

IRISH AMERICA

April / May 2008

Canada \$4.95 U.S. \$3.95

IRISH AMERICA

TOP 100

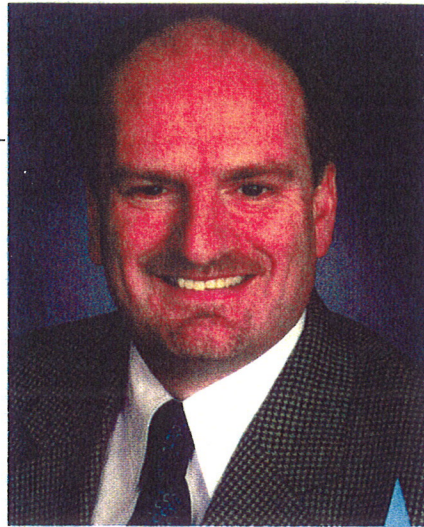
Svein Jorgensen

In the 1980s, Svein Jorgensen left Ireland for a life in New York City. Upon arrival Jorgensen's goal was unclear. His first position was at the Martha Washington Hotel, a residence for women in distress and need of shelter. As he helped the women reestablish themselves in their communities and rebuild their lives, Jorgensen faced the cold realities of how the homeless live. During this time also, a friend of Jorgensen's was diagnosed with HIV – and Jorgensen realized where his future lay. In the ensuing years, he has become a savior to many of the city's homeless and sick population.

In 1996, Jorgensen took a consulting position at Praxis Housing Initiatives, a nonprofit organization that provides transitional housing for New York City's homeless, many of whom have HIV or AIDS. He has been working with Praxis ever since. Today, he is the chief operating officer, in charge of quality assurance and day-to-day management for Praxis' four facilities in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Born in Norway to an Irish mother, Svein moved with his family to County Cork when he was six years old to be closer to his mother's family.

– MD



COMMUNITY