

## AIDS Walk Miami to Feature 'Elvira'



Elvira

Care Resource will hold the 14th Annual AIDS Walk Miami - Run, Walk, Blade for the Cure at the Miami Beach Convention Center and Sunday, April 21.

The Grand Marshall for this year's event is Cassandra Peterson, better known as Elvira, Mistress of the Dark. She will kick-off the event and will also appear during a special screening

of her new movie, Elvira's Haunted Hills.

Although Peterson is better known as her dark alter ego, she has spent decades on the forefront of AIDS fundraising and awareness.

"I've been doing benefits a long time," Peterson says. "My best friends—so many people I grew up with and worked with—are all gay men. I was always around gay men. Before it was a named disease, almost every one of them got AIDS."

She recalled her early years working with the comedy troupe Mamma's Boys in the 1970s. "Out of these seven guys I performed with, five of them died of AIDS," she says.

"Since then, I've done whatever I could for AIDS [fundraising] and raising awareness," she says.

To participate in AIDS Walk Miami or to make a donation visit their website at [www.careresource.org](http://www.careresource.org) or by calling 305.751.9255.

## Washington Blade Reports on National Advocacy Groups

National gay and lesbian organizations scrambled to raise money while dealing with the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, resulting in canceled events, halted fundraising ventures and major changes, according to a new study by Washington D.C.-based gay newspaper The Washington Blade.

The newspaper reports that in the months following the tragedies in New York and Washington, most groups were affected

by the faltering economy, though signs of "renewed life" are now beginning to appear.

In the study, the Blade surveyed 28 national gay political and advocacy groups, including the Human Rights Campaign, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation.

For the full report, visit [www.washblade.com](http://www.washblade.com).

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