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Contact: Doug Wirth, CEO

W: (646) 786-1805

E-mail: DWirth@AmidaCareNy.org

**AMIDA CARE RECEIVES GRANT FROM AIDS UNITED TO IMPROVE
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR REGION**

NEW YORK, NY – AMIDA CARE RECEIVES FUNDING TO HELP END NATIONAL AIDS EPIDEMIC

New York, NY -- February 7, 2011 – Hundreds of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in New York City will now receive local, high quality care, thanks to a new grant awarded to Amida Care by AIDS United. Amida Care's grant is one (1) of ten (10) awards granted to communities across the country by AIDS United to support its Access to Care (A2C) initiative. The awards are all supported by a federal grant to AIDS United from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) to improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Amida Care's grant from AIDS United will support the development of **Mobile Engagement Teams**: These teams will reach the most complex, chronically-ill HIV-positive New Yorkers through street-based outreach and a full spectrum of supportive services, including psychiatric and housing support. Harlem United, Housing Works and Project Samaritan Inc will provide mobile teams in the Upper Manhattan, central Brooklyn/East New York and the Bronx. ACRIA will offer individualized treatment education and support.

HIV/AIDS continues to disproportionately affect poor people, LGBTQ individuals and communities of color in New York. There are over 85,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. While nearly 80% are able to secure care through Medicaid and/or the AIDS Drug Assistance Pools (ADAP), those with the most complex needs – homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness – often don't access care until they become extremely ill. Nationally, there are more than 600,000 people living with HIV/AIDS that are not receiving the life-saving care they need.

"AIDS United is proud to be supporting the work of Amida Care and its community collaborators with this SIF grant," said Mark Ishaug, AIDS United President and CEO. "In addition to developing innovative ways to help get people living with HIV in New York into the care they need, Amida Care's commitment to matching its grant from AIDS United with resources from the local private sector will significantly increase the funding available for critical access to care activities for New York's populations most impacted by the epidemic."

The Social Innovation Fund targets millions of public-private dollars to expand effective solutions across three issue areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures and youth development and school support. AIDS United's recent \$3.6 million SIF award is in support of the "healthy futures" issue area, and requires a 2:1 match from the private sector to create a funding pool of more than \$10 million annually. The funding pool will aim to enhance the health and welfare of people living with HIV/AIDS through interventions like the one being developed by Amida Care and its community collaborators that work to increase access to life-saving HIV care and treatment.

"HIV/AIDS continues to disproportionately affect poor people, LGBTQ individuals and communities of color in New York," said Doug Wirth, President and CEO. "Our grant from AIDS United and the Social Innovation Fund, will give us the capacity to help these individuals get into the life-saving care they need," Mr. Wirth said.

The New York Community Trust, one of the country's largest community foundations and founder of the NYC AIDS Fund, will partner with Amida Care to raise local matching funds.

For more information about AIDS United's A2C Initiative, visit <http://www.aidsunited.org/community-impact/access-to-care-a2c>.

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ABOUT AMIDA CARE

Amida Care's is a non-profit Medicaid HIV Special Needs health Plan (SNP). Our mission is to provide access to comprehensive care and coordinated services that facilitate positive health outcomes and general well-being for our Members. Amida Care has nurse care coordinators, member service representatives, community case managers, and other plan staff available to assist our members, making it easier for them to get, and stay in, regular care. Comprehensive assistance for members and providers is just a phone call away, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

ABOUT AIDS UNITED

The mission of AIDS United is to end the AIDS epidemic in the United States. We will achieve this goal through national, regional and local policy/advocacy, strategic grantmaking, and organizational capacity building. With partners throughout the country, we will work to ensure that people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS have access to the prevention and care services they need and deserve. The creation of AIDS United combines private-sector fundraising, philanthropy, coalition building, public policy expertise, and advocacy — as well as a network of passionate local and state partners — to most effectively and efficiently respond to the disease in the communities most impacted by it.