

**A message from Bill Hendry, THT Buddy Liaison Office / The Terrence Higgins Trust.**

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**Publication/Creation**

[1992]

**Persistent URL**

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# The Terrence Higgins Trust



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## *A message from Bill Hendry, Buddy Liaison Officer*

Dear Friend

Usually when I contact people on behalf of the Trust I'm after something far more valuable than money. I want people's time. I need it on behalf of people with AIDS who are waiting for Buddies.

The Trust has over a thousand people working for it - and the vast majority of them are volunteers. I can only admire the selflessness of our Buddy volunteers who each befriend a person with AIDS in a unique way. The Buddy scheme is one of the many pioneering services of the Trust and is one of the most inspiring. It's a fascinating part of the Trust's work - and the demand for it is growing.

More and more people are asking the Trust for a Buddy. Naturally, we would like to fulfil every request, but the specialist training and support costs over £800 per volunteer.

The brochure gives you a bit of background and tells you the story of just one Buddying relationship - and it is in no way typical. As you can imagine, each relationship is different since Buddies come from every walk of life. Currently our youngest is 19 and our oldest, 74. The only thing they have in common, I suppose, is the humanity they share.

My main reason for writing is not to recruit Buddies. However this is too good an opportunity to miss. If you live in Greater London, think you can spare the time and feel comfortable with the idea of Buddying, we'd love to hear from you. Reading about Maggie and Jim in the leaflet enclosed will give you some idea of the sort of thing that might be involved.

As you would expect, there is a careful screening process. Once selected, you would receive intensive training and all the back-up and support needed. You must be able to devote some time every week. We particularly need people who are free during the day. You have to commit to helping for a least twelve months. Please do think about it.

There is something everyone can do. What the Trust needs to support all its activities is, of course, money. Every part of our programme in health education, in counselling and for lobbying in the battle against prejudice and discrimination. And we need to make sure that we can train all the suitable volunteers who come forward to become Buddies.

I'm pleased to have this chance to stress how well any financial help you can give to the Trust will be received. We need money more and more - because people need us more and more.

Kind regards

Bill Hendry

P.S. If you can give an amount regularly through bankers order and are a taxpayer, please consider covenanting. This will enable us to get the tax back to boost the value of your donation considerably - without costing you a penny extra. You will find out how easy it all is on the enclosed form.