup.com
4	1.18	comcast.net
2	0.59	suburbanchicagonews.com
2	0.59	outlineschicago.com
1	0.29	gaycommunitycenters.com
1	0.29	aol.com
1	0.29	goodsearch.com
1	0.29	thegaylovecoach.com
1	0.29	tolerance.org
1	0.29	fairillinois.org
340		

*Table 3 How People Come to CAAN's Website*

Table 4 caanmidwest.org Entry Pages

Visits	%	URL
1901	39.19	caanmidwest.org
1095	22.57	forum
658	13.56	home.html
232	4.78	calendar.html
223	4.60	community.html
183	3.77	news.html
116	2.39	resources.html
115	2.37	aboutus.html
98	2.02	archive.html
61	1.26	contactus.html
52	1.07	board.html
42	0.87	drafts/intro.html
17	0.35	docs.html
15	0.31	joinus.html
13	0.27	member.html
11	0.23	drafts/home.html
7	0.14	drafts/joinus.html
6	0.12	drafts/aboutus.html
6	0.12	gallery.html
4851		

Table 4 answers the question of where people go once they reach the CAAN website. It's an important measure to look at it because it tells us what pages people start at as they begin to look at the website or are looking at the website for some specific piece of information.

Table 5 answers the question of the last page that people visit as they leave the CAAN website. This table can answer the question of how many people reach the page and leave without moving too far into the site but it can also suggest how many people actually click their way around the site to check out CAAN.

Visits	%	URL
2348	44.60	forum
900	17.10	caanmidwest.org
556	10.56	home.html
337	6.40	calendar.html
215	4.08	community.html
205	3.89	news.html
195	3.70	resources.html
142	2.70	archive.html
105	1.99	aboutus.html
104	1.98	contactus.html
75	1.42	board.html
16	0.30	docs.html
12	0.23	drafts/home.html
12	0.23	drafts/intro.html
9	0.17	clist.html
8	0.15	drafts/joinus.html
7	0.13	drafts/community.html
7	0.13	gallery.html
6	0.11	projects.html
5	0.09	ga.html
5264		

Table 5  
caanmidwest.org Exit  
Pages

## Financials

*Community Alliance and Action Network is dependent on its members for financial support to keep the center open.*

When it comes to spending people's money, the Board strives to be conservative on what is done. Much of the money that has been raised from membership fees and general donations has been saved so that we can obtain insurance for the board and to obtain insurance for a youth drop in center. The Board is cognizant of the future and to begin planning for a more permanent space.

There are two basic financial statements that help provide a glimpse into the financial health of the organization: the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. While CAAN is not in operation to make a profit, we do need to have money left over at the end of the year that we can carry over to following years that we can use for future programs.

## Balance Sheet

The purpose of the balance sheet is to look at what CAAN owns versus what it owes to determine how much equity is in the organization. The more equity is in the organization compared to what it owes shows more financial stability in the organization. As of the end of

the fiscal year, CAAN had no outstanding debts. See Table 6 for CAAN's balance sheet.



### Assets

On July 31, 2006, CAAN had total assets of \$8,674.16 broken down with current assets of \$997.58—assets expected to be used in a year or less—and fixed assets of \$7,676.58—assets that will not be used in a year or less and are depreciated over the life of the asset.

### Current Assets

The inventory asset of \$186.64 is for mugs and civil union greeting cards that the center has for sale. There has not been much of a push to sell these items but will plan to do so in the future. CAAN does need to

have a sales tax resale certificate so that it can collect sales tax on items it does sell.

CAAN has its banking account at Washington Mutual. While there are several banks that are supportive of the LGBTQ community, there was a need to find a bank that kept banking fees to a minimum. Washington Mutual has a totally free business checking account that allows the Board to deposit as much as it collects and to write as many checks as needed without fear of incurring a per-check charge as other banks in the area charge for business accounts.

Washington Mutual has no minimum balance for their checking account, which is different for most other banks. By the end of CAAN's fiscal year, there was \$1,431.50 in the checking account. There is a negative balance for accounts receivable of \$620.56 coming from prepaid membership income from two Board Members—Gini Lester and Tim Pierce. As membership fee income of \$1,000 is generated from one of these Board members, the money is converted into a one-year Presidential membership.

Table 6 CAAN Balance Sheet

**Community Alliance And Action Network**  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of July 31, 2006

	<u>Jul 31, '06</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
Washington Mutual	1,431.50
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>1,431.50</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
Accounts Receivable	-620.56
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>-620.56</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Inventory Asset	186.64
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>186.64</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	997.58
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Library Books	7,033.04
PROJECTING EQUIPMENT	643.54
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>7,676.58</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>8,674.16</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	996.04
Net Income	7,678.12
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>8,674.16</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>8,674.16</u></b>

**Fixed Assets**

CAAN's biggest push for assets has been the library. Not only is there a need for people to stop at the center but there are a couple of bigger goals that need to be considered. First, the Board has found it difficult to get insurance for the center and the board because there are not enough assets to make it worth for an insurance agent to underwrite. The fastest way for CAAN to obtain assets is to build up the library. By the end of the July, the total value of the library books was \$7,033.04. The value of the library books was determined by using the current selling price of the book at Amazon.com. Many of the books that CAAN has in the library are out-of-print, which devalues the cost of these books considerably. The books also have to be depreciated over the expected life of the book, which was determined to be 10 years. The total cost of the books is the value minus one year of depreciation.

The second goal that CAAN needs to consider with its library is to create a research library that both researchers and students can use to get information on LGBTQ subjects. While CAAN is not out to compete with Gerber-Hart that has a library with over 15,000 books, the Board does feel like it can create a collection of books that people throughout the suburbs may find to be

useful. The short-term goal for the library is to have a collection of 1,000 books, which should be accomplished by the end of the next fiscal year: July 31, 2007.

The other fixed asset is for projecting equipment that is used for CAAN's First Saturday movie night—a DLP projector. This item is depreciated over a five-year period.



## Equity

At the end of the fiscal year, CAAN's total equity was \$8,674.16. While most of CAAN's equity is in the library, it is a place to start for the first year. As CAAN begins to plan for the future, there will be a need to build more cash reserves as that will allow CAAN to move into larger facilities as it begins to plan for a facility of its own. The opening balance equity were for funds that were used to start the organization.

## Profit and Loss Statement

Not-for profit organizations, like a for-profit organization, needs to spend less money than it brings in

any given year. It's this profit that builds equity in an organization and helps the organization grow in the coming years. For the year, CAAN had a total net income of \$7,678.12 that becomes part of the equity that appears on the balance sheet.

## Income

There are different areas that CAAN received income in 2005-2006 as can be seen in Table 7. These can be broken down by gift store, membership income, miscellaneous income, non-cash revenue, and programming income. Cost of goods sold is the cost of the items from the gift shop, which is subtracted from total income to come up with gross profit.

## Gift Store

\$18.00 came from two mugs that were sold at the Pride Picnic that was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church. The cost of sales amount of \$8.98 reflects the wholesale cost of the mugs.

## Membership Income

At the end of CAAN's fiscal year, there were a total of 33 paid members, which is much more than what was projected for membership for the first year. Of the total \$10,192.50, the majority of this income comes from two members as start up costs for the organization. CAAN needs to have a diversified membership base that will provide a base level of support for the organization. In addition to having a diversified membership base, CAAN will need to obtain grant funding that will allow the organization to expand in the long-term.

## Miscellaneous Income

2005-2006 will probably be the last year that miscellaneous income will be used as an income category. \$144.63 was provided by a board member who helped to provide funds for food costs at a uniform try-on party that was held on behalf of Gay Games and Team Chicago. In the future, items that are provided for CAAN will be considered as non-cash revenue.

*Table 7 CAAN Profit and Loss Statement*

### **Community Alliance And Action Network** **Profit and Loss Standard** **August 2005 through July** **2006**

	<u>Aug '05 - Jul '06</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>GIFT STORE</b>	18.00
<b>Membership Income</b>	10,192.50
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	144.63
<b>Non-Cash Revenue</b>	7,814.49
<b>Programming Income</b>	814.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>18,983.62</u>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	8.98
<b>Total COGS</b>	<u>8.98</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>18,974.64</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>ACCOUNTING</b>	299.00
<b>Bank Charge</b>	20.00
<b>DEPOSIT</b>	250.00
<b>Depreciation Expense</b>	942.33
<b>Equipment</b>	987.13
<b>GOV FEES AND OTHER</b>	872.00
<b>LIBRARY</b>	150.00
<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>	50.00
<b>PHONE</b>	880.04
<b>POSTAGE</b>	146.04
<b>PRINTING</b>	476.75
<b>Program</b>	892.97
<b>Rent</b>	2,500.00
<b>Web Design</b>	2,830.26
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>11,296.52</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>7,678.12</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>7,678.12</b></u>

## Non-Cash Revenue

CAAN's Board made a move to classify miscellaneous income as non-cash revenue as that better reflects what is happening when people give us non-cash donations or provides services such as food. There is \$7,814.49 that has been classified most of that were books donated to CAAN over the last year.

## Programming Income

We ask people who are not members for a donation at CAAN events to help provide funding for the center. This total for 2005-2006 came to \$814.00.

## Expenses

Total expenses for 2005-2006 came to \$11,296.52. Some of these costs were connected to startup costs that were needed to get the organization started. Some of these costs that are tied to startup:

- Accounting \$299.00 for a copy of Quickbooks for Mac for CAAN's books.
- Bank charge \$20.00, which was charged for CAAN's checks when the first account was opened. We have not been charged a check-printing fee when we closed out the first bank account, a business checking account, to the new account, a not-for-profit account.
- Deposit \$250.00 for the CAAN office.
- Government Fees of \$872.00, which includes the following:
  - IRS 501(c)(3) application fee \$500
  - State of Illinois fees both with the Secretary of State for corporation registration and to register with the Attorney General's office \$65
  - Kendall County registration fee for CAAN's corporate charter \$27
  - Registration fee with the United States Patent Office to register CAAN's logo and slogan \$275
  - Filing of CAAN's annual report with the Illinois Secretary of State's office \$5
- Web design \$2830.26 which includes registration the domain names caanmidwest.org, caanmidwest.com, and caanmidwest.net, creation of the CAAN website, and the cost to host the website. This cost will decrease considerably in 2006-2007 as CAAN will only pay for maintenance fees and the cost to host the website. There will be a future time when the board will need to make a decision to revamp the website to keep it interesting.

A total of \$4,271.26, which comes to 37.8% of total expenses, is directly related to startup costs. While these costs are expected to decrease in the coming year, there are other costs that may increase over the coming year.

One area where costs may increase over the next 12 months is rent. Presently, CAAN pays \$250 per month for rent, which comes to \$3 per square foot. Market rates for 1,000 square feet

of office space can typically run from \$10 to \$12 per square foot. While the building is not of pristine quality, the Board is well aware that rent can be raised at any time. CAAN does not have a lease on its office space. While it's probable that the office will not be rented out to another party in the short-term, there are issues that do concern the board. It's possible that if downtown Joliet truly faces a renaissance, someone may decide to purchase the building and tear it down. If this happens, CAAN will need to make some decisions about where to go. In the long-term, CAAN wishes to have its own facility that will have offices that will be leased out to supportive organizations to better insulate itself from the rental market. However, before CAAN can begin to look at a more permanent solution to its space problems there needs to be more members and a budget developed that will look at the costs to either purchase an existing facility and renovate it or to build new somewhere in the Joliet area.

Another area where CAAN seems to be spending a lot of money is for the phone line. CAAN does have a DSL line that people can use to surf the net whenever someone comes in with a laptop or to use a dedicated computer that is hooked up to the network. While there are cheaper options available for phone service, the office is not serviceable for cable, which can help get the organization away from AT&T. AT&T does charge businesses more for phone service than it does its residential customers. In order to have call waiting and caller id on a phone line, CAAN was better off getting a full service package that included unlimited local



phone service (0-15 miles) along with caller id, call forwarding, and call waiting. There was an add-on for cheaper long distance (15+ miles) where CAAN pays \$.06 minute with a \$5.95 minimum. AT&T charges over \$.35 per minute for long distance phone calls (15+ miles) for businesses so if CAAN uses 17 or more minutes of long distance a month, which has been the case, there is the \$5.95 monthly charge. There have been questions about why CAAN doesn't use another phone company or use an Internet phone service (e.g., Vonage). The answer is the DSL line. If CAAN was to use another phone company (e.g., MCI), the DSL service will be disconnected. To use a service like Vonage, CAAN will need to keep AT&T for basic phone service plus

CAAN would need to change its phone number. There is hope that telecommunication costs will decrease, especially with the advent of Naked DSL and competition from other sources for broadband Internet connectivity.

## Board of Directors

*Community Alliance and Action Network is served by five Board Members, each serving two-year terms.*

In creating the organization, the original Board felt that it was best to have five members, each member serving a two-year term. However, the board also felt that there was a need to have overlapping terms so that there should not be a situation where there will be a Board of novice members. At the time, three of the board positions were designated as two-year terms: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, and Treasurer and the other two board positions designated as initial one-year terms: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and Secretary.

The job of putting a board together was done with a lot of care. The goal was to have a heterogeneous board representing both men and women along with people with different sexual orientations. And while it is not possible to have every demographic variable met, it is still remarkable that the board represents as many demographic groups as it does.

In March we had a resignation for the treasurer position. Pete Santos, CAAN's original treasurer, moved to New Mexico so the remaining board appointed Adrian Frost until we had an election in June where he was elected to a two-year term.



Effective July 31, 2006, the following people were on CAAN's board:

- President: Tim Pierce, Oswego, university instructor at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Gini Lester, Joliet, nurse for the ICU unit at Community Hospital in Munster, Indiana
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Paul Brumbaugh, Joliet, retired Caseworker supervisor for the Juvenile Division of the

Department of Corrections in Joliet

- Secretary, Stefanie Frecektion, Joliet, pre-school teacher in Darien
- Treasurer, Adrian Frost, Plano, student at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove and cashier at Borders Books in Naperville

## Special Thanks

*While CAAN is appreciative of all its members, it's important to recognize people who provide the bulk of CAAN's funding*

The following members have contributed more than \$100 last year to Community Alliance and Action Network:

### President Membership

Tim Pierce and Eric Schor: \$6000

Gini Lester and Babs Sehring: \$3000

### Benefactor Membership

Micah Chamberlain and Ryan Varju: \$250

## Legal Details

Founded in 2005, Community Alliance And Action Network provides programming, support, and outreach services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community. CAAN is registered as a 501(C)(3) organization EIN 47-0958193 and contributions to CAAN are deductible as a charitable donation. CAAN registered with the Office of the Attorney General of the state of Illinois under The Charitable Trust and The Solicitation for Charity ACT and our registration number is 01047575. While the Attorney General's office does not endorse charities registered under the ACT, it is always a good idea to see if the organizations you give money to are registered with this office. You can always check on our status by going to <http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov> and click on "Building Better Charities."