



# Voices

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**DELAWARE  
HIV  
CONSORTIUM**

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*The Voice of Delaware's HIV Community*

## Consortium's focus on collaboration in 2006 provides positive results

Teamwork makes it happen!

One of the goals that members of the Consortium staff made a year ago was to expand collaborative efforts in order to provide more comprehensive services to Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS.

2006 was a year of collaboration that allowed so many important individuals and organizations to reach out to the community and help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Last year, the Consortium awarded \$6,000 in grants to four organizations in Delaware that provided funds for an emergency food closet, HIV/AIDS education, prevention workshops and conferences.

The Consortium also worked closely with AIDS Delaware and the Faith Community Partnership to host the 20th Annual Delaware AIDS Walk, which brought in more walkers, supporters and money than any other Walk. In October and November, the Ministry of Caring came aboard for the second year to sell more pies during our 'Easy As Pie' fund raiser.

"2006 was a perfect example of how much we can accomplish in Delaware to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic if we work together," Executive Director Peter Houle said.

This year will be another year of collaboration. The Consortium is already working with a handful of organizations and companies and will be working hard to raise more money to help even more Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS in the new year.

## Save the Date for the third annual WOW Awards Gala

Please make sure to mark your calendars for FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007 and plan to attend this year's third annual WOW Awards Gala!

This year's gala will be held at the Raskob Mansion at the Archmere Academy, 3600 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont (pictured below). The evening will be a spectacular fund raiser with proceeds benefiting individuals and families in Delaware who are living with HIV/AIDS.

More information about the third annual WOW Awards Gala will be available in the next issue of Voices. To request information about volunteering or how you can help, contact Tammy Jones at [tjones@delawarehiv.org](mailto:tjones@delawarehiv.org).



## Planning Council acknowledges members at annual retreat



At the end of every year, the Executive Committee of the Planning Council hosts a retreat for all active members of the Council. This year's retreat was held on December 5 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover.



Throughout the day, members were acknowledged with a certificate of appreciation from the Consortium. Each work group had the opportunity to evaluate their activities over the past year as well as plan their activities for the coming year. There is a lot of work to be completed in 2007, but the groups are excited and committed to their tasks.



Are you one of the many people who received a gift this past holiday season that isn't quite... you? Instead of 're-gifting' or throwing it away, why not donate it to the Delaware HIV Consortium? We are currently in the process of accepting auction items for the third annual WOW Awards Gala.

Your contribution, no matter how big or small, can raise money for Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS. It is an easy way to be a part of this year's Gala!

Even if you don't have a gift to donate, ask friends, family members or even local businesses if they do. It is a great way to give back to the community, and receive some free advertising!

If you or someone you know would like to donate an auction item, contact Tammy Jones at [tjones@delawarehiv.org](mailto:tjones@delawarehiv.org).



*The Delaware HIV Consortium is a state-wide, 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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## Spotlight on AIDS Delaware, Christiana Care HIV Program

This edition of Voices focuses on two of the oldest HIV/AIDS care providers in Delaware. Both Christiana Care and AIDS Delaware were established in the 1980's and continue to serve a large portion of men, women and children who are living with HIV/AIDS in the state. Both organizations have a state-wide presence, offering services in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties for easy accessibility.

Although AIDS Delaware and Christiana Care differ in the type of HIV/AIDS services they offer, each continues to be a major provider of services for Delaware residents and work hard in the communities they serve to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS.

### AIDS Delaware



AIDS Delaware has long been recognized as a leader in HIV/AIDS case management, information, counseling, rapid testing and support throughout the state. With offices currently

located in Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach, AIDS Delaware has plans to expand into Georgetown and Kent County.

"Our goal is to offer services that are easily accessible to all Delawareans," Associate Director John Klein said.

Along with the services listed above, AIDS Delaware also offers weekly support groups, community education, statewide hot lines and fund raising events. They are the lead agency of the Delaware AIDS Walk (pictured above) and work with other organizations to organize the event.

Their next event will be held on February 10 and will recognize individuals involved in 'Do the Right Thing 4 Life,' a community effort to get HIV/AIDS information and protection to beauty shops and salons in New Castle County.

For more information about AIDS Delaware and their special events, call the Wilmington office at 302-652-6776 or toll free at 800-422-0429.

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### Christiana Care HIV Program

Established in October 1989, the HIV Program at Christiana Care remains the major care provider for clients living with HIV/AIDS throughout the state of Delaware. With six sites statewide, the program provides care to more than 1,400 individuals, which is about 65 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Delaware who access medical care.

"Our goal is to treat individuals living with HIV and AIDS, keep them out of the hospital and as healthy as possible," said Program Director Arlene Bincsik, adding that the annex also offers mental health counseling, case management, pregnancy management and care for Hepatitis C.

The staff of 50 includes board certified infectious disease physicians, pharmacists, social workers, secretaries and peer educators.

The Wilmington Annex is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 1400 Washington St.

For more information about the HIV Program at Christiana Care, log onto [www.christianacare.org](http://www.christianacare.org) or call 255-1300.



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## Future of Christiana Care HIV Program's location unclear



Five years ago, Christiana Care bought the building at 1400 Washington St. to use as an annex to the hospital — a perfect location for their HIV program. Easy accessibility to the hospital (it's right across the street) and being located along a route for public transportation all helped the success of the HIV program and its patients.

There was a clause in the contract, however, that stated the city may buy back the building and the property within five years at fair market value if they decided to do so.

Fast forward five years, and the annex recently received notification that the city of Wilmington may exercise the right to buy back the building, meaning they may no longer have a place to house their HIV program.

"Moving the HIV program to anywhere else in Wilmington would be detrimental to the program's success," said Program Director Arlene Bincsik.

The City of Wilmington cites the location of the property, as well as the view of the Brandywine River, as reasons to develop a condominium complex or town houses on the property.

"It's a beautiful piece of property," said William Montgomery, Mayor James M. Baker's chief of staff in the Jan. 10 issue of *The News Journal*. "It's got a \$1 million-plus view."

In the same article, Mr. Montgomery said that if the city were to purchase the property, they would ensure a smooth relocation for the clinic and make sure adequate plans would be made before the move.

That's not enough for the staff at the annex.

"There comes a point where people's needs must come before profit," Ms. Bincsik said. Christiana Care is committed to ensuring that the patients have easy access to the medical care they need.

According to the contract, the city has until the end of April to make a decision about developing the property.

Look for updates in *The News Journal* ([www.delawareonline.com](http://www.delawareonline.com)) and a follow-up story in the Spring edition of 'Voices.'

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Delaware HIV Consortium will hold its **Annual Meeting** on Thursday, April 19, 2007 at the Duncan Center, 500 W. Loockerman St., Dover at 11 a.m.

Join the staff of the Consortium in looking back at the activities and accomplishments of 2006 and looking ahead to 2007.

You must RSVP to 302-654-5471 by April 13, 2007 to attend this event.

### Are you looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?

The Consortium is looking for a couple of volunteers to help us on a daily basis with basic office chores — answering phones, preparing mailings, working the front desk, etc. If you have a flexible daytime schedule, please let us know!

Any time you can volunteer would be greatly appreciated. Contact Carissa Pleiss at the Consortium office at 302-654-5471 if you are interested in becoming a member of the Consortium's team.



## For Your Information

A new Hepatitis C support group has been formed in Kent County, and is open to residents seeking information about Hepatitis C. The group, which is organized by Bayhealth Medical Center, will meet monthly in the Education Conference Room at 208 W. Water St., Dover. For more information about the meetings, contact Terry Towne at 302-744-6724.

The following are the meeting dates for 2007:

January 25- Kickoff meeting with guest speaker Dr. Bhavin Dave

February 20  
March 22  
April 25  
May 17  
June 21  
July 25  
August 23  
September 26  
October 24  
November 15  
December 20

The federal government has launched a new Web site — [AIDS.gov](http://www.aids.gov). This site is designed to link users to federal domestic HIV/AIDS information and resources. The goal is to ease access to information on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, treatment, research programs, policies and resources. It provides comprehensive government-wide information on HIV/AIDS for the general public and state and federal agencies. To access the new Web site, log onto [http:// www.aids.gov](http://www.aids.gov).

February 7, 2006 will mark the seventh annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The goal of this day of awareness is to encourage and motivate African Americans to become educated about HIV and get involved in community effort to stop the spread of the disease, as well as get tested and get treated if they are living with HIV.

The Faith Community Partnership will host a free dinner conference on February 7 at the Sheraton Suites in Wilmington that begins at 6 p.m. The event will focus on the impact of the HIV/AIDS on the African American Community in Wilmington and around the country.

Space is limited and preregistration is required. Call 302-472-3002 for more information or to register for the event.

In conjunction with the second annual National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Beautiful Gate Outreach Center will host their second conference for women and girls on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel in Wilmington.

The half-day conference will be open to women and girls (ages 13 and older) and will offer on-site HIV, Hepatitis C and hypertension screenings. Panelists and conference speakers will include women and girls living with HIV, women in the media and women physicians.

The event will be free and open to the public. For more information, contact Beautiful Gate Outreach Center at (302) 472-3002.

The Delaware HIV Consortium is still collecting donations for the I CARE Campaign. This campaign helps to fund emergency client assistance and provides monies for things like utility assistance, food and medication co-pays.

Your donation, no matter what the amount, will help individuals and families in need. Your donation in any amount is needed and appreciated.

Checks can be made payable to the Delaware HIV Consortium and can be sent to our office at 100 W. 10th St., Suite 415, Wilmington, DE 19801. To make a donation by Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please call the office at 302-654-5471.

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