

# AIDS Walk Delaware Reaches Milestone: 25th Anniversary

This October you're invited to help celebrate an important milestone in the largest AIDS fundraiser in the state: the 25th Annual AIDS Walk Delaware. This meaningful fundraising event is presented by the Delaware HIV Consortium and AIDS Delaware, along with partner organizations Ministry of Caring and Faith Community Partnership. All of the funds that are raised are used to help Delawareans who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to support services, such as HIV testing and educational programs, case management, housing assistance and other supportive services that contribute to a healthy community. Whether this is your first AIDS Walk, or your 25th, every walker and every dollar counts in the fight against AIDS. Register today at **www.AIDSWalkDelaware.org** and tell your friends, family and co-workers to do the same.

Many exciting changes will make this silver anniversary AIDS Walk more fun and accessible than ever before. Changes include moving the AIDS Walk to Saturday mornings and changing locations for two of the walks! The New Castle County Walk will now be held on Saturday, October 1, at the Dravo Plaza on the Wilmington Riverfront and will include a competitive 5K timed run/walk, along with the classic (untimed) pledge-based walk. Registration for the timed 5K run/walk begins at 7:30

am, with step-off for the 5K run/walk at 8:30 am. Registration for the traditional pledge-based walk will begin at 9:00 am, with step-off at 10:00 am. The route for both will take supporters along the scenic Wilmington Riverwalk, near the Blue Rocks Stadium and the Russell W. Peterson Wildlife Refuge.

The Sussex County and Kent County Walks will be held on Saturday, October 8th and October 15th, respectively, at Grove Park in Rehoboth Beach and at Legislative Mall in Dover. Registration for both of these untimed walks will begin at 9:00 am, with step-off at 10:00 am. There is no registration fee for walkers who are participating in the classic, untimed Walks. Runners wishing to participate in the new timed run (administered by Races2Run) must pay a \$20 registration fee, which increases to \$25 after September 28.

"In the fall of 1986, about 36 people participated in the inaugural Walk that looped around downtown Wilmington. This landmark year will keep the integ-(Continued on page 5)



Participants at the 2010 AIDS Walk in Wilmington

# Local "Superheroes" Recognized at 2011 WOW Awards

Thanks to a sell-out crowd of supporters the 7th Annual WOW Awards Celebration, held at The Clarion Hotel - The Belle on Friday, May 6, was the most successful WOW event ever. Through the generosity of countless donors who provided inkind contributions and auction items, food, ballroom space and volunteer time, the event raised nearly \$50,000 for the Delaware HIV Consortium's array of housing and supportive services. The Delaware HIV Consortium cannot thank all of the guests, sponsors and supporters enough for contributing to the overall success of the event. A big thank you also goes out to US Senator Chris Coons who addressed the guests and voiced his support for the HIV/AIDS community. We would like to congratulate, once again, all of the caring individuals, businesses and organizations who were honored at the event. Without these dedicated people, the fight against HIV/ AIDS in Delaware would most certainly be a tougher battle. Executive Director Peter Houle announced a special new award, the *Elizabeth Taylor Award*, named after the long-time AIDS activist. It was presented to The Clarion Hotel - The Belle for its continued support of the WOW Awards and the Delaware HIV Consortium. Business partners Alan Spiro, Mark Mattei and Bob Mattei accepted the award on behalf of the Clarion.

Please turn to page 6 to see pictures from the WOW Awards.

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# Letter From the Executive Director

#### Dear Friends,

With the 4th of July holiday in the rear view mirror; it's already the middle of summer! I hope everyone has had a moment or two to enjoy the warm weather and all the activities that come with this wonderful vacation season. Why is it that summer always flies by, while winter seems to linger on forever? The summer heat is not slowing down the Consortium though. The staff is very busy multi-tasking on multiple projects, grants, policy development and strategic planning.

It's a pivotal time for HIV/AIDS organizations with many changes coming down the pike in the near future. I hope you'll read this summer issue of Voices and renew your commitment as we share with you local and national news, some challenges we face and a few of the accomplishments that have directed our efforts over the past few months.

It has been thirty years since HIV/AIDS was first discovered back in the early 1980s. Yes, that's right, 30 years---three decades of a world with the HIV epidemic. With more than 1,150,000 Americans living with HIV/AIDS today and 21% of still not knowing their status, there is still much work to do. Stigma still remains our biggest challenge. The most effective means of curbing the infection rate is ensuring adherence to early antiretroviral therapy, identifying those not in care and linking them to care, and preventing further infection through aggressive prevention strategies among the HIV positive community.

Yet, still today, decreased funding continues to prevent us from doing all that we know we could or should do to end this epidemic. Now is the time to tell Congressional leadership and President Obama that cutting programs vital to people with HIV/AIDS is no way to reduce the deficit. In fact, any funding cuts to HIV/AIDS will end up costing the taxpayer more in the long run.

On a positive note the Delaware HIV Consortium is pleased to announce that the five-year-old Needle Exchange Pilot Program in Wilmington has now become permanent. After nearly 12 years of hard work, the governor signed Senate Bill 13 on July 5, 2011, which allows for the continuation of this successful program with the use of state funds which has proven to reduce HIV infections.

On another positive note, the WOW Awards Celebration was sold out and the most successful event ever. We salute all of our superheroes who were honored at this year's event and wish to thank our many table hosts, sponsors, volunteers and gracious host, the Clarion Hotel - The Belle.

The Consortium's Annual Meeting, held in May, was another well attended event with more than 115 attendees who heard two nationally-recognized keynote speakers from Washington, DC: Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council, and Dr. Rick Elion, director of clinical research at Whitman Walker Clinic. Besides reviewing Consortium activities and accomplishments over the past year, the Annual Meeting is always a terrific forum for insight into the future and it always gets the staff and board thinking and planning for the future.

As the Consortium moves forward with its strategic planning process, we continue to emphasize our dedication to implementing the President's National HIV/AIDS Strategy and to ensuring that the organization is prepared for future changes in funding, staffing and, most of all... ready to meet the challenges and changing needs of the HIV community. As we embrace technology, we are updating our website, databases and procedures to ensure that we remain focused and proactive rather than reactive during uncertain times. Routine Opt-Out Testing is our next Policy challenge.

Please join us as we plan for future challenges by getting involved now. Register today for the 25th Annual AIDS Walk. Volunteer to be a Walk team captain for your workplace or call your congressmen today and tell them to support HIV/AIDS funding. We need your help now more than ever. Actions always speak louder than words... so speak loudly and speak often!

Peter Houle, MBA

#### **Mission Statement:**

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



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### CONSORTIUM STAFF

Peter Houle, MBA Executive Director

**Glen Pruitt** Associate Executive Director

**Robert Raup**, **CPA** Director of Finance and Administration

Dianne Casey Director of Housing

Marla Blunt-Carter Director of Community Planning and Policy Development

Stephanie Arnold Administrative Assistant

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Andrea Killian Financial Assistant

Charmaine Quarles Housing Program Specialist

Joe Scarborough Client Advocate and Community Planning and Policy Assistant



The DHC is an Affiliate Member of the United Way of Delaware. **Our Partner Agency Number is 9467** 

# **HIV Prevention News**

## Needle Exchange Program Becomes Permanent with SB13

On June 7, 2011, the Delaware Legislature passed Senate Bill 13: An Act to Amend Title 29 of the Delaware Code Relating to Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange, making the pilot needle exchange program in Wilmington a permanent program. This Act authorizes the Director of the Division of Public Health to maintain a sterile needle and syringe program to help prevent the spread of HIV and other diseases. Brandywine Counseling and Community Services (BCCS) will continue to operate the program, which offers HIV testing, health counseling, Hepatitis C testing, and referrals to substance abuse treatment. BCCS is uniquely qualified to operate the exchange program because it also provides a variety of behavioral health services.

During the first five pilot years, many successes were achieved, including:

 Over 68,000 potentially infectious syringes were removed them from the streets and incinerated, virtually eliminating needle litter problems.

 On the needle exchange program van, BCCS conducted 2,581 rapid HIV tests and 138 Hepatitis C tests. 18 clients tested positive for HIV and 27 tested positive for Hepatitis C. One hundred percent of those who tested positive were connected to care and case management.

• Nearly 2,000 of the 2,581 HIV tests were provided to community residents who accessed the van and were not enrolled in the program. Thus, BCCS reached more than just injection drug users.

• Of the 261 persons formally referred to drug-related treatment, 163 were successfully admitted, a 62% success rate.

CEO of BCCS, Lynn Fahey, said, "BCCS has used these five years to measure the success of our needle exchange program, making modifications and improvements to our service delivery to ensure that we are meeting the needs of this specialized population. The outcomes clearly indicate the success of this program. The signing of the bill [SB13] sends the message that Delaware gets the point: needle exchange saves lives!"



Governor Jack Markell (seated) signs SB 13 in a ceremony on July 5, 2011. In attendance (from left): Rita Devlin Salvo, Joe Scarborough, Basha Silverman, Rep. Helene Keeley, Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, Lynn Fahey, Amanda Pollock and Sara Grainger.

#### Sara Grainger, New BCCS Program Manager for HIV Prevention & Outreach Services

Sara Grainger recently joined Brandywine Counseling & Community Services as the new Program Manager for HIV Prevention and Outreach Services. She has direct oversight over the Needle Exchange Program, the Sex Worker Outreach Project, and Safety Net. She has taken over the majority of the primary responsibilities of Basha Silverman, who was recently promoted to Director of Prevention and Advocacy. Over the course of the next few months, both Basha and Sara will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition. Sara Grainger can be contacted at sgrainger@bcidel.org

## "Treating HIV-infected People with Antiretrovirals Protects Partners from Infection"

Findings Result from NIH-funded International Study

By The National Institute of Health; May 12, 2011

Men and women infected with HIV reduced the risk of transmitting the virus to their sexual partners by taking oral antiretroviral medicines when their immune systems were relatively healthy, according to findings from a large-scale clinical study sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health.

The clinical trial, known as HPTN 052, was slated to end in 2015 but the findings are being released early as the result of a scheduled interim review of the study data by an independent data and safety monitoring board (DSMB). The DSMB concluded that it was clear that use of antiretrovirals by HIV-

infected individuals with relatively healthier immune systems substantially reduced transmission to their partners. The results are the first from a major randomized clinical trial to indicate that treating an HIV-infected individual can reduce the risk of sexual transmission of HIV to an uninfected partner.

"Previous data about the potential value of antiretrovirals in making HIV-infected individuals less infectious to their sexual partners came largely from observational and epidemiological studies," said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "This new finding convincingly demonstrates that treating the infected individual—and doing so sooner rather than later can have a major impact on reducing HIV transmission."

To read the complete report please visit http://www.niaid.nih. gov/news/newsreleases/2011/pages/hptn052.aspx

# HIV News: Local & National

## "Commemorating 30 Years of AIDS"

By Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.; Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

June 2. 2011 - This week marks 30 years since the first report We must increase our resolve to end this epidemic. of a mysterious and deadly new syndrome that would come to be known as AIDS was published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). At the time, no one could have predicted the enormous toll the disease would take-claiming the lives of more than 500,000 Americans and many millions worldwide. Today we remember those we have lost, and honor them by recommitting ourselves to the fight against this deadly yet preventable disease.

Over the last three decades, prevention efforts have helped reduce new infections and treatment advances have allowed people with HIV to live longer, healthier lives. But as these improvements have taken place, our nation's collective sense of crisis has waned. Far too many Americans underestimate their risk of infection or believe HIV is no longer a serious health threat, but they must understand that HIV remains an incurable infection.

CDC released data today showing that the number of Americans living with HIV continued to increase by more than 71,000 people between 2006 and 2008, mainly due to treatments which allow those infected with HIV to live longer, healthier lives. Currently, more than 1.1 million people in the United States live with HIV, and as this number increases, so does the risk of HIV transmission.

Today, the most infections are among people under 30-a new generation that has never known a time without effective HIV treatments and who may not fully understand the significant health threat HIV poses.

To read the complete statement from Thomas Frieden, M.D. please visit http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/s0602 hivaids30years.html

### Dir. of Community Planning & Policy Attends Community Leaders Briefing at White House

**By Marla Blunt-Carter** 

On June 24, 2011, I attended a White House Briefing sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement in the Executive Office of the President. The White House is scheduled to host briefings for various individuals working at the grassroots level and with community-based organizations to discuss policies impacting our constituents and programs available to address key issues. The Obama Administration identified key leaders and an invitation was extended to me on June 10, 2011.

Approximately 75 community leaders attended the briefing on this particular Friday session, which was held at the White House Conference Center. The individuals selected to attend traveled from across the nation to learn about the work that the Obama Administration has done that directly impacts the work we are performing in our communities. In addition to the briefing at the White House and a private East Wing White House tour, I participated in a more specific issue-based briefing with the Department of Health and Human Services. The HHS briefing provided those in attendance with an overview of the Affordable Care Act and contact information of regional directors within the agency that will be able to assist our organizations as we seek assistance on matters handled by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The afternoon briefing was held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Complex. The afternoon briefing session began with a visit from a special guest. President Obama came to say hello and thank you to the community leaders attending the briefing series. He addressed us for 5-10 minutes and his words were inspiring and encouraging as he offered his staff and the representatives from the agencies as direct contacts for all of us to use in order to fully serve the community.

Since the briefing. I have been in contact with Michael Blake, associate director of the Office of Public Engagement. Additionally I have been contacted by the White House for follow-up feedback. I look forward to learning more about these wide-ranging topics and sharing that information with our partners across the state.

## **Renovated Porter Center Reopens**

The Winder Laird Porter State Service Center, widely known as the Porter Center, was rededicated at a ceremony on May 19, 2011, after it had been closed for renovations for more than a year. The Porter Center, located at 509 W. 8th St. in Wilmington, was established in 1978 and provides numerous essential services to residents through the Division of Public Health (DPH), Division of Social Services and the Division of State Service Centers.

DPH offers the following health services at the Porter Center: a Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic, birth control and pregnancy testing, HIV counseling and testing, and an HIV wellness clinic.

Free HIV testing and counseling is available to individuals age 12 or older. Rapid HIV testing requires either a finger stick or a blood draw and the results are available in 10 minutes. Photo identification is required.

HIV tests are available on a walk-in basis. Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 11 am and from 1 pm to 3 pm. For information or questions, call DPH at (302) 577-3521.

# **Upcoming Events**

## **AIDS Quilt Requests for** World AIDS Day Due Aug. 29

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilts are available to display at events throughout the year. If your school, organization, place of worship, etc., would like a Ouilt (or several) to display for World AIDS Day on December 1, you must submit your request to John Hinkson at the Consortium by Monday, August 29, 2011. Due to the high cost of shipping Quilts, there will not be any additional Quilts ordered beyond what is requested. Special requests for specific Quilts can be made (visit www.aidsquilt.org to search for specific names) but cannot be guaranteed. Each Quilt costs \$30 to borrow.

## Have Your Voice Heard

Please call your Congressional leaders and ask them to prevent harmful cuts and caps to health care and low-income programs, including those that impact persons with HIV/AIDS (such as the Ryan White Program, Medicaid, housing and prevention programs).

 Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid: 202-224-3542 House Speaker John Boehner: 202-225-0600 President Barack Obama: 202-456-1111

Also continue to make your concerns known to your own US Senators and Representatives. A quick phone call or a short note goes a long way in making a big difference.

#### (Continued from page 1, 25th Annual AIDS Walk Delaware)

rity of the founders' commitment to the fight against AIDS, but we wanted to add some exciting elements to make it special for both longtime and new participants," says John Klein, executive director of AIDS Delaware. "We feel that the new Wilmington and Dover locations, the addition of the 5K competitive walk/run to the New Castle County Walk, and the two extended weekends of walks will bring the appropriate extra visibility to the event. Now we need community members to raise money through pledges and to form teams with families, friends, colleagues, and students."

"In addition to raising funds at the Walks, the event provides an opportunity to educate walkers about HIV/AIDS and how to prevent contracting the disease," says Executive Director of the Delaware HIV Consortium Peter Houle. "It's imperative that people know about the impact that this disease continues to have on our country: Currently, more than 1 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and someone [in the US] is infected with HIV every 9.5 minutes."

The Walks also include family-friendly entertainment with live music, face-painting, and a "knowledge neighborhood" where organizations and businesses can share information.

## Thanksgiving "Easy As Pie" Fundraiser Looks to Expand

If you've ever supported the Consortium/Ministry of Caring in the past through the purchase of a delicious Thanksgiving pie, then you already know what a simply sweet fundraiser this is. This fall the Consortium will again offer locally-baked pies by Linvilla Orchards and Just Desserts by Jekeitta.

If your school, faith community, sports team, art or musical group would like to join in this fundraiser to raise "easy" money of your own, please contact John Hinkson at jhinkson@delawarehiv.org. There are no up front costs on your end, aside from printing brochures that we customize for you. It doesn't get much easier than that. We look forward to your sweet support.

# Support the Consortium: Dine on October 24 at **Union City Grille**

Please join us on Monday, October 24 for "Dine In for Charity" at Union City Grille (UCG), 805 N. Union St, Wilmington. On this date UCG will donate

12% of all food and alcohol sales to the Delaware HIV Consortium. Mark your calendar today and invite your family and friends, too



Individuals or groups interested in walking, volunteering, or having a table in the knowledge neighborhood should visit www.AIDSWalkDelaware.org or call 302-652-6776 for more information. Supporters are encouraged to become a fan of AIDS Walk Delaware on Facebook

Runners who wish to register for the timed walk/run can sign up by visiting www.AIDSWalkDelaware.org and selecting the second registration option on the page which will redirect you to the Races2Run website. You can also visit www.Races2Run.com directly and select "October 2011" on the left-hand side of the page under "2011 Events". The AIDS Walk will be listed as the first event on the page, on October 1, 2011.

AIDS Walk Delaware thanks this year's sponsors: Bank of America, Walgreens, Dr. Wesley Emmons and Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware. Thanks also to Club Phred, as the band will be back again to entertain the walkers. Additional sponsors for this year's event are still being sought. If you have any questions, call 302-652-6776. Show the community and the thousands of walkers who attend the Walks across the state that your company cares by becoming a sponsor and/or starting a Walk team today!

# Snapshots from WOW

# Out & About

### Building Bridges By Creating an Engaged Community

The Delaware HIV Consortium is committed to building bridges and strengthening collaborations and community involvement throughout the state by active participation and engagement. A core value of the Consortium and its mission is the belief that we must lead the initiatives that ensure a high-quality seamless continuum of care for all people in Delaware. In order to achieve that goal, not only do we encourage other organizations to participate in Consortium activities but we believe it is just as important for the Consortium staff to be active in other organizations' activities as well. The staff of the Delaware HIV Consortium is proud to have participated in the following local, state and mid-Atlantic activities during the past few months:

#### April 2011

Homeless Planning Council of Delaware Annual Meeting [D. Casey] Delaware HIV Consortium Housing Advisory Review Panel Meetings [D. Casey] Guest speaker at Wellness Day at Dover High School [J. Scarborough] City of Wilmington Public Hearing Proposed FY2012 Housing Budget [D. Casey] Disabilities Housing Needs Study HIV/AIDS Focus Group [D. Casey] Delaware HIV Planning Council April Meeting [D. Casey, G. Pruitt, J. Scarborough, P. Houle, M. Blunt-Carter] CAREWare Tutorial Dover [G. Pruitt] WHYY Interview with reporter Shirley Minn [P. Houle, M. Blunt-Carter]

#### May 2011

Hosted "HPV and HIV" Workshop, Wilmington and Dover [G. Pruitt] "Living With HIV", Panelist, at University of Delaware [J. Scarborough] Testified at General Assembly House Health Committee (Dover) in support of the Needle Exchange Program [M, Blunt-Carter] House Health and Human Development Committee Hearing on Needle Exchange Program [J. Scarborough] AIDS Delaware's Interagency Client Picnic [Delaware HIV Consortium staff] Beautiful Gate Outreach Center 10th Anniversary, Exhibitor [J. Scarborough, M. Blunt-Carter] Philadelphia Ryan White Planning Council Meeting [P. Houle] CAMP Rehoboth Board Meeting, Rehoboth [G. Pruitt] Delaware HIV Consortium Annual Meeting followed by Board Meeting [Delaware HIV Consortium staff] Day for Housing sponsored by the Delaware Housing Coalition [D. Casey, J. Scarborough] YMCA Open House, Wilmington [J. Scarborough]

#### June 2011

House vote for Needle Exchange Program, Dover. [M. Blunt-Carter, J. Scarborough] Trip to DC to meet with staff in the office of Senators Coons & Carper and Rep. Carney with We Work For Health [M. Blunt-Carter] Hosted "Nutrition, Exercise and Healthy Lifestyles" Workshop, Wilmington and Dover [G. Pruitt] Meeting with state office staff of Senator Chris Coons, Follow-up to DC Meeting [M. Blunt-Carter] National Minority AIDS Council "Recruitment and Retention into Care Program (RRIC)", Philadelphia. [J. Scarborough, M. Blunt-Carter] AIDS Walk Delaware's 25th Anniversary Planning Committee Meetings [J. Hinkson, D. Casey, G. Pruitt, P. Houle] Presented at Kent & Sussex Counseling Services' case management staff meeting. Georgetown [G. Pruitt] White House Community Leaders Briefing, Sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement in the Exec. Office of the President [M. Blunt-Carter] Attended DANA / Association of Fundraising Professionals Mixer, Wilmington [G. Pruitt] 8th Annual Health Hookup Community Festival, Exhibitor [J. Scarborough] Op-Ed article published by The News Journal, Follow-up to June 18 article on HIV & the I-95 Corridor [M. Blunt-Carter]

July 2011

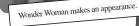
Needle Exchange Bill (SB13) Signing Ceremony with Governor Jack Markell, Wilmington [J. Scarborough]

## Washington, DC Comes to Delaware at Annual Meeting

The Delaware HIV Consortium's Annual Meeting on May 18, of the biggest changes and challenges that will take place between of clinical research at Whitman Walker Clinic.

Dr. Elion gave a presentation entitled "The Faces of AIDS", and Paul Kawata spoke about changes that are coming to the health care system, stating, "If you stay with the status quo, your organization will not be here in 2015." He reviewed a few

sponsored by Gilead Sciences, featured two keynote speakers now and 2014: Implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the from Washington, DC. Paul Kawata, executive director of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy; Ryan White Reauthorization in 2013; National Minority AIDS Council, and Dr. Rick Elion, director federal and state budget cuts; potential cuts to Medicaid; ADAP waiting lists, and more. Kawata reviews these challenges in depth, on NMAC's website, stating, "To survive, organizations must innovate, adapt and change. Are you Ready?" Readers are encouraged to read Mr. Kawata's full article. Are You Ready?, at http://www. nmac.org/index/news-app/story.588/title.are-you-ready-more-musings-by-paul-kawata.



From left: Red Ribbon Awardee Mary Kay Sullivan; Dr. Susan Szabo; Delaware HIV Consortium Board President Arlene Bincsik; Red Ribbon Awardee Mark Manchen. All are employees of the Christiana Care HIV Community Program.



From left: 6abc Action News Traffic Reporter, Matt Pellman; Executive Director of the Delaware HIV Consortium, Peter Houle; Red Ribbon Awardee, Steve Elkins; Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director of the Delaware Division of Public Health: State Senator Margaret Rose Henry





Above: Kathy Hilmer, 2010 Volunteer of the Year, and Associate Executive Director of the Consortium, Glen Pruitt.



From left: Executive Director Peter Houle presents the Elizabeth Taylor Award to Mark Mattei, Bob Mattei and Alan Spiro. This special award was presented to the Clarion Hotel - The Belle and its owners for their generous support of the WOW Awards.

All photos courtesy of Steve Goss

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