



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Test Positive Aware Network Re-launches Mr. Sexx HIV/AIDS Awareness Program at Steamworks**

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) and Steamworks have re-launched Mr. Sexx, a holistic and dynamic approach to HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and education. The program encourages Steamworks' members to engage in one-on-one dialogue while in the club, with a trained professional provided by TPAN.

Steamworks' members are free to discuss any number of issues like substance abuse, alcohol abuse or mental wellness; which in turn will help individuals make smarter, healthier choices. It's a creative and unique approach to HIV/AIDS awareness and education. To compliment Mr. Sexx, TPAN is proud to also offer outreach and anonymous HIV oral, rapid testing. Mr. Sexx is available at Steamworks every Friday night from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

"TPAN continues to develop creative HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs, like Mr. Sexx, that makes our services more available in the community," said TPAN Executive Director Rick Bejlovec. "Steamworks has become a close community partner, and we believe this program will benefit the community in many ways."

Steamworks Director of Health Information and Education Programs Nirmalpal Sachdev said, "Mr. Sexx will help our members continue to lead healthier and safer lives. We're delighted to be working with TPAN on this initiative and hope to develop more programs like these in the future."

Nick Branock and Michael McFadden have played integral parts in developing and executing this campaign. Branock, TPAN's HIV prevention coordinator, received a Masters of Social Work degree from Indiana University—Indianapolis; and McFadden is

a licensed Social Worker, who received his Masters in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago.

“Nick and Michael bring a wealth of HIV knowledge and skill to the Mr. Sexx program,” said TPAN Director of Education and Advocacy Matt Sharp. “This is one of many programs we will continue to develop into the future.”

To find out more information about Mr. Sexx please visit the TPAN Web site, [www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com), or visit Steamworks in Chicago.

**About Test Positive Aware Network**

Test Positive Aware Network empowers people living with HIV through peer-led programming, support services, information dissemination, and advocacy. TPAN also provide services to the broader community to increase HIV knowledge and sensitivity, and to reduce the risk of infection. TPAN publishes the nationally distributed HIV Treatment publication *Positively Aware Magazine*. Visit the TPAN Web site, [www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com), for more information.

**About Steamworks**

**STEAMWORKS** has been providing men 18 years & older with a clean, comfortable and stylish place to meet other men, relax, workout and play 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 30 years. Located in Berkeley, Calif., Chicago, Ill., and Toronto, Ontario, Steamworks has a strong tradition of community leadership tackling the issues that impact our community such as: health and wellness, drug & alcohol abuse and HIV/STD education. In 1985, Steamworks launched its health initiative to help educate the community about HIV/AIDS. Visit the Steamworks' Web site, [www.steamworksonline.com](http://www.steamworksonline.com), for more information about Steamworks, its health initiatives and HIV/AIDS awareness programs.

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Attached: 1. Photo: Michael McFadden and Nick Branock