



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**More Life and The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation Announce Upcoming Release of First Book of its Kind in the United States**

*Book Written by Children Touched by HIV/AIDS Scheduled to Be Released in May*

Fort Worth, Texas – March 26, 2008 – More Life, an HIV/AIDS education and awareness festival, and The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation announced today that they will release *Angels at My Door*, a book written by children touched by HIV/AIDS and Deborah Jung, in May of 2008. This unique book is the first of its kind in the United States, with collected stories and art by Fort Worth children with loved ones suffering from HIV/AIDS and additional artwork by students in the Fort Worth Independent School District (ISD).

In *Angels at My Door*, we are invited into the world of children who have friends, family and loved ones with HIV/AIDS. To write the book, children gathered during a three-day creativity camp led by Deborah Jung, co-author of *Angels at My Door* and executive director of Kids Who Care Musical Theatre. Jung then created a story that weaves the children's writings and artwork into a book about the graces that have emerged from their courage and hope.

The book, of which only 2,000 copies will be printed, has an angels theme, inspired by the Fort Worth Opera's upcoming production of *Angels in America*, based on Tony Kushner's Pulitzer prize-winning play that deals with HIV/AIDS. *Angels in America* will be part of the Fort Worth Opera's annual festival, in conjunction with the upcoming More Life Festival running May 10 – June 8, 2008.

"What's interesting is that 'angels' emerged naturally as a common thread as each child shared or wrote their private thoughts during our writing workshops," said Jung. "Some of the children focused on a

traditional, heavenly kind of angel, but most of them shared or wrote about angels with feet and flesh -- people in their lives who provided them with inspiration, help and hope.”

*Angels at My Door* is made possible by The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation through a generous grant from the Alvin and Lucy Owsley Foundation.

“The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation is pleased to underwrite the publication of *Angels at My Door* to offer children affected by AIDS the opportunity to write about their feelings and experiences and see their work transformed into a book for all time,” said Betsy R. Pepper, executive director of The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation.

As part of the book project, the Foundation also sponsored an angels-themed art competition among student artists in the Fort Worth ISD. More than 90 students entered artwork, and over 20 pieces of their angel art will be included in the book.

“It’s significant, we think, that children who are growing up in the midst of AIDS and children who are not both contributed to this book,” said Cynthia Q. Boyd, project manager for *Angels at My Door* and programs chairperson for the More Life Festival. “Children see the truth so clearly – we’re all in this together. Our hope is that *Angels at My Door* will touch hearts, raise awareness in our communities and humanize HIV/AIDS.”

Close to 400 books will be donated to Fort Worth area schools, libraries, AIDS service organizations and hospitals. The remaining books will be available for sale at various More Life events and online at [www.angelsatmydoor.com](http://www.angelsatmydoor.com). Proceeds from the book sales benefit the Fort Worth AIDS service organizations – AIDS Outreach Center, Samaritan House and Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network.

A book release celebration will be held at the Fort Worth Central Library in downtown Fort Worth on Saturday, May 17 at 10:30 a.m. to unveil the new book, display the student artwork and announce the winners of the Fort Worth ISD art competition. Additionally, select pieces of the artwork will be on display at the 14 Fort Worth Library branches. Details will be announced in April.

In *Angels at My Door*, children with loved ones affected by AIDS share their stories and messages of hope, loss and support. Provided below are excerpts from the book:

*“This seemingly very adult subject of suffering is not without children in its midst.”* Deborah Jung, co-author of *Angels at My Door* and executive director of Kids Who Care Musical Theatre

*“I used to live in a one bedroom house...If it was cold and we needed to get warm we had to sleep by the stove...Then my Angel appears!”* Luis, age 13

*“People with AIDS - don’t feel left out. Sooner or later we are going to come up with something to help you.”* Omar, age 7

*“My angel. She’s fighting a battle. A battle of life she wants to win.”* Taylor, age 15

*“I want people to stop doing drugs. Just have hope and pray, and know that you matter.”* Jamie, age 13

*"She fought AIDS for 7 years, and she taught me everything there is to know....I love my Mama very much, and I miss her."* Kia, age 16

*"When the doctor came into Angel's room she began to cry because he told her she had AIDS. And her baby was dying."* Charmayne, age 13

*"I hope people know that we are still by their side no matter what. If we have AIDS or not, it really doesn't matter."* Luis, age 13

### **About More Life: An Arts Intervention**

A first-time event in Fort Worth, Texas, More Life: An Arts Intervention is a community-wide HIV/AIDS education and awareness festival running May 10, 2008 – June 8, 2008. A collaboration among AIDS Outreach Center, Fort Worth Opera, Samaritan House and Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network, the More Life Festival will be held in conjunction with the Fort Worth Opera's annual festival, which includes performances of *Angels in America*, an opera that explores the impact of AIDS on two families. For this initiative, More Life has engaged more than 45 community partners in 60+ performances, visual art exhibits, town halls and educational programs. Additionally, *Angels at My Door*, a book with a collection of writings by children touched by HIV/AIDS, has been created. For more information, please visit [www.morelifetexas.com](http://www.morelifetexas.com).

### **About *Angels at My Door***

The first book of its kind in the United States, *Angels at My Door* tells a story about the graces that emerge from children's courage and hope in the face of HIV/AIDS. The book includes writings and art by Fort Worth children who have friends, family and loved ones with HIV/AIDS, plus artwork by students in the Fort Worth Independent School District. Deborah Jung, co-author of *Angels at My Door* and executive director of Kids Who Care Musical Theatre, wove the children's writings and artwork into an inspiring, educational and heartwarming story. Inspired by the Fort Worth Opera's production of *Angels in America*, based on Tony Kushner's Pulitzer prize-winning play that deals with HIV/AIDS, *Angels at My Door* is part of the first More Life Festival, a community-wide HIV/AIDS education and awareness initiative in Fort Worth, Texas. Proceeds from the book sales benefit the Fort Worth AIDS service organizations – AIDS Outreach Center, Samaritan House and Tarrant County AIDS Interfaith Network. *Angels at My Door* is made possible by The Fort Worth Public Library Foundation through a generous grant from the Alvin and Lucy Owsley Foundation. For more information or to purchase the book, please visit [www.angelsatmydoor.com](http://www.angelsatmydoor.com).

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