



AIDS WALK DELAWARE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



Register Today for AIDS WALK DELAWARE – the State's Largest HIV/AIDS Fundraiser!

AIDS Delaware and the Delaware HIV Consortium are also pleased to announce that the 29th anniversary of AIDS Walk Delaware will be held on Saturday, September 26 at Dravo Plaza, Wilmington Riverfront, and at Grove Park, Rehoboth Beach. Everyone is invited to be a part of this annual event which raises funds

for local AIDS service organizations while increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS. Proceeds of the Walk help support services to more than 3,500 Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS, plus prevention and educational programs to stop the spread of the virus that causes HIV/AIDS. Whether this is your first AIDS Walk, or your twenty-ninth, every walker and every dollar counts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Register to walk today at www.aidswalkdelaware.org and ask your friends and family to join you.

Since the Wilmington Riverfront is going to be used as a major transportation hub during the Papal visit, there are some transportation issues that may affect the AIDS Walk. At this time, we ask that you do two things: 1) please go to www.aidswalkdelaware.org and register for the Walk or make a donation, and 2) once you register, the Walk committee will be able to email you about any road closures or transportation issues that arise. We need your support!

“The 30-year battle of eradicating HIV disease is at a pivotal crossroads right now,” says Peter Houle, executive director of the Delaware HIV Consortium. “We are making enormous scientific progress, so the need to be more vigilant and pro-active is as important as it was 30 years ago. Our organizations depend on the community to help us raise much needed funds in order to continue our programs and our mission to stop HIV infection and to find and keep more individuals in medical care. We are gaining momentum in new prevention strategies and we need the community now more than ever.”

Both Walks will be held on Saturday, September 26 with registrations starting at 9 am and kick-off at 10 am. The AIDS Walk in Wilmington will be held at Dravo Plaza on the Riverfront where there's plenty of free parking. The route will take walkers along the scenic Wilmington Riverwalk, near the Blue Rocks Stadium and the Russell W. Peterson Wildlife Refuge. The AIDS Walk in Rehoboth Beach will be held at Grove Park, and walkers will enjoy strolling along the boardwalk for a portion of their 3.5K route. While there is no registration fee, all walkers are encouraged to register early, recruit friends and family to join the Walk and raise donations, all of which will be used on programs and services throughout the state of Delaware.



Our friends from Walgreens - our presenting sponsor - will be on hand again this year to present the proceeds from Red Ribbon sales!



www.aidswalkdelaware.org

Dear Friends of the Consortium,

2015 is proving to be quite an extraordinary year for the Delaware HIV Consortium. The Consortium is thriving, growing and providing increased services to more clients than ever before, including case management in all three counties.

In April, the Delaware HIV Consortium was awarded the competitive DPH grant for HIV Community Planning. Now that Community Planning has a full-time manager, we are fully-engaged in recruiting a broad spectrum of stakeholders, health providers, consumers, and the community at large to participate.

The Delaware HIV Consortium's case management department continues to grow and serve the needs of many clients throughout Delaware, with our case management staff now located at sites in all counties. With very large caseloads and the demonstrated need to expand services statewide, the Consortium received additional funding to expand services, bringing the DHC Case Management department to six people, including a bilingual case manager.

In July, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy was updated to reflect changes in the epidemic, the areas that need more focus, and to integrate new weapons in the battle. Importantly, education and access to PrEP was specifically mentioned as a strategy for reducing new infections in the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). It is significant that – while several HIV/AIDS organizations are publicly battling about PrEP, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the White House have seemingly ended the discussion – PrEP is now part of NHAS.

In August, the Delaware HIV Consortium was awarded a nationally competitive grant from Gilead Sciences for an innovative Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) education initiative, which we will launch in September.

The Delaware HIV Consortium has also been working for the past six months on implementing its 340B Pharmacy program. We are excited by the prospect that this program will allow us to provide more services and access to services to underserved populations while helping to eliminate health disparities.

On Saturday, September 26th, the Delaware HIV Consortium and AIDS Delaware will host the 29th Annual AIDS Walk Delaware in Rehoboth and Wilmington. The Walk -- presented by Walgreens -- is the state's largest HIV/AIDS fundraiser and awareness campaign. Please join us by registering to walk at www.aidswalkdelaware.org and by raising donations. We ask you to join us through our fundraising efforts this Fall, which help us ensure that we continue to grow to meet the changing needs of both our clients and the epidemic. Your participation is needed.

The growth and overall well-being of the Delaware HIV Consortium is dependent on the support of the community, our funders, the business community, stakeholders, consumers and the Board of Directors. I personally want to thank you all for helping to make this year so extraordinary because we are now serving more clients than ever before!

Until There's a Cure,



Peter Houle

CONSORTIUM AWARDED PREP EDUCATION GRANT

The Delaware HIV Consortium is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from Gilead Sciences for a new Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) education program. Called "Delaware PrEP Community Education Initiative," the program will pull together key stakeholders, State officials, and the medical community to develop a plan to increase education of PrEP through targeted outreach to individuals at high risk and to identify healthcare providers who are willing to learn more about PrEP as a tool for HIV prevention and awareness. The PrEP initiative will culminate in a statewide summit to be held in Summer 2016.



Recently, PrEP was added to the revised National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2015) as a tool in preventing HIV infection. PrEP is a way for people who don't have HIV to prevent HIV infection by taking one pill every day. The pill contains two medicines that are also used to treat HIV. If you take PrEP and are exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use, these medicines can work to keep the virus from taking hold in your body. Along with other prevention methods like condoms, PrEP can offer good protection against HIV if taken every day.

CONSORTIUM APPROVED AS 340B

The Consortium was recently approved as a 340B entity by the Office of Pharmacy Affairs, and has started a 340B Pharmacy program in conjunction with four Walgreens pharmacies in the Wilmington area. The 340B program allows the Consortium to participate in a program that further assists patients access to a broader pharmaceutical formulary and to have their co-pays covered by the Consortium. This program provides the Consortium with increased access dollars, which in turn allow the Consortium to provide more services to more people in need. Participation is only available to clients who receive case management services from the Consortium.

In the coming year, the Consortium's 340B program will be expanding its network to all of Walgreens HIV Centers of Excellence (COEs) throughout the state, allowing our clients to receive the benefit of the additional training provided by COE pharmacists.

HOUSING UPDATE

Thanks to additional funding from the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) grants from the City of Wilmington and DE State Housing Authority, along with State of Delaware Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds, the Consortium's Rental Voucher Program has been able to provide housing assistance for 25 new clients and their family members since January, bringing the total number of households served to 125 this year. In addition, the waiting list for housing assistance has gone from 198 to 97 since January. This is an all-time low. The waiting time for housing assistance is estimated to have dropped from a five-year wait to three years. At this time, there are 24 clients being screened who have the potential of entering the program in the coming months. Good news!

FREE HIV COUNSELING & TESTING EXPANDED

Thanks to grants from the Laffey-McHugh Foundation, the Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation, and New Castle County, the Consortium's Counseling & Testing Program is expanding from three to four locations. The Counseling & Testing program, which began in 2013, is a collaborative effort of the Consortium, OraSure Technologies (makers of OraQuick HIV Test Kits, Christiana Care Health Services (who provide confirmatory testing for positives), and Walgreens (who provide the testing site and advertising).

In 2014, the Consortium tested 67 people, with one positive result; this individual was immediately linked to care. So far in 2015, we have provided testing to 126 individuals, 35 of them during National HIV Testing Days.

DELAWEAR ONE GROWING

DelaWEAR ONE, the mail order condom distribution program from the Delaware Division of Public Health and the Consortium, continues to grow, with more than 475 active members. Of the 475 active members, 17% have been confirmed as HIV positive individuals.



In early summer, an email survey was conducted of the existing members to measure customer satisfaction and behavior change. According to the responses, 89% responded that they were "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the speed of delivery, and 94% answered "somewhat satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the program overall. When asked about condom usage, 72% of DelaWEAR ONE members said that they used condoms "more often" now that they are in the program and 12% said "about the same."

"We have very aggressive goals to increase the number of positive participants by 75 people – a 100% increase," says program coordinator **Scott MacKenzie**. "We are going to need the help of the state's case managers in enrolling their clients, who could truly benefit from this program."

DHC TRUSTEE HONORED



Eric Klinger-Wilensky, a member of the Consortium's Board of Trustees, and partner at the Wilmington law firm of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, recently was selected as a member of the

American Bar Association business law section's Envoy Program. Each year, the ABA business law section appoints five outstanding young lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender attorneys to participate as envoys, advancing participants into leadership roles in the section by providing mentors, travel subsidies and involvement opportunities. Congratulations, Eric!

DHC CASE MANAGEMENT EXPANDED

As of August 2015, the Delaware HIV Consortium's Case Management Department served 201 clients. As of the end of August, we were able to increase the case management caseloads by enrolling 6 new clients into the Ryan White Program. We continue to have successes in reaching out to clients lost to care through our Case Managers being present at medical visits, home visits, and making monthly contacts. At the end of August, we also welcomed three new case managers: **Kim Abrams**, **Mayra Borges**, and **Joshua Sheets**. Kim, Mayra and Josh will be working to serve clients in New Castle County, Sussex County, and Kent County (respectively) as soon as they complete orientation. They all bring a host of experience to their jobs at the Delaware HIV Consortium. Mayra is bilingual and will be a true asset to our Spanish-speaking clients. Welcome!

Michelle Brown, 2015 WOW Award winner, of Giving Back with Coupons, continues to step up to donate hygiene products for our clients in need. We were able to help fund the Personal Care closet through foundation grants early in the year and continue to fund it with public donations. Thanks to Michelle's skills, she has been able to turn \$100 per month into more than \$500 work of personal care and household cleaning supplies every month! She is amazing! Our clients constantly tell us how much they appreciate the assistance this program provides!

HIV COMMUNITY PLANNING

Since April, the Consortium has worked to re-launch the Delaware HIV Planning Council, a federally-funded community advisory body formed to provide recommendations to the state on its use of HIV prevention, care, and treatment funds. The Council's mission is to create a seamless continuum of HIV care, from diagnosis to viral suppression, which serves all persons living with HIV/AIDS equally regardless of demographic characteristics or ability to pay.

The Consortium has been encouraged by the community support for the Council's work since its re-launching, with an average of 45 stakeholders at each of its first two meetings; a diverse group including people living with HIV/AIDS, AIDS Service Organizations, community- and faith-based organizations, clinicians, local pharmaceutical companies and state agencies. Since April, the HPC has been under the direction of **Tyler Berl, MA**, who is leading the group forward as it begins its work with the Delaware Division of Public Health to develop an Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, a blueprint for improving Delaware's continuum of care for the next four years.

The next meeting of the Delaware HIV Planning Council will be September 22, 2015 from 12 noon until 3:00 pm at the Eden Hill Medical Center, in Dover. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, please visit www.delawarehiv.org.

EASY AS PIE, OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 20

Once again this year we will be selling delicious pies and cakes through our "Easy as Pie" campaign. Beginning on October 19, you can go to www.delawarehiv.org and place your order for Thanksgiving pies and cakes from Linvilla Orchards, Achenbach Bakery and Pellman Bakery, then pick them up at your choice of 10 convenient locations statewide. Now in its eleventh year, "Easy as Pie" is a collaborative fundraiser with the Consortium sharing the proceeds with the Ministry of Caring's House of Joseph II, a long-term residence for people with HIV/AIDS. It's as "Easy as Pie" to support us – go to www.delawarehiv.org.



2015 HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ON SALE

The 2015 Collectible Holiday Ornament from the Consortium is now available! This year's ornament, made of fine porcelain with 24-karat gold accents, is called "Hope's Little Helpers" and depicts delightful, stylized elves in a graffiti art style inspired the artwork of Keith Haring - an early pioneer in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The ornament is being sold for \$20 (+\$3 shipping and handling for online orders) as a fundraiser in support of the Consortium's services to people with HIV/AIDS.

The 2015 ornament and a limited supply of last year's ornament are available at www.delawarehiv.org. The 2015 ornament is also available at the beach thanks to our friend, Jacques LeClair at Proud Bookstore, 146 Rehoboth Avenue (Village By The Sea), and also at CAMP Rehoboth, 37 Baltimore Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE.



**DELAWARE
HIV
CONSORTIUM**

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