



VOICES

The Voice of Delaware's HIV Community

Winter Edition • January 2009 • Volume 15 • Number 1



2009 WOW Gala Awardees Announced

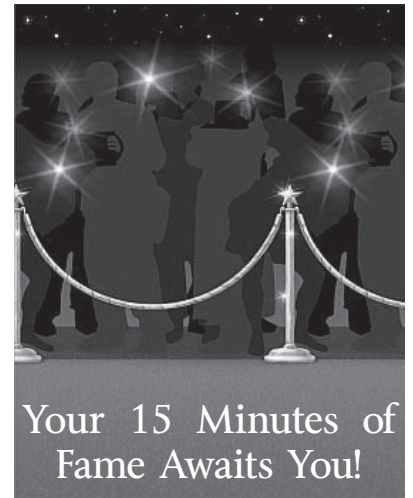
The 2009 WOW Awards Gala is only a few months away but the excitement is already building as we announce the recipients of the prestigious 2009 Red Ribbon Awards! We would like to congratulate all the Red Ribbon Awardees who make a difference every day in the field of HIV/AIDS. It is our wish that you will join us on Saturday, April 18, 2009 when we recognize their achievements at the Annual WOW Gala.

This year's theme and ambiance promises to delight and surprise absolutely everyone! With a gorgeous new venue in the Grand Ballroom of the Clarion Hotel, the Belle, and with the culinary magic of our caterer, Kelly Snavelly, the 2009 WOW Awards Celebration is sure to make everyone say....WOW! Once again, our palates will be treated to the Moore Brothers wines and the specialty cocktails of Tommy Bahama Ultra-Premium Rum, and as always... many more surprises.

Receiving this year's IMPACT AWARD is Barron Marketing Communications and its creative staff. This award is presented to a company with a long-standing dedication to the HIV/AIDS efforts of the Delaware HIV Consortium. Owner of Barron Marketing, Pat Barron, has served on the Consortium's Board of Trustees since 2005 and she and her incredible staff have graciously assisted the Consortium with many marketing projects ever since.

Patricia Lincoln is the recipient of this year's RYAN WHITE AWARD. This honor is bestowed upon an individual in the medical profession who has dedicated herself to the health and well being of people living with HIV/AIDS. Pat had worked as a nurse for years before she came to her current position at the AIDS Education Training Center (AETC).

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Your 15 Minutes of Fame Awaits You!



John Klien, left, presents the award to Glen Pruitt.

Consortium Given AIDS Delaware's Non-Profit Partner of the Year Award

The Delaware HIV Consortium was pleased to accept the "Non-Profit Partner of the Year" award presented by AIDS Delaware on November 5, 2008. The new Executive Director of AIDS Delaware, John Klein, presented the award to Glen Pruitt, Associate Executive Director of the Delaware HIV Consortium, at the ceremony kicking off AIDS Awareness Month.

The Consortium is grateful to AIDS Delaware for this honor and congratulates the other awardees who were recognized at the event. AIDS Delaware and the Consortium were proud partners in the planning of the 2008 AIDS Walk, and preparation for the 2009 AIDS Walk has already begun.

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Letter From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Every year when we turn the calendar from December to January and ring in the New Year, many people make a traditional New Year's resolution. Whether it's about losing weight, not using the charge card, paying off debt, joining a gym, or quitting smoking, we make these promises to ourselves in good faith. Usually they are an attempt to improve some aspect of our life. But quite often, many resolutions are forsaken and forgotten by Valentine's Day with just the few, the brave and the strong still committed to achieving their New Year's resolution. Let us hope that we will all be a part of the success stories.

In general, resolutions are good. They force us to do some soul searching, initiate introspection and often accomplish outcomes that have a positive affect on ourselves as well as others. Resolutions can be especially positive, particularly during the past six months when we have been bombarded with issues and problems of historic proportion. The economy is in shambles, we've learned the HIV infection rate has been grossly underestimated, this disease continues to ravage the African-American community disproportionately and young gay men remain particularly vulnerable to a higher infection rate.

Meanwhile, amidst the financial meltdown, many funding streams are drying up or quickly becoming non-existent and our budget gets leaner while the need for services continues to grow. Consequently, the Consortium is taking inventory of our priorities, our focus and goals for the upcoming New Year as well as the near future. Like families, companies and non-profits all around America, we are tightening our belts and demonstrating fiduciary responsibility.

As the last of the year-end donations have trickled in, I have been filled with hope and promise. I hope that you will continue to support our efforts and believe in us and our promise that we will do all in our power to meet the challenges of the New Year and ensure we meet the needs of all those we assist and empower. With this commitment, I am pleased to report that approximately 88 cents of every dollar that comes into the Delaware HIV Consortium supports programs and direct client services!

As we begin this New Year filled with hope and promise, I think it important to count our blessings of the past year rather than the barriers and challenges that tested us. During the past year we worked more closely with our AIDS Walk partners, AIDS Delaware, the Ministry of Caring and the Faith Community Partnership, resulting in substantial growth of our Sussex and Kent County Walks. We're thankful to all of our Red Ribbon Awardees and their incredible contributions to the HIV/AIDS arena. We're thankful for an incredible volunteer, Joe Scarborough, who has blessed us with his strength and courage and (of course) his hundreds of hours of volunteer service. In addition, we are thankful for the many sponsors of our events, programs and initiatives and the countless others who have positively impacted our efforts throughout the year.

To all of our friends and supporters, a heartfelt thank you, and a hope that 2009 will overflow with blessings and prosperity for all of you. Happy New Year!

Peter Houle

The Delaware HIV Consortium is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS and to creating a seamless continuum of care for all people infected and affected in Delaware.



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Making the Most of 2009

Lending a Helping Hand Can Be Done Many Ways

By Joe Scarborough

As we start the New Year, I can't help but look back at all the amazing opportunities that this last year has given me to be involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In February I was given a chance to have my voice as a client heard in Dover testifying for housing issues, which sparked my involvement in advocacy that eventually lead me to Capitol Hill in Washington. In October I returned to doing HIV prevention education, speaking as a person living with AIDS. Somewhere in between I have been involved with the 2008 AIDS Walk, the Consortium's WOW Awards Gala and the "Easy as Pie" fund raiser. I also participate in the Policy committee, the State Planning Council, and work as a volunteer at the Consortium, and several other organizations throughout the state. Here are a few ways that YOU can get involved...

- Educate yourself and others about HIV/AIDS.
- Advocate to your legislators about HIV and Housing issues.
- Participate in a fund-raising activity like the AIDS Walk or the annual WOW Awards Gala.
- Donate. Decreased funding over the past several years has left many non-profits weakened and they could use your help. Every dollar counts.
- Volunteer. Everyone from clients to congressmen can do their part to fight HIV/AIDS.
- Get Tested. One in four persons that are HIV positive don't know it.
- Knowing is half the battle.



With the new presidential administration coming into office, NOW is the time to get involved so that we can all help be a part of the change. Together we can make great strides in legislation, policy, and funding, as well as care, education and prevention. This year, JOIN the fight against HIV/AIDS!

Important Dates to Keep for 2009

Planning Council Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009
Thursday, May 7, 2009
Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009

Thanks to GlaxoSmithKline and Tibotec Therapeutics for sponsorship of the 2009 Planning Council Meetings. See page 6 of this newsletter for detailed information.

The 2009 Delaware HIV Consortium Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Dover Sheraton. All are welcome and we hope to see you there.

Policy Committee Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, except where noted with a *

Feb. 11, 2009
March 11, 2009
April 8, 2009
May 5, 2009 *
June 10, 2009
July 8, 2009

No Meeting in August
Sept. 9, 2009
Oct. 14, 2009
Nov. 4, 2009 *

Meetings are held in the Community Service Building, Room 6, in Wilmington from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.

2009 WOW Gala Awardees Announced

Continued from page 1

We are pleased to announce Gita Kumar and her company, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), as the awardees of the ALLY AWARD. This honor goes to an individual and their company who, through their collaborative efforts, have made a significant contribution to the HIV/AIDS community. GSK continues to sponsor Planning Council meetings and has sponsored many educational programs with informative updates in the HIV/AIDS arena. GSK also supported the Consortium's Annual Meeting in 2008 and will sponsor the 2009 Annual Meeting, as well. In addition, Gita and GSK have been strong supporters of our women's programs. We thank GSK and look forward to their continued support in 2009.

This year's LEADERSHIP AWARD is being presented to Bank of America for their corporate leadership role in building community and philanthropic initiatives in Delaware. We are grateful for their support at a time when corporate sponsorship has waned. Bank of America was a generous supporter of the 2008 AIDS Walk and many employees displayed their support by attending the walk, and creating a team. Thank you Bank of America for being a corporate leader in Delaware.

The VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD goes to Jack Severyn who dedicated his time and talents to the "Easy As Pie" fundraising campaign for the past two years. This award is given to an individual whose devotion of time and energy has enriched our community and the Delaware HIV Consortium. We thank Jack for his contributions and his initiative in helping with our fundraising efforts. Keep up the good work!

The 2009 HUMANITARIAN AWARD is presented to Sharyn Warwick. The Humanitarian Award is given to an individual dedicated to improving the community by developing volunteer and philanthropic opportunities. Sharyn is being recognized for all of the work she contributed to the AIDS Walk during the past several years. Thanks in part to Sharyn's efforts, the most growth of all three AIDS Walks this year occurred in Sussex County, which would not have been possible without Sharyn's dedication and hard work.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) is the recipient of this year's COMMUNITY AWARD. This award is presented to a group that strives to improve the overall health of our neighborhoods and community including HIV/AIDS. PhRMA helps sponsor the Partnership for Prescription Assistance which helps individuals with low-incomes or who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need for free or nearly free. PhRMA also was a proud sponsor of the 2008 WOW Awards Gala, so we're pleased to honor their contributions and look forward to their continued support.

Sister Dolores Macklin is the recipient of this year's GUARDIAN ANGEL AWARD. This special honor is given to an individual who through their lifelong efforts, improves the daily lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Sister Dolores was hands-on from the very beginning of the AIDS epidemic providing care, support and love to anyone who needed it. Babies, addicts, the homeless, the youth- Sister Dolores treated them all with respect, and we can't think of anyone more deserving of this year's Guardian Angel Award.

This year's CORPORATE AWARD goes to Tibotec Therapeutics and their dedicated Delaware representatives Terry Davis, Drew McCarthy and Lisa Smallwood-Belk. This award is presented to a company and staff whose efforts have demonstrated a leadership role in addressing HIV/AIDS issues in our communities. Whenever the Consortium needs a hand, the staff of Tibotec has been there to help out. Whether they were handing out water during the AIDS Walk, sponsoring the Planning Council, or attending a Policy Committee Tibotec's active involvement has been exemplary.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Annual Appeal! Please help us reach our goal by returning the enclosed envelope today and share, perhaps, the most influential \$5 or \$10 you have ever donated. All donors for the Annual Appeal will be listed in the next issue of Voices. Teams deliver outcomes and we hope you will respond to the Annual Appeal and become part of our team.

The AETC - Helps Us All

Keeping Local Health Care Providers Informed & Educated

The AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) is a network of eleven national resource centers that “train clinical healthcare providers, provide clinical guidance and technical assistance, and disseminate rapidly changing information for the effective management of HIV infection,” (AETC Prospectus). The Pennsylvania /MidAtlantic AETC is the performance Local Performance Site (LPS) is located at Christiana Care site that serves Delaware, D.C. and five other states. Delaware’s Health Services in Wilmington. Patricia Lincoln, BSN, RN, ACRN, Local Performance Site director, has worked at Christiana Care’s HIV Clinic since it opened in 1986.

Headquarters for the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AETC is located at the Univ. of Pittsburgh under the direction of Principal Investigator Linda Frank, Ph.D, MS, RN, ACRN. Funding for the AETC program comes from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act.

Pat Lincoln and Nina Bennett, Clinical Receptor, educate health care providers locally, providing training to nurses, physicians, pharmacists, dentists, social workers and anyone else that might need specific training pertaining to patients with HIV/AIDS. If necessary the AETC will bring in specialists to talk to groups about detailed areas of expertise. The topics covered in the trainings are wide-ranging and depend on the latest medical findings, as well as broad clinical topics that come from HRSA and local need. Because Pat Lincoln and Nina Bennett need to keep up to date on all of the latest medical information they attend regional and national meetings where they are educated about the newest treatment practices, research and medical trends.



Pictured from left to right is Terri Piazza, Nina Bennett, and LPS Director Pat Lincoln

Bennett says there is a lot of work done with OB/GYNs in training them about reducing HIV transmission rates from mothers to their babies. The AETC also seeks to make the whole continuum of health care accessible to the at-risk and hard-to-reach populations that need medical care the most. Minorities, substance abusers, and women are all targeted populations that the AETC tries to make sure are not slipping through the cracks.

In terms of where the state has made the most progress and where it needs the most work, Bennett says that in her personal opinion the most progress has been made in reducing the rate of mother to baby transmission of HIV. She says that the state should work to make HIV testing more routine and less complicated for the patient.

Working with other states in the region, Bennett says it’s fascinating to hear about the different issues each state faces in terms of different modes of HIV transmission, the populations affected most by HIV/AIDS, and so on. “In Delaware we have a wide variety of issues we face. There are both rural and urban areas, with varying diversity as well as migrant workers in the southern part of the state. We have a little bit of everything.”

Bennett says there is a lot of stigma and discrimination in dealing with HIV/AIDS issues. “It affects my job when a provider tells me, ‘We don’t need those services, our patients don’t have HIV’.” Bennett adds, “Changing beliefs is hard, especially when people believe things that are simply not true.”

In dealing with prevention efforts Bennett says that the youth population, in general, can be very difficult to reach. “A lot of young people think it’s [HIV] not a big deal, that it can be easily managed by taking some pills, but there’s a big disconnect between reality and perceptions.”

Congratulations to Pat Lincoln, Recipient of the 2009 Ryan White Award!

Why I Care...

A Message from the President of the Board of Trustees, Arlene Bincsik

As the president of the Board of Trustees for the Delaware HIV Consortium, I have had the pleasure of working with many talented and dedicated people who are involved in fighting the HIV epidemic. I am constantly amazed at the dedicated and talented Consortium staff. I am also equally amazed and in awe of the Delaware HIV Consortium Board of Trustees who donate their time, experience, and valuable guidance.

As many of you know, I have worked in the area of HIV/AIDS as a health care provider since 1986. As a nurse, I was taught to provide high quality medical care. I was also taught to treat patients with respect and dignity, regardless of their circumstance. A very dear friend and mentor, Ruth Brady, taught me to treat each and every patient as if they were a member of my family. Unfortunately, back then and sometimes now, people with HIV/AIDS are not always treated in this manner. This violates my values, both as a nurse and as a human being.



But why am I involved in the Consortium? I participate because I value all of the community agencies and individuals who are actively involved in treatment and prevention, and I want to support them. I have seen first hand the positive impact that these agencies have both for individuals and for our community. As someone who interacts at a federal level, I know that we have one of the finest HIV service delivery systems in the county, and I want to protect it. I know that we are very effective in working together, and that our private/public partnerships have served us well, especially in times when funding is scarce. And, like many of you, I see the needs continue to grow. And so, I want to continue to help find ways to meet the needs of our patients, and I want to help find the path out of this epidemic. For me, these goals are met by my support of and participation in the Delaware HIV Consortium.

Join the Planning Council and Have Your Voice Heard

If you would like your voice to be heard about how HIV/AIDS is being addressed in Delaware, consider joining the Delaware HIV Consortium's Planning Council. The Planning Council is a community-planning group that includes community and faith-based organizations, public health officials, service providers, community members, and people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Planning Council Meetings are held at the Dover Sheraton, from 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m., with new member Orientation Meetings conducted at 11:00 a.m. A pre-Meeting lunch is served from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. The Consortium can arrange transportation, if needed.

Members participate by attending Planning Council Meetings or joining the Planning Council's Data Work Group or Membership Work Group. During 2008, the Membership Work Group recruited new members, conducted Orientations, and held voting member elections. The Data Work Group assisted with the development and implementation of the 2008 Provider Perspective Survey and the 2008 Prevention-At Risk Survey and is currently updating the Resource Guide.

Contact Rita Devlin Salvo, Manager of Community Planning, for more information. Call (302) 654-5471 or e-mail, rdsalvo@delawarehiv.org.

World AIDS Day Commemorated

The sound of the piano filled the church as guests entered First and Central Presbyterian Church on December 1, where they had come to commemorate the 20th Annual World AIDS Day, in Wilmington. Two AIDS memorial quilts hung at either side of the front of the church, the bright colored fabrics in contrast to the clean, white interior of the church. The mood was calm and quiet, as if many people were reflecting on their own memories, be they sad or joyful.

The Rainbow Chorale treated the audience to a mix of holiday and traditional songs, including "Light One Candle". The chorus of that song goes, "Don't let the light go out," which couldn't be more fitting. The audience of roughly 100 people thoroughly enjoyed the spirited singing.

Yvonne Gonzalez gave her personal testimony of her own struggle with AIDS, which began back in 1983 when she was first diagnosed. When she was diagnosed Yvonne was told she had six months to live. Yvonne is one of a very small number of people who does not take any medicines for her HIV, yet somehow over all these years she has stayed healthy. "I'm not dying of AIDS, I'm living with HIV," said Yvonne.

As the names of those who have died of AIDS were read, the participants lit candles of remembrance. The flickering candles were placed on the altar, which was eventually covered, as even more names were read. The moment was somber though the evening was certainly filled with hope for the future. The evening's prayers were full of wishes for healing, guidance for our leaders and courage for the living. The evening ended with a joyful repertoire by the Rainbow Chorale, sending off the people with an uplifting tune to brighten their spirits.



Participants carry candles of remembrance to the altar at the Candlelight Vigil in Wilmington.

In Rehoboth Beach, World AIDS Day was commemorated with a Candlelight Walk of Hope, as part of the Rehoboth Beach Christmas Parade. Community members as well as the Sussex County AIDS Committee, CAMP Rehoboth and members of Epworth United Methodist Church held a Service of Remembrance and Hope at All Saints' Episcopal church, which included the reading of the names of people connected to the community who have died of AIDS. Earlier in the day CAMP Rehoboth hosted a reception for the World AIDS Day Art Exhibit and the CAMP Rehoboth Student Art Contest Exhibit. The art show featured work by artists Niccolo Cataldi and Greg Mitchell, who are both HIV positive artists.

Girls' Night Out Program Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline

Thanks to support from GlaxoSmithKline, the Delaware HIV Consortium partnered with Each One Teach One and the YWCA Home Life Center to commemorate World AIDS Day by sponsoring a Girls' Night Out program on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008.

Over 50 women and teen girls gathered at the YWCA Home Life Center, at 709 N. Madison Street, to watch the movie "Cover" which depicts women at risk of acquiring HIV because the man in their life could be on the "down low." In addition to enjoying a hot, healthy meal, the participants stayed an extra hour to discuss key points and to learn more about HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention, testing and treatment services. As a result two women decided to get tested the very next day. Girls Night Out is a Delaware HIV Consortium program which focuses on women of color and the disproportionate rate of HIV infection that occurs in that population.

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