



# Voices

Published by

**DELAWARE  
HIV  
CONSORTIUM**

Winter Edition

February 2008

Volume 14

Number 1

*The Voice of Delaware's HIV Community*

## Save the Date for the Fourth Annual WOW Awards Gala



**IRON HILL**  
BREWERY & RESTAURANT

Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, June 21, 2008 and get ready for an evening of phenomenal food, spirits and entertainment at the Fourth Annual WOW Awards Gala!

This year's event will be held at the Wilmington

Riverfront location of Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant from 6 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

This year's WOW will be held in the upstairs portion of the restaurant, including the bar and lounge, banquet room and outdoor patio. With a wonderful view of the Riverfront and boardwalk, the evening will return to a more casual event in 2008, like the second annual WOW Gala in 2006 that was held at the Haskell Farm in Chadds Ford, PA. No little black cocktail dress or tux required!

"We could not be more thrilled to have such a wonderful venue that overlooks the water on the first day of summer!" Executive Director Peter Houle said. "Iron Hill has really stepped up and is helping us in putting this event together."

Although Iron Hill will create a special menu for the evening, many of our past WOW sponsors who have been on board since the beginning have already signed on for 2008 to make the menu even more splendid.

If you have items to donate to the silent auction or want to join the WOW Committee, contact Tammy Jones at [tjones@delawarehiv.org](mailto:tjones@delawarehiv.org) or 302-654-5471. We are always looking for more dedicated individuals to make this annual event a success.

We look forward to your support of this serendipitous fund raiser which is sure to make you say WOW!

## 2008 WOW Awardees

### Ally Award

Harriett Cauley

Faith Community Partnership

### Community Award

Latin American

Community Center

### Corporate Award

Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Delaware

### Guardian Angel Award

Denise Kitson

Brandywine Counseling

### Impact Award

The Honorable Theodore Blunt  
Wilmington City Council President

### Leadership Award

Moore Brothers Wine Company

### Organization Award

Baxters

### Ryan White Award

Carolyn Savini

Christiana Care

### Visionary Award

Dr. William Holloway

Awarded posthumously

### Volunteer of the Year Award

Joe Scarborough

Community Member

## New Board Member, Staff Member Join the Consortium Team

The staff and Board of the Consortium are proud to welcome a new Board member and a new staff member to the Consortium team.

Newly elected Board Member Karla Martin currently serves as a liaison between the US Department of Agriculture and Delaware State University. Karla took an interest in the Consortium and its special events since moving to the area from Washington, DC.

Originally from Georgia, Karla completed her graduate work in North Carolina, then relocated to Washington, DC and now Dover. Karla said she is excited to get DSU students involved in community activities focused on HIV/AIDS.

Also new to the Consortium is Rita Devlin Salvo, who filled the position of Manager of Community Planning after Susan Starrett left the position in September. With more than 20 years experience in New Castle County government and non-profit agencies, Rita is sure to be a true asset to the agency. She has already facilitated her first Planning Council meeting after only a week on the job!

Welcome Karla and Rita -- we look forward to working with you in achieving the mission of the Delaware HIV Consortium.



*Newly elected Board Member Karla Martin (left) joins Board President Arlene Bincsik after the Board's January 16, 2008 meeting.*



*Rita Devlin Salvo, the Delaware HIV Consortium's new Manager of Community Planning, brings years of experience to her new position.*

***Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Delaware HIV Consortium's Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at the Dover Sheraton on DuPont Highway in Dover. Lunch will be served and the meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

*Join us as the Consortium staff discusses the accomplishments of 2007 and looks ahead to 2008.*

*A Board meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting.*

## Consortium Staff

**Peter Houle, MBA**

*Executive Director*

**Glen Pruitt**

*Associate Executive Director*

**Robert Raup, CPA**

*Director of Finance &  
Administration*

**Dianne Casey**

*Director of Housing Programs*

**Stephanie Arnold**

*Administrative Assistant*

**Tammy Jones**

*Special Events/Development  
Associate*

**Andrea Killian**

*Financial Assistant*

**Alyson Lang**

*Policy & Education Coordinator*

**Carissa Pleiss**

*Communications Coordinator*

**Rita Devlin Salvo**

*Manager of Community Planning*

**100 W. 10th St.  
Suite 415**

**Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 654-5471 (phone)  
(302) 654-5472 (fax)**

*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.*

## New Web site Launched to Increase Access to Health Care

November 28, 2007 marked the official launch of the Health Access Network of Delaware (HAND), a diverse coalition of statewide non-profit health organizations (including the Delaware HIV Consortium), businesses, and individuals working together on health care issues. HAND is a tool created to provide a broad spectrum of health information and health resources to Delaware patients.

In order to educate Delawareans on issues impacting their health care by encouraging active involvement in public policy that promotes access to quality health care, HAND is providing individuals and organizations with the necessary information, advocacy tools, and community resources to be an active partner in the shaping of public policy related to health care.

By logging onto the HAND Web site, <http://www.handforhealth.org>, patients will be able to access various tools, information and resources for their benefit. This Web site is designed to help patients find information on a wide range of health questions, such as whether or not they qualify for health care or prescription drug assistance, how to find support groups to help them deal with illness, and how they can take action on health issues in Delaware. By providing these resources, patients are encouraged to become more actively engaged in shaping the public policy that dictates patient access to quality health care.

The advocacy resources section of the Web site empowers patients to make their voices heard. The tools and tips offered in this section will help people become active and effective participants in the Delaware health care community.

Patients will also be able to find information about diseases, current health care news, issues, events, patient assistance programs, volunteer opportunities, counseling and support groups, hot lines, prevention and wellness programs, and much more.

HAND members include the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, the Interdenominational Ministers Action Council of Delaware, the Delaware HIV Consortium, AIDS Delaware, Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

"The Delaware HIV Consortium is proud to collaborate on the Health Access Network of Delaware Web site. As an organization dedicated to creating a seamless continuum of care for all people infected and affected in Delaware, we feel strongly that the Web site will benefit Delawareans in a number of great ways," said Carissa Pleiss, Communications Coordinator for Delaware HIV Consortium.

For more information, log onto the HAND Web site at <http://www.handforhealth.org/>.

### Upcoming Meetings

#### **Policy Committee**

Wed. March 12

10:45 - 12:15

Community Service Building,  
Room 6

#### **Planning Council**

Tues. April 15

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Dover Sheraton

#### **Annual Meeting**

Wed. May 21

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dover Sheraton

#### **Policy Committee**

Wed. April 9

10:45 - 12:15

Community Service Building,  
Room 6

#### **Policy Committee**

Wed. May 14

10:45 - 12:15

Community Service Building,  
Room 6

#### **Policy Committee**

Wed. June 11

10:45 - 12:15

Community Service Building,  
Room 6

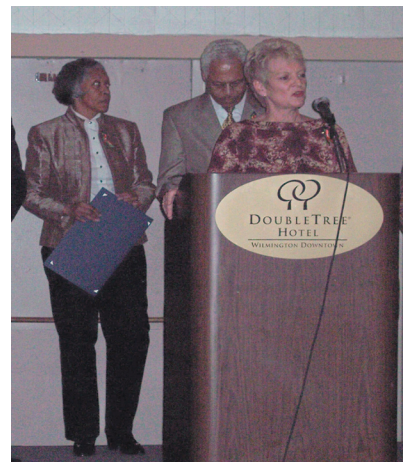


## Public Service Announcements Unveiled as Part of Consortium's Red Ribbon Awareness Campaign

The premier of three 30-second Public Service Announcements (PSA) highlighting the unprecedented rate of HIV/AIDS infection among African American women in Wilmington was premiered in conjunction with the 7th Annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day dinner conference, sponsored by the Faith Community Partnership and the Delaware HIV Consortium. The press conference was held on Feb. 7, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel in Wilmington.

The PSA is a collaborative effort among the Delaware HIV Consortium, Abbott Laboratories, Wilmington City Council President Ted Blunt and Teleducation studio. Three local HIV/AIDS advocates - Renee Beaman of Beautiful Gate Outreach Center, Helene Gladney of the City of Wilmington and Lolisa Gibson of the Wellness Foundation - are featured in the PSA, which was produced at the award-winning Teleducation studio at the Wilmington Riverfront. The PSA will be distributed to all local media stations.

"This PSA will shed light and awareness on a health crisis that is disproportionately affecting African American women in Wilmington," said Delaware HIV Consortium Executive Director Peter Houle. "We hope this HIV/AIDS awareness tool will empower all women to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection."



*Board President Arlene Bincsik, joined by Public Health Advocate Helene Gladney and Wilmington City Council President Theodore Blunt, gives statistics of HIV infection rates in Delaware during the press conference.*

### Girls Night Out Event Focuses on HIV/AIDS Prevention for Women



*Roxanne Wolf of Gilead Sciences teaches the women at the Girls Night Out event how to protect themselves from HIV infection.*



*Special Events / Development Associate Tammy Jones helps to register Girls Night Out attendees.*

The Wilmington Job Corps Center was the place to be on October 18! With generous sponsorship from Gilead Sciences, the Consortium hosted its first 'Girls Night Out' -- a frank discussion on sex, love and HIV designed to empower, educate and prevent the spread of HIV among women of all ages.

Roxanne Wolf of Gilead started out the evening by giving staggering statistics of African American women in Wilmington: it is estimated that one in 52 African American women in Wilmington is HIV positive, women currently account for 22 percent of Delaware's HIV/AIDS cases and AIDS is the leading cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 22-44.

The approximately 65 attendees enjoyed educational games and films focused on HIV prevention. After dinner was served, each woman left the program with more power and knowledge to protect themselves from HIV.

"This new initiative is a fun and effective way to reach girls and women, and gives them the knowledge to keep themselves safe," said the Consortium's Policy and Education Coordinator Alyson Lang.

Another Girls Night Out is in the process of being scheduled. More information about the next program will be available in the upcoming months.

Due to the frank and open discussion, the program is not appropriate for children. The event is open to all girls and women over the age of 14.



# Delaware HIV Consortium Housing Advocates Testify at Joint Finance Committee Hearing

*The following piece was written by Joe Scarborough, a dedicated volunteer at the Delaware HIV Consortium and advocate for HIV/AIDS issues.*

On Thursday, February 7, I had the honor of testifying before the Joint Finance Committee to increase funding for affordable housing. I had done quite a bit of public speaking in all areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and education, but this was the first time I had the chance to address the state legislature, not just as an advocate, but as a client who is feeling the strain of an overburdened housing assistance program. When the members of my group signed in to speak, I noticed we were the last few presenters. Being last on the list to testify, I was thrilled at the chance to offer last remarks, and end the session on a personal note, rather than see the day close on another statistic. I'm not saying that statistics are not important, but sometimes it takes putting a face and a story on a problem to really get the legislator's attention and get the point across. As I took my place at the microphone, I realized that what I was about to say could impact the lives of many, many people, who simply need assistance with housing costs. I was there to represent all the unheard voices throughout the state, and to use my voice to speak for them, and share our common story.

Though I had worked in transitional housing for homeless people who are HIV positive, I had always looked at the homeless problem as something that I felt passionately about, but it didn't apply to me directly. That was until a two years ago, when I was diagnosed with a highly aggressive form of cancer and had to begin chemotherapy treatments. After my recovery, I was left disabled, unemployed, homeless, and an immune system that was all but destroyed, giving me an AIDS diagnosis for the first time in my 15 years being HIV positive. I was learning first hand how hard it is to try to maintain medical treatments, concentrate on my recovery, and face the added burden of possible homelessness.

Homelessness is a problem that can strike anyone at any time. Something like a critical health issue can destroy the lives and security of anyone, but persons living with HIV/AIDS have special needs that make stable affordable housing a medical necessity.

Speaking to the Joint Finance Committee gave me the chance to put a human touch on the housing crisis. It is important that we as advocates and clients show our faces, tell our stories, and make our voices heard. Not only for our selves, but for those like us, and those who may someday need our help.

---

## Consortium Staff Enjoys Retreat Day

The staff members of the Consortium enjoyed a day out of the office at the Inn at Montchanin on Wednesday, Jan. 23 to reaffirm their team building and communication skills.

Under the leadership of Sister Janet Baker, a professor at Gwynedd Mercy College, the staff learned how to use their individual strengths to better the agency and serve the community more effectively. The workshop also touched on other topics, including how to ask for what you want, how to phrase requests in a positive manner and how to create realistic goals. The staff also discussed numerous ideas to develop a more organized, effective and positive workplace.

Thanks to Sister Janet Baker, as well as the staff of the Inn at Montchanin, for an effective day of learning and teamwork.

## *Board of Trustees*

Arlene Bincsik,  
Board President  
*Christiana Care HIV  
Program*

Ramesh Vemulapalli, MD  
Vice President  
*Mid-Delaware Internal  
Medicine*

John Ingram, Treasurer  
*Community Member*

Patricia Barron  
*Barron Marketing  
Communications*

Edie Corbin  
*Metropolitan Wilmington  
Urban League*

Laura Cottrell  
*Wellness Foundation of  
Delaware*

Frederick Dawson  
*Bassett, Brosius & Dawson,  
Inc.*

Steve Elkins  
*CAMP Rehoboth*

Nita Holloway  
*Community Member*

Patrick Keenan  
*Community Member*

Doris Kerr  
*Iron Hill Brewery &  
Restaurant*

Sister Dolores Macklin  
*Community Member*

Karla Martin  
*Delaware State University*

Fiona Tresolini  
*Dynamic Visions*

## *A Special Thank You to our Sponsors and Supporters*

Abbott Laboratories

Paul Ashton

Barron Marketing Communications

Renee Beaman

Faith Community Partnership

Farley Printing Company

Lolisa Gibson

Gilead Sciences

Helene Gladney

Heaven & Health Massage Therapy

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

MAC AIDS Fund

Moore Brothers Wine Company

Planning Factory International

Joe Scarborough

Saffron Fine Catering

Teleduction Studio

The Inn at Montchanin

Sharyn Warwick

Wild Thyme Flowers Inc.

WILM 1450 AM radio

Wilmington City Council President Ted Blunt



100 W. 10th St.  
Suite 415  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: (302) 654-5471

Fax: (302) 654-5472

[www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org)

[info@delawarehiv.org](mailto:info@delawarehiv.org)

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WILMINGTON, DE  
PERMIT NO. 1820