

Brazilian music to highlight fund-raiser

By Karen Ali
Contact Karen Ali
at kali@newstimes.com
or at (203) 731-3341.

THE NEWS-TIMES

DANBURY — Bossa Nova music, a flamenco dancer and Ms. Connecticut Brazil.

Those are just some of the attractions that will be on hand at the First Annual 1 Night of Brazilian Music this Saturday.

The money collected from the fund-raiser will go toward the Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury, located on Rose Street.

Melinda Storey Weisberg, the executive director of IAM, said in addition to raising money, the organization also wants to raise awareness.

So far, at least 12 Brazilian businesses in town have helped the AIDS organization sponsor the event, she said.

Weisberg said the AIDS agency decided to hold the fund-raiser because it "really reflects what our agency does, which is HIV and AIDS outreach in the Brazilian community."

Sandra Alves, who runs Graphica, a graphic design and printing shop on Main Street with her husband, is one of the sponsors of the event.

Alves said she doesn't know anyone first-hand who suffers from AIDS or HIV, but she is aware it is a huge problem. "I know AIDS is hard on people, they suffer a lot," Alves said. "In general, I am aware of a lot of people who died."

Alves said many famous Brazilian people have been afflicted, including artists and singers.

The party starts at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Elks Lodge. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. DJ Vanessa da Silva will be on hand. After that, the night of live music will begin.

In addition to live bands, there will also be a martial arts team.

General admission is \$50 dollars.

The event is not only for the Brazilian community, organizers said. They hope this night will "bring people together from many different groups and back-grounds" in the Danbury community.

IAM offers support services to families living with AIDS or HIV. The organization also works hard at prevention.

"Our targeted areas are men having sex with men and those already identified as HIV positive," Weisberg said.