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VOICES

The Voice of Delaware's HIV Community

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WOW Awards Almost Sold Out, Order Remaining Tickets Today



The Delaware HIV Consortium is proud to announce the honorees of the 8th Annual WOW Awards Celebration to be held on Friday, April 20, 2012 at the Clarion Hotel – The Belle in New Castle, Delaware. The WOW Awards honors individuals, corporations and organizations for their excellence in community leadership, client services, volunteerism and philanthropy in the field of HIV/AIDS throughout Delaware. Our mission, *The Delaware HIV Consortium is dedicated to eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS through its leadership to ensure a high-quality, seamless continuum of care for all people infected and affected in Delaware*, is enhanced and furthered by the tremendous efforts of these committed people and businesses that are honored by the prestigious Red Ribbon WOW Awards.

Each year the WOW Awards Celebration has a new and unique theme that is carried throughout the evening by its phenomenal array of fine foods, extraordinary spirits, theme oriented entertainment, silent auction, dancing and a casual evening of fun for all attendees. This year's theme is inspired by the hit TV series "Glee". Be prepared to meet Delaware's very own version of the cheer squad the "Cheerios", the all-male chorus the "Warblers", and the glee chorus of the "New Directions". This will be the fourth year that The Clarion Hotel – The Belle has acted as the host sponsor, graciously donating venue space and staffing assistance.

The event will start at 6:30 pm and the fun goes until 11 pm. VIP Reserved Tables for 8 are \$1,000 and Individual WOW Tickets are \$99 each. Tickets are available for purchase on the agency's website, www.delawarehiv.org, as well as by calling the office at 302-654-5471. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 18, 2012. Space is limited so secure your spot today.

"We cannot begin to thank owner Alan Spiro and his generous staff at the Clarion Hotel-The Belle for donating the use of their beautiful ballrooms and providing staffing assistance again this year," said Executive Director Peter Houle. "We encourage our friends and the community to support all of the generous sponsors who so graciously make WOW a phenomenal success as a fundraiser and AIDS awareness event."

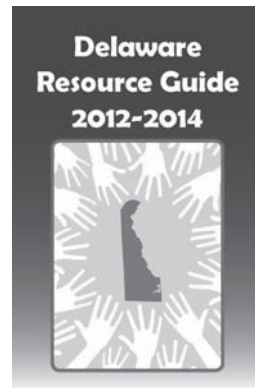
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2012-2014 Resource Guide Available Now in English and Spanish Versions

The new 2012-2014 Delaware Resource Guide is filled with HIV/AIDS-related information and services available throughout the state and is available now. This latest edition of the Resource Guide has been reformatted in many ways to improve the ease of use for both consumers and the service providers who regularly utilize this resource. Staff members implemented many of the suggested improvements made by community members, from simplifying the layout to increasing the size of the font. The 2012-2014 Resource Guide will be printed in two versions: one entirely in English and the other entirely in Spanish. The English version will have a blue cover and the Spanish version will have a red cover - making it easy to tell the books apart even when they're on a shelf.

The biggest change to the new Resource Guide is that all service providers are now listed alphabetically in three separate sections - one section for each county. The guide still contains other useful information including a glossary of terms and acronyms, important phone numbers and websites, locations for public libraries (which have free internet access), and basic information about HIV/AIDS.

The new Resource Guides will be available for pick-up from the Delaware HIV Consortium and a number of them will also be brought to the next Planning Council meeting in Dover on April 26. Additional arrangements for pick-up can be worked out with the Director of Community Planning and Policy Development, Sara Grainger. The online Resource Guide is always available at delawarehiv.org.



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Dear Friends,

During this past year we commemorated a very remarkable moment in the archives of the HIV/AIDS story that began more than thirty years ago. We honored our friends lost to this disease and the heroes still living with HIV/AIDS by hosting the 25th Anniversary of the Annual AIDS Walk in Wilmington, Dover, Rehoboth Beach and in hundreds of other cities around the world. For some people it was their very first AIDS Walk, for others it was the 10th time they walked and for a few...it represented the twenty-fifth time to step off for the Walk. No matter how many times individuals participated in the Walk, every step mattered, every dollar raised made a difference, and every walker became a candle of hope, and that hope continues today.

I have high hopes for many things this year, the near future and even the next decade. I hope that our AIDS Walk will grow and flourish as in the past. Let's make it the most successful ever! I hope our collaborations take us down new streets and into new communities and that we are able to link more people into care. But most of all, I have hope for the first time in my life that we may be on the verge of ending this disease as we know it. Although I can't believe I've even uttered those words, I do have hope we can make it happen. How remarkable. How hopeful.

After more than twenty-five years of advocacy and working in the HIV field it's difficult to fathom ever being able to utter that thought. Although we cannot afford to rely on just hope, it is up to all of us who "dream of a world without AIDS" and to make this dream a reality. New drug therapies, people living longer and healthier and clients going back to work have reignited the kindling of hope. What we must extinguish is the stigma that still fuels the fear of disclosing one's status, the fear of getting tested, the entitlement mentality that has been created for many clients and the continuous procreation of the myths of HIV/AIDS. We are hopeful that passing opt-out testing is a great beginning to creating a world without stigma. Getting testing to become a routine procedure rather than an exception will dramatically change the perception of this disease and hopefully assist in identifying the newly infected so we may link them into early treatment.

Hope alone cannot bring change. But hope can encourage us to embrace change, to create new models of service delivery, to think outside the box, to be better advocates and to work more closely together for the common good. Hope can strengthen collaborations that are based on commonality and working for similar outcomes that improve and retain our clients into care and ensure a quality continuum of care.

Hope is what spearheaded the Delaware HIV Consortium, as an organization, to spend the last twelve months developing a new Vision Statement that guided the development of a new Strategic Plan. Our Vision Statement and Strategic Plan have better prepared the Delaware HIV Consortium for the enormous changes that lie ahead in the next 12 months, as well as the next few years as the Affordable Care Act is implemented and the future of the Ryan White CARE Act is determined.

Not since the 1990s and the initiation of the Ryan White CARE Act has the HIV community experienced so many changes challenging the very core of the services we provide to the thousands of Delawareans infected and affected by HIV disease. It was for these reasons the Delaware HIV Consortium explored and discussed the many systemic changes that will or may occur in the hope of being prepared for whatever the future brings. Being pro-active is far superior to having to be reactive.

Changing hope into reality is the challenge that lies ahead. Be hopeful, be active and we can dream of a world without AIDS because hope will always defeat despair.

Committed to the Hope,

Peter Houle, MBA
Executive Director

Mission Statement:

The Delaware HIV Consortium is dedicated to eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS through its leadership to ensure a high-quality, seamless continuum of care for all people infected and affected in Delaware.



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The DHC is an Affiliate Member of the
United Way of Delaware.

Our Partner Agency Number is 9467.

New Staff Member Joins Delaware HIV Consortium

Sara Grainger joined the Delaware HIV Consortium in February 2012 as the new Director of Community Planning & Policy Development. Sara comes to the Consortium from Brandywine Counseling & Community Services, where as the Program Manager for HIV Prevention & Outreach Services, she oversaw the administration and day to day operations of three programs, including Delaware's first and only Needle Exchange Program, WISH (Women in Support of Health), a program which provides outreach, care advocacy, trauma-informed therapy, and advocacy training to women engaged in sex work, and Safety Net Services, a program which provides outreach, medical, substance abuse, and case management services to individuals who are at a high risk of contracting HIV.



Sara Grainger, the Consortium's new Director of Community Planning and Policy Development

In May 2011, Sara earned dual Master of Social Services and Master of Law and Social Policy degrees from Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. She is a licensed Social Worker in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Sara's primary areas of focus have concentrated on HIV/AIDS, harm reduction, domestic violence and sexual violence, substance abuse, and issues with obtaining government issued photo ID. Of her vision for Delaware's HIV Planning Council, Sara says, "I am excited to explore the new and creative ways that we as a body can partner together to strengthen our work in both the Policy Committee and the Planning Council."

The Policy Committee members are currently addressing the following three topics which may be the subjects of the next White Papers. If you would like to join one of these groups, please contact Sara Grainger today at sgrainger@delawarehiv.org.

- **Comprehensive HIV education in middle and high schools:** This workgroup is examining the type of HIV education that is delivered in middle and high schools and is interested in developing a consistent and standard delivery of information. Several members of this workgroup would like to partner with the Strategic Planning Workgroup for the HIV Youth CDC Grant.
- **HIV testing & counseling in Wellness Centers:** This workgroup has identified 13 schools in Delaware that have school board approval to conduct HIV testing in Wellness Centers. The workgroup would like to work with the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a better sense of how testing works, its successes, and any barriers.
- **HIV, the Department of Corrections, and incarceration:** This workgroup is gathering information with regard to the number of PLWHA who are incarcerated in DE, linkages to care both during incarceration and upon reentry into the community, and prevention efforts within the Department of Corrections (DOC). At this time, the workgroup would like to recommend that the DOC implement monthly general wellness screenings, which would include HIV Testing, glucose testing, blood pressure screenings, and other tests as deemed appropriate.

2012 Planning Council and Policy Committee Meeting Dates

Joint Planning Council/Policy Committee meetings will be held at the Dover Sheraton (1570 North Dupont Highway, Dover, DE 19901).

Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Meeting Room: To be determined
Ad Hoc Work Group Meetings, if needed:
1:30 p.m.

Policy Committee meetings will be held at: Community Services Building (100 W. 10th Street, Wilmington DE, 19801)

Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Meeting Room: To be determined

2012 Meeting Dates

Meeting Type	Date	Location
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, April 26	Dover
Consortium Annual Meeting	Thursday, May 17	Dover
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, June 28	Dover
Policy Committee	Thursday, July 26	Wilmington
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, August 23	Dover
Policy Committee	Thursday, September 27	Wilmington
Planning Council/Policy	Thursday, October 25	Dover
Policy Committee	Thursday, November 29*	Wilmington
No December Meeting		

* November meeting will be held on 5th Thursday of the month due to Thanksgiving

Please RSVP to any meetings you plan on attending by contacting Sara Grainger or Joe Scarborough by calling 302-654-5471 or send an e-mail to sgrainger@delawarehiv.org or jscarborough@delawarehiv.org.

According to CDC, HIV Rate Among US Intravenous Drug Users Declines

HIV infections among intravenous drug users in the United States have declined nearly 50 percent in the past ten years, but HIV testing is also down and risky behaviors such as needle-sharing persist, U.S. health experts said on March 1.

A study by researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention based on a 2009 survey of 10,000 people from 20 urban areas found that 9 percent of IV drug users were infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

That compares with a rate of 18 percent in the 1990s.

After falling significantly since the peak of the epidemic, HIV rates in the United States have been leveling out, but pockets of infection persist, especially in high-risk groups such as young people and men who have sex with men.

HIV Rates for Urban Black Women Far Higher Than Previously Estimated

Story from Johns Hopkins Medicine - News Releases

AIDS experts at Johns Hopkins say they are surprised and dismayed by results of their latest multicenter study showing that the yearly number of new cases of HIV infection among black women in Baltimore and other cities is five times higher than previously thought. The data show that infection rates for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, among this population are much higher than the overall incidence rates in the United States for African-American adolescents and African-American women.

The data come from an ongoing, larger series of studies supported by the HIV Prevention Trials Network, and reflect testing and analysis of at-risk women in six urban areas in the northeastern and southeastern United States hardest hit by the global AIDS epidemic. The so-called "hotspots" are Baltimore; Atlanta; Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Washington, D.C.; Newark, N.J.; and New York City. Researchers presented their findings March 8 at the 19th annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Seattle.

Specifically, the team found that among 2,099 women ages 18 to 44, 88 percent of whom were black, 1.5 percent (32 women) tested positive at the outset of the study, even though they all thought they were negative. Among those who initially tested negative for HIV, the rate of new infections was 0.24 percent within a year after joining the study. Some 215 study participants came from Baltimore.

Experts say this rate of infection, or seroconversion, is five times previous estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention overall for African-American women.

To read the full press release visit: http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/hiv_rates_for_us_urban_black_women_five_times_higher_than_previously_estimated

The survey tested individuals for HIV and asked questions about their risk behaviors and use of HIV prevention services.

It found about one third of intravenous drug users in the survey said they shared syringes, most said they had unprotected sex in the past year and more than half said they had more than one sexual partner.

The study also found that rates of HIV testing in this at-risk population were falling. Only 49 percent reported being tested for HIV in the last 12 months which is a significant drop from a survey done in 2005-2006.

Information from *Reuters* and the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (Vol. 61, #8) from March 2, 2012.

Routine Opt-Out HIV Testing Bill Proceeds in State Senate

The routine opt-out HIV testing bill was introduced by Senator Patty Blevins on January 19, 2012 and has been assigned a number, Senate Bill #162. The initial testimony was heard on March 21 with Consortium and AETC staff testifying in favor of the proposed routine opt-out testing legislation.

If you would like to find out more about the bill, or read the full text, please visit legis.delaware.gov and click on "Bill Tracking" on the menu on the left-hand side of the page. In the "Bill Type" drop-down menu select "Senate Bill" and for the "Bill Number" enter 162 and click on "Search". You will be taken directly to Bill # 162's specific web page where you can also e-mail a copy of the bill to yourself or colleagues.

Additional sponsors included Sen. Henry and Reps. Schwartzkopf and Barbieri. Also signing on as co-sponsors were Sens. Ennis, Hall-Long, Sokola and Sorenson along with Reps. Bolden, Keeley, Mitchell, Osienski, Schooley, B. Short, and M. Smith.

The Delaware HIV Consortium has an online toolkit filled with information for medical providers regarding current laws, proposed changes and links to numerous additional resources available at www.delawarehiv.org/toolkit.cfm.

Iron Hill Wilmington Selects the Consortium as its Local Charity

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant in Wilmington has selected the Delaware HIV Consortium as the recipient of this year's local community charity contributions which come from sales of the amazing **Double Chocolate Hill dessert**. This decadent dessert of chocolate cake with a warm peanut butter center, chocolate ganache and vanilla ice cream is sure to please everyone! Our agency gets 75 cents from each sale so now you can have your cake and feel good about it, too!

New Board Members

The Delaware HIV Consortium is excited to announce five new community members to the Board of Trustees.

Jon Reitz is a Market Pharmacy Director for Walgreens and lives in Middletown with his family. Jon has lived in the area for several years after moving from Phoenix. Jon attended Duquesne University where he attained his BS in Pharmacy.

Emily Passini is the Senior Director of Public Affairs for Howard Consulting Group in Washington, D.C. Emily has over 10 years of experience in campaign management, community organizing and grassroots advocacy. She has worked with non-profits, political campaigns, government and public affairs firms to build effective coalitions and strategic partnerships in challenging political environments.

Ambrose Delpino is the Pharmacy Manager for the Walgreens pharmacy located at 9th & Market Streets in downtown Wilmington. Ambrose is a graduate of Salesianum and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, PA, where he earned a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

Kelly Snavelly is an Executive Administrative Assistant at Mellon Group LLC and has volunteered with the Consortium since the very first WOW Awards Celebration. For the first several years Kelly Snavelly was the event's sole caterer. Kelly is back again helping to plan this year's fabulous menu for the WOW Awards Celebration as a board member.

Matt Meehan works for Pfizer as an Alliance Development Manager / Public Affairs & Policy. Matt lives with his family in the metro-Washington, D.C. area and travels to Delaware regularly working with private businesses, doctors and other non-profits to improve the overall health of the community.

Save These Dates

Delaware HIV Consortium Annual Meeting: The Consortium's Annual Meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 17** at the Dover Sheraton (1570 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE). The meeting will start at 10:30 am. Space is limited to approximately 100 guests so reserve your space today by calling the Consortium at 302-654-5471. The meeting will feature a presentation by the staff, a guest speaker and a lunch will be served.

26th Annual AIDS Walk Delaware: This year, AIDS Walk Delaware will be held on the morning of Saturday, September 29, 2012 in both Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach. The AIDS Walk website should be up and running by May 2012 and walkers are encouraged to start forming teams now and set a fundraising goal.

"Easy As Pie" Thanksgiving Fundraiser: Sales will begin Monday, October 15 and go through Friday, November 16, 2012.

Delaware HIV Consortium to Begin Interim Case Management Program

On April 1, 2012, the case management service program for clients receiving Medicaid AIDS Waiver in Delaware will undergo significant changes. Many of the current Ryan White case management service organizations will enter into a fifteen-month transitional partnership with two Managed Care Organizations. The two Managed Care Organizations entering HIV/AIDS case management service delivery with current providers are United HealthCare and Delaware Physicians Care.

While these case management transitions take effect, the Delaware HIV Consortium has been approved to begin a limited Ryan White case management program. This interim program will provide services to Ryan White clients only, in order to maintain a seamless continuum of care.

To ensure that no clients are lost to care, Charmaine Quarles will become the Manager of Housing and Case Management Services during this transitional period. Charmaine's extensive experience in case management, intake acumen, and education will be exceptionally helpful as the Consortium begins this new interim program of service delivery. We will continue to inform the community of any further developments regarding both Ryan White and Medicaid AIDS Waiver HIV/AIDS case management that occurs in the coming months.

Longtime Board Member, Sister Dolores Macklin, Remembered

Sister Dolores Ann Macklin, OSF (formerly Sister Catherine Agnes), 83, died in Assisi House (Aston, PA) on January 8, 2012. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 61 years. Sister Dolores Ann was born in Wilmington, Delaware, where she was a member of St. Paul Parish. She entered the congregation in 1947 and professed her first vows in 1950.

Sister Dolores earned a B.S. in Education from Mt. St. Mary's College and an M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Neumann University. She ministered primarily in education, AIDS ministry, senior services, and counseling. Sister Dolores Macklin co-founded St. Patrick's Center for senior citizens in 1971 and worked with the Catholic Charities AIDS ministry for almost 20 years.

Sister Dolores was one of the Delaware HIV Consortium's longest serving board members. When she became too ill to attend meetings in 2008 she was later designated as a Board Member Emeritus. Sister Dolores was long dedicated to serving the HIV/AIDS community and in her honor the "Guardian Angel Award" given at the annual WOW Awards Celebration has been renamed to the "Sister Dolores Macklin Guardian Angel Award." She will be greatly missed but her spirit lives on in all of the people she touched over her many years of service.

Story Continued from Page 1

During this special evening, the Consortium presents the prestigious RED RIBBON AWARDS to individuals and corporations for the positive impact they have on direct client services, philanthropy, community leadership and volunteerism in the field of HIV/AIDS:

Red Ribbon Community Award – Sarah Noonan & Westside Family Health

Awarded to an individual and organization that strives to improve the overall health of our neighborhoods and communities through collaboration.

Red Ribbon Ally Award – Senator Chris Coons

Awarded to an individual who, through their longtime support and efforts of HIV/AIDS and the Delaware HIV Consortium, has made a significant contribution to the HIV/AIDS community in Delaware.

Red Ribbon Corporate Award – Walgreens

Awarded to a company and their staff that, through their corporate efforts, have demonstrated a leadership role in innovatively addressing HIV/AIDS issues in our community.

Sister Dolores Macklin Red Ribbon Guardian Angel Award — Arlene Bincsik

This special award commemorates the memory and years of HIV service by long-time board member, Sister Dolores Macklin. This award is presented to an individual whose magnanimous efforts in HIV/AIDS care improves the overall health of individuals and empowers them to lead richer, healthier lives.

Red Ribbon Media Award – Robin Brown, Staff Reporter for The News Journal

Awarded to an individual whose responsive and conscientious coverage of local HIV/AIDS issues throughout the past year has helped to create greater awareness and knowledge through quality journalism.

Red Ribbon Impact Award – Brandywine Counseling & Community Services and Lynn Fahey

Awarded to an organization with a long-standing dedication to HIV/AIDS through a diverse array of programs and efforts that contribute to the overall health and well-being of individuals in Delaware.

Red Ribbon Ryan White Award — Dr. Bill Mazur

This annual award is in honor of the young teenager from Kokomo, Indiana, Ryan White, whose courage and determination helped bring attention to the issue and the consequential creation of federal HIV/AIDS services, the Ryan White CARE Act, named after this young hero. This award is presented to an individual in the medical profession who is dedicated to the health and well being of people living with HIV disease through compassionate and respectful delivery of quality healthcare services.

Red Ribbon Volunteer of the Year Award — Rita Devlin Salvo

Awarded to an individual whose devotion of time, talents and energy has enriched the Delaware HIV Consortium and the HIV/AIDS community we strive to assist and empower.

Red Ribbon Visionary Award — Pfizer

Awarded to a company that has paved the way for new ideas and initiatives that enhance the HIV care delivery system and improve linkage to services, through their funding and efforts in leading the fight against HIV/AIDS in our communities.

Red Ribbon Humanitarian Award — John Kennedy, Division of Public Health

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated a long-standing dedication to improving the health of the community through their efforts on behalf of the HIV/AIDS community.

Story Continues on Page 7



Whether you're a "gleek" or you've never seen the hit series...

We GUARANTEE an unforgettable evening of live performances, an unending array of culinary delights, the finest spirits, desserts, and the infamous slushie. There's also a silent auction with something special for everyone, dancing, karaoke glee style, raffles, the serendipitous surprises that WOW is famous for and of course, the prestigious Red Ribbon Awards - presented by special guest emcee Matt Pellman, Action News Traffic Reporter.



VIP RESERVED TABLES for 8 • \$1,000

Hors d'oeuvres • Dinner Buffet • Dessert • Reserved Seating
Moore Brothers Complimentary Wine Bar • WOW Surprises
American Harvest Organic Spirits Specialty Bar
8 Complimentary Raffle Tickets for "Wheel Barrel of Cheer"

-OR-

INDIVIDUAL WOW TICKETS • \$99 Each

Hors d'oeuvres • Dinner Buffet • Dessert
Complimentary Moore Brothers Wine Bar
American Harvest Organic Spirits Specialty Bar

WOW'S MORE FUN WHEN YOU SLEEP OVER!

Hotel Special for All WOW Guests • \$89

WOW guests may enjoy a delightful room for two at the very special rate of \$89.00 + tax. Complimentary continental breakfast included. Pet friendly.

*Guests must call the Clarion directly at 302-428-1000 to make reservations. Ask for the "WOW \$89 Room Special".

Special Rate "Concierge Package" for Two • \$269

Enjoy TWO DISCOUNTED WOW Tickets and a delightful room reserved for you by the Consortium staff. We'll take care of your reservation for you. Complimentary continental breakfast included. Pet friendly.

Raffle Tickets for an iPad 2 (16GB with Wi-Fi)

Winner need not be present to win - iPad2 can be mailed. Complete raffle stubs and return by mail with payment, or bring to the event. Call the office for extra raffles tickets or more may be purchased at the event.

1 for \$10, 3 for \$25, 15 for \$100

Special Live Performances By:

The Salesianum Gentlemen's Chorus
The Tatnall Singers • Consortium Duet
Padua Cheerleaders • Padua Dance Team



Story Continued from Page 6

"The Delaware HIV Consortium is proud to honor these individuals and corporations for their excellence in community leadership, service, volunteerism and philanthropy in the field of HIV/AIDS," said Delaware HIV Consortium Executive Director Peter Houle. "Without their dedication, compassion and support it would be difficult to achieve our mission. This is a tribute to this year's honorees that make a difference in the lives of thousands of men, women, children and families infected and affected by HIV disease. We salute them."

Additional sponsors include: David Zeidman Entertainment, Rental-World.com and Grotto Pizza.

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