



HARTLINE

Donor Generosity in an Uncertain Funding World

One of the greatest challenges facing non-profits in Connecticut is the uncertain nature of government funding. It is late June as I am sitting down to write this and the State of Connecticut does not yet have a budget in place for the fiscal year that starts in one week. There is some speculation that when the State does adopt a budget, it will include the elimination of all five of Connecticut's Syringe Exchange Programs as well as a 1% across the board cut in all State contracts, including those that APH receives from the Department of Public Health. All of this makes it very difficult to plan client services and to try to minimize the impact on clients if funding suddenly disappears. This topsy-turvy world of government funding also highlights the critical importance of private donors. APH has been blessed with a wide array of community donors who designate this agency as the recipient of their charitable donations. Some of these generous donors contribute through their workplace or through the United Way campaign. Some host small fundraisers while others will send us a check when they are able. The common stream running through all of these donations is the great sense of gratitude we feel for each of them. These donations are critical to the success of AIDS Project Hartford's mission. Times are tough for many people and this makes the generosity that we have seen all the more powerful. We appreciate the financial constraints under which so many of our donors struggle. AIDS Project Hartford has taken steps during this past year to trim our expenses as much as possible without jeopardizing client service. With your help, we will continue to fight with all of the resources possible until there is a cure. - **Paul J. Botticello, Jr., Executive Director**

AIDSWALK 2009

AIDSWALK 2009 will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2009. This year's event, as those in years past, will be held at the MDC Reservoir on Route 4 near the Farmington/West Hartford town line. Registration starts at 10am and the leisurely 3-mile Walk will begin at 11am. Pledge sheets and flyers will be available after September 1, 2009 on the APH website (www.aphct.org) or by calling the APH office at (860) 951-4833. This is our agency's largest fundraiser and we greatly appreciate the generous support of all of those who participate.

Medical Case Management Program Undergoes Rigorous Evaluation

In 2007, at the behest of the federal government, AIDS Project Hartford adopted a medical model of case management for our HIV-positive clients. This model differed from the previous psychosocial model in that the emphasis was placed firmly on clients' medical treatment, medical compliance and health outcomes. Issues such as homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse would still be addressed by medical case managers. But these issues were viewed from the perspective of how they impacted our clients' ability to remain compliant with medical treatment. In late 2008, AIDS Project Hartford applied for and was accepted into a program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The program is a rigorous and extensive two-year study of APH's medical case management model. APH staff members Ed Paquette, Phet Gosselin and Leigh Evans are conducting the evaluation with extensive guidance from a nationally renowned evaluation expert. The evaluation includes a detailed review of the labwork results and medical treatment compliance rates of more than 400 medical case management clients. An equal number of medical case management clients will be asked to complete a survey. Face-to-face interviews will be conducted with each of APH's medical case managers to determine their thoughts on the efficacy of the medical model. Ultimately, this evaluation seeks to determine how successful APH's medical case management model is in improving the health outcomes of our clients. The final results of the evaluation will be available by Spring, 2010.

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Acknowledgements

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Regner Arvidson	James Kirby
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Debra Bailey	David Kovaks
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Elmwood Community Church (West Hartford)
Hall High School (West Hartford) AIDS Awareness Club
Saint John's Episcopal Church (West Hartford)
South Congregational Church (East Hartford)
MAC Foundation and Nordstrom's Department Store
United Way of Central & Northeast CT, Eastern Fairfield County, Pioneer Valley (Massachusetts) and Eastern Pennsylvania

AIDS Awareness Day 2009

More than 450 AIDS advocates participated in the 9th annual AIDS Awareness Day at the State Capitol on May 6th. These advocates included a sizeable contingent of APH clients including several dozen from the Connections Wellness Center. The day began with a rally at the State Capitol building during which many people living with HIV/AIDS spoke passionately about the impact of the disease on their lives and the role that HIV services play in helping them fight the disease and maintain their health. Following a lunch break, many of the advocates sought out their legislators for individual meetings. During these meetings, our clients were able to express themselves directly to the legislative staffs with the hope that future legislation would take our clients' concerns into consideration. AIDS Awareness Day is sponsored by the A-LIFE Campaign, an HIV advocacy and lobbying group. A-LIFE Campaign meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month from Noon-2pm at Meriden's First Congregational Church on Broad Street in Meriden. All are welcome to attend.

In Memoriam

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

Harry A. (1963-2009)	Alan L. (1953-2009)
John B. (1960-2009)	Rafael O. (1966-2009)
Rogelio C. (1968-2009)	Carmen M. (1959-2009)
Peter L. (1947-2009)	Mike S. (1953-2009)

APH News Briefs

Connections Wellness Center clients were treated to two social activities recently thanks to the generosity of donors. More than a dozen clients enjoyed an afternoon of bowling in March thanks to proceeds from an autumn poetry reading at the University of Connecticut. The bowling party was followed up by a trip to a New Britain Rock Cats baseball game, courtesy of the generous family of a recently deceased client. A picnic is currently being planned for Connections clients for later this summer. APH health educators **LaToya Bryant** and **Kaye White** were recent guests on the WVIT-30 Sunday morning TV show 'Black Perspective' where they spoke about HIV and its impact on the Black community. APH health educators have begun offering **Chlamydia and Gonorrhea** urine screenings. Screenings can be arranged by contacting by APH. The clients at the **Connections Wellness Center** will enjoy a new activity during the summer months as they toil in the soil at their community garden plot. The plot, which is administered by the Knox Park Foundation is located on the grounds of the Church of the Good Shepherd, directly across the street from Connections. This is the first year that APH has participated in this type of activity and the initial response from the clients has been very favorable. Gardening will provide the clients with an opportunity to nurture their green thumbs while also providing access to fresh vegetables. Anyone who is interested in donating vegetable plants to the garden can contact Julie Janiszewski at the Connections Center at (860) 547-1771. **The Institute for Community Research** recently hosted an exhibit entitled "Siyazama – Traditional Arts, Education and AIDS in South Africa". The exhibit highlights innovative, culturally appropriate approaches to HIV education and prevention. APH Program Manager Leigh Evans participated in the exhibit's opening reception on April 17th and spoke about some of the innovative approaches APH is taking in its prevention services. APH has partnered with the **Angelwish Foundation** in an attempt to provide holiday toys to children affected by HIV. Anyone who is interested in providing a holiday toy to a local child affected by HIV can access angelwish.org and follow the links to Connecticut organizations. APH will be listed, along with the children of APH clients and their holiday wishes.

Donor Support Continues to Be Strong

Student members of the **Hall High School AIDS Awareness Club** recently hosted their annual coffeehouse and silent auction to benefit AIDS Project Hartford. The event raised \$3209. For the second year, AIDS Project Hartford participated in the Travelers Championship **Birdies for Charity**. This fundraising event allows individuals to pledge a certain amount of money for each birdie that is made during the Travelers Championship golf tournament. APH raised \$1200 in the 2008 event and hopes to exceed that amount in 2009. Longtime supporter **June Corriveau** recently spearheaded a dress-down day fundraiser among her co-workers at the Hospital of Central CT. June and her colleagues donated more than \$100 to APH. AIDS Project Hartford was the recipient of a community grant from **Saint John's Episcopal Church** in West Hartford. The full amount of the grant is \$1500. Saint John's has been an active and generous supporter of APH for more than a decade. Also in grant news, APH received a \$5000 grant from the **MAC Foundation**. The Mac Foundation has awarded this grant to APH each year for more than five years.


Upcoming Events:

Saturday, October 17, 2009 AIDSWALK 2009 11am MDC Reservoir—Rte 4, Farmington/West Hartford

Ongoing events :

Women's HIV Support Group	Tuesdays at 10am	Connections	146 Wyllys St., Hartford
Men's NA 12-Step Group	Tuesdays at 7:30pm	APH	110 Bartholomew Avenue
Gay Men's HIV Support Group	Wednesdays at 7:00pm	APH	110 Bartholomew Ave., Hartford
HIV Education Group	3rd Wednesday at 5:30	MANA	64 Church St., Manchester
Women's HIV Support Group	Thursdays at 2pm	MANA	64 Church St., Manchester
Men's HIV Support Group	Thursdays at 10am	Connections	146 Wyllys St., Hartford
HIV Counseling & Testing	Thursdays from 8am-Noon	MWRC	331 Broad St., Manchester
HIV Counseling & Testing	Fridays from Noon-3pm	CHS	550 Albany Avenue, Hartford

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



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