



HARTLINE

Advocates Laud Continued Progress in the Fight Against AIDS

The past few weeks have seen several milestones in the HIV arena. Recent HIV vaccine trials that have been conducted with more than 16,000 participants in Thailand have yielded modestly promising results. Progress in the treatment of HIV has always occurred in steps and this, hopefully, is a small step toward an effective vaccine. In early November, the Ryan White Care Act (now called the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act) was re-authorized. This legislation provides funding for medical and supportive services for lower-income Americans who are living with HIV. There was some concern among many in the HIV field that the legislation would be seen as unnecessary in an age when HIV is increasingly viewed as a chronic and manageable condition. At the signing ceremony, President Obama acknowledged that the Act, which was initially implemented to provide critical emergency services to people facing an imminent death from AIDS has been transformed into a comprehensive system of care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS. Finally, the United States government lifted the ban on entry into the country of HIV-positive travelers. It is important for us to stop and appreciate these achievements, many of which would not have occurred without the chorus of AIDS advocates keeping attention focused on this disease that still claims 15,000 American lives each year and infects more than 55,000 Americans annually. Our voices can be heard and we are making a difference. - **Paul J. Botticello, Jr., Executive Director**



AIDS Walk 2009 Marked By a Little Luck and a Lot of Dedication

AIDS Walk 2009 took place on Saturday, October 17th. We were prepared for the worst as the weather forecast was foreboding at best. Nothing can put a damper on an outdoor event like cold torrential rain. So it was with a great sense of relief and gratitude that we awoke to a crisp, sunny morning as we headed out to the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford. More than 100 participants joined in the Walk and an additional 150 supporters made donations bringing the total amount raised to more than \$10,000. We are grateful to all of the tireless supporters who made this event such a success. Chief among them is David Strong, our AIDS Walk campaigner extraordinaire. David solicited more than a dozen gift cards from local businesses. These gift cards were awarded to the top teams, were raffled off to participants and were used as items in a silent auction. In addition to his solicitation skills, David also led the top team this year which consisted of many of his former colleagues at American Airlines. Students from Hall High School in West Hartford led by their advisor Darcie Hudson continued their longstanding support of AIDS Project Hartford by raising the largest amount of money from among all of the school groups that participated. Daniel Horner of West Hartford was the top individual money raiser. Massage therapist Courtney Chatterton, facepainter Cindy Kershaw, DJ George Dillon and Starbucks Coffee from Bishop's Corner and Bloomfield all contributed products and services that enhanced the event.

HARTLINE is published by AIDS Project Hartford

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Acknowledgements

AIDS Project Hartford offers its condolences to the family of Carol DiFazio. Carol, who passed away in August, 2009, was a tireless advocate for numerous social justice causes including issues related to HIV/AIDS. She was also an APH volunteer in the 1990s. Carol's family and friends donated more than \$1200.00 in memorial gifts to AIDS Project Hartford.

AIDS Project Hartford would like to thank Jake Minor and his parents Carrie Kramer and Charles Minor. Jake, a Simsbury resident, has made generous donations to AIDS Project Hartford for each of his past four birthdays. He continued that tradition this year as he marked his 8th birthday.

The following recently made donations to AIDS Project Hartford:

Nitza Agosto	Elizabeth Jurkiewicz	Paul Shaker
Christopher Basler	Sean & Michelle Kallaugher	David Shapiro
Donna & Darrell Basler	Philip & Nancy Karanian	Mark Shaw
John & Sally Bellavance	Sharon & James Kenney	Patricia Ann Sirois
Robert Belliveau	Cindy Kershaw	Christine Sklarsky
Marie Baron & Frances Bianco	Kevin Kinsella	Katherine Smith
Angela Beebe	Jean & Susan Konyu	Sandra Smith
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Sherrell & Reginald Billue	Helen & Edward Krawiec	Casey Smith-Speirs
Erica and Scott Black	Eloise & Stephen Kumnick	David Strong
Paul J. Botticello, Jr. & Peter	Sharon Labieniec	Michael & Karen Strong
Mortenson	Jean-Paul LeBlanc	Stephen & Christine Strong
Beth & Richard Boundy	Scott Ledgerwood	Michelle Sutley
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Deanne Bowmar	Ann Levie	Joseph Terzo
Scott Brackett	Virginia Lewis	Mark Vogel & Paul Pellegrini
Maureen Price Boreland	Aurelio Lopez, Jr.	Liz & Roger Vogt
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Jeryl Chester	Linda Martin	Robert Zambrello
Jerald & Susan Clark	Arthur Masi & Brian Hentz	
Rebekah & Patrick Collins	John Mazzulli	
Janet Connolly	Teresa & Eamonn McKiernan	
Joseph Coray	Brendan Miggins	
Ken Cornell & Erin Cammarata	David Moluis	CT Healthcare Group
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Sara & John Cummings	Robert Morehouse	Eyeworks of Glastonbury
Patrick Daw	Jodi Morris	
Scott Doucette	David Mozdziak	Six Flags New England
Kristin Dufour	Christian & Melissa Mulvey	
Tonja Edwards	Scott & Sharon Negus	St. John's Church : West Hartford
Edward & Bridget Fichera	Margaret Ni	
Wayne Fisher	Keith & Deborah Norris	Travelers Employee Club
Robin Gebrian	Kristin & Gregory O'Brien	
Garfield Genias	David Owens & Dennis Morin	United Technologies Corporation
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Christina & Scott Gstell	Dalia & Mary Jane Panke	United Way of Central & North-eastern CT
Endia Harris	Gary Peck	
Edwin Hawver	Scott & Susan Piccone	United Way of Southeastern PA
Enid Healey	Tim & Lynn Poloski	
Martha Healy	Donna & Craig Potterton	Wellpoint Foundation
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John & Tracey Hollerbach	Albert & Margaret Radionovas	
Carmen Holzman	Lynn Rappaport	
Michael & Barbara Honor	Phil Richmond	
Daniel Horner	Coralis Rodriguez	
Donald & Kathy Horner	Jack & Susan Ross	
Gary Ide	Colleen & Jeffrey Schena	
Donald & Suzanne Joffray		

In Memoriam

AIDS Project Hartford would like to remember the following friends who died recently:

Anthony C. (1964-2009)
Phillip F. (1960-2009)
Ralph T. (1958-2009)
John L. (1963-2009)
Jimmy M. (1962-2009)
Sylvester W. (1946-2009)
Billy D. (1958-2009)
Jeffrey P. (1955-2009)
Zoraida F. (1961-2009)
David D. (1948-2009)
Pamela P. (1950-2009)

APH News Briefs

APH Board of Directors member **Mark Vogel** recently completed the one-day Harbor to the Bay AIDS Bike Ride which starts in Boston and ends in Provincetown. Good job Mark!

The APH **medical model of case management** continues to draw accolades and is under consideration as a best practices model for Ryan White medical case management nationwide.

APH was the recipient of a \$500 donation from **Six Flags New England**. The donation was part of Six Flags' Out in the Park day during which a portion of the daily proceeds are donated to local charities.

Online donations to APH are now possible through the **Paypal** feature on our recently redesigned agency website. APH is also trying to get our message out through our new **Facebook** page. Be sure to visit our new website and become a Fan of APH on Facebook.

APH health educator **John Olivares** was featured in the Fall, 2009 issue of the Hartford Community Court Newsletter. John has been a visible presence at the Hartford Community Court where he provides mandatory HIV education and risk reduction counseling to men who have been charged with soliciting prostitutes.

More than fifty **APH clients** will receive holiday food bags in November and December. The bags will contain one chicken or ham in addition to numerous non-perishable sides.

World AIDS Day is Tuesday, December 1, 2009. AIDS Project Hartford will be teaming with students from the University of Hartford, Central CT State University and Manchester Community College for a series of events on the respective campuses. APH will also host an event at the Connections Center that will feature a short clip from a BBC series entitled "Love in the Time of HIV". The clip follows five HIV-affected youth from around the world.

Cosi Restaurant in West Hartford will donate a portion of the December 1, 2009 evening's proceeds to AIDS Project Hartford. Please consider eating out at Cosi on the evening of December 1st. You will enjoy a great meal and APH will benefit.

A Client's Story

Raymona is representative of many clients who seek assistance at APH. She is a gainfully employed homeowner who makes every attempt to remain current with her bills and to remain compliant with medical care. Unfortunately, the slumping economy resulted in a decrease in Raymona's income during the past year. This was coupled with an onslaught of unexpected ailments that required numerous biopsies, lab work and visits to an array of medical specialists. Most of these procedures were not covered by the minimal catastrophic health coverage that Raymona carries through her employer. Raymona's income and assets disqualified her from many public health assistance programs. Her biggest fear was losing her house to creditors. So, it was with a sense of urgency that Raymona contacted APH this Fall. She was feeling overwhelmed by mounting medical bills and had taken the unprecedented step of rationing her medical care out of fear that more visits to the doctor would result in more medical bills that she could not afford to pay. A major goal of the Ryan White HIV Program is to ensure that all HIV-positive individuals are connected to medical care and remain compliant with medical treatment. Raymona was in danger of falling out of care and jeopardizing her health and the heretofore successful management of her HIV disease. A combination of Ryan White funds and APH client assistance funds was able to significantly reduce but by no means eliminate Raymona's medical bills. Still, it was enough relief to allow her to resume her medical treatments. APH staff worked with Raymona to access affordable health coverage through the Charter Oak Health Plan. Ryan White funds assist with her insurance premiums. For now, at least, Raymona can focus on her health and can continue to plan for a brighter future.


Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, December 1, 2009	APH benefit at Cosi Restaurant	6pm-10pm	970 Farmington Ave., West Hartford
Monday, January 25, 2010	APH Annual Meeting	6pm-7:30pm	110 Bartholomew Avenue

Ongoing events :

Women's HIV Support Group	Tuesdays	10am	Connections	146 Wyllys St., Hartford
Men's NA 12-Step Group	Tuesdays	7:30pm	APH	110 Bartholomew Ave.
Gay Men's HIV Support Group	Wednesdays	7:00pm	APH	110 Bartholomew Ave.
HIV Education Group	3rd Wednesday	5:30	MANA	64 Church St., Manchester
Men's HIV Support Group	Thursdays	10am	Connections	146 Wyllys St., Hartford
HIV Counseling & Testing	Thursdays	6am-10am	Hartford. Dispensary	330 Broad Street, Manchester
HIV Counseling & Testing	Fridays	Noon-4pm	Comm. Hlth Srvces	500 Albany Ave., Hartford
HIV Counseling & Testing	Tuesday	9am-Noon	Burgdorf Clinic	131 Coventry Street, Hartford
HIV Counseling & Testing	2nd & 4th Mon.	3-5pm	E. Htfd Health Center	94 Conn. Blvd, E. Hartford
HIV Testing	By Appointment		APH	110 Bartholomew Ave.

For more information about the events listed above, call (860) 951-4833 or visit our website at www.aphct.org.



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