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Voices

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The Voice of Delaware's HIV Community

2006 'Easy As Pie' expands pick-up locations, pie selections



For the second year, the Delaware HIV Consortium and the Ministry of Caring is making a difference in the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS in a delicious way- the 'Easy As Pie' Thanksgiving fund-raiser!

The premise is quite simple:

donate \$20 and receive a delicious Thanksgiving pie in your choice of Dutch Apple, Pumpkin, Pecan, No Sugar Added Apple and — new this year — Sweet Potato! Your donation will help provide food, housing, medication co-pays and financial assistance to someone living with HIV/AIDS in Delaware. Proceeds will also help fund the House of Joseph II, a permanent residence in Wilmington for people living with advanced stages of AIDS.

The pies will be prepared by two local bakers — Linvilla Orchards of Media, PA and Just Desserts by Jekeitta of Wilmington. For the third year, Linvilla Orchards will prepare their popular pies for our fund-raiser. In its first year, Just Desserts by Jekeitta will be offering their delectable sweet potato pie. We look forward to working with both bakers this Thanksgiving season and encourage you to support them all year long!

Another area of growth has been in our pie pick-up locations. This year we are offering NINE pick-up locations throughout the state. In addition to last year's locations in Wilmington, Dover, Georgetown and Rehoboth Beach, we are also offering pick-ups in Centreville, Claymont and Middletown. We hope this convenience will allow more people to purchase a pie!

Turn to page 5 of this newsletter for a complete order form. Simply fill it out and mail it to our office at 100 W. 10th St., Suite 415 Wilmington, DE 19801 or fax it to 302-654-5472. You may also order your pie on our Web site at www.delawarehiv.org or by calling our office at 302-654-5471.

Together, the Delaware HIV Consortium and Ministry of Caring work hard to raise money that will help so many people. All donations are tax deductible and stay in Delaware to help Delawareans. Please donate generously and order your pie today!

DHC board member honored at ceremony

About 100 people attended a luncheon at Ursuline Academy on Sunday, Sept. 17 to celebrate the dedication of a very special person — Sister Dolores Macklin.



Sister Dolores was given the St. Patrick's-St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul first ever "Servant of the Poor" award. She received a plaque and her name on a cornerstone honoring her and the late Rev. James Trainor.

Sister Dolores has been a long-standing board member of the Delaware HIV Consortium, and has worked with the Catholic Chartites AIDS Ministry for almost 20 years. She has focused her work on HIV/AIDS prevention and comforting those living with the disease.

"The people I'm ministering to really are ministering to me," said Sister Dolores, who was honored with a standing ovation during the ceremony. "I'm getting more than I receive."

Executive Director Peter Houle attended the luncheon, and said he was so proud to see Sister Dolores receive the award and praise that she deserves.

"She is an incredible woman that does so much for so many people," he said. "I am absolutely honored that she is part of our organization."

Red Ribbon Advocate program graduates second class in 2006

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For the second year, the Delaware HIV Consortium has helped individuals living with HIV/AIDS learn to speak up and speak out for the rights of ALL people living with the disease. The second graduating class of the Red Ribbon Advocate program was honored at a banquet held on Sept. 19.

The nine newest Red Ribbon Advocates are Bennie Blake, Beverly Catts, Laura Cottrell, Charlotte Demby, Ed Floor, Kevin Massie, Virginia Meade, Clarence Parker and Theo Waters. Each has dedicated their time and energy learning how to effectively advocate for HIV/AIDS issues.

Members took part in rallies for prevention, treatment and services at the United Nations in New York City and advocated for the Needle Exchange Bill in Dover. This year's class sold Red Ribbon car magnets for \$5 a piece (which are still available) to raise money for travel expenses. Some also helped with the "Our People, Our Problem, Our Solution" forum, which was held on Sept. 17 at the Police Athletic League (PAL) Center in Wilmington.

"This is another group of exceptional people who truly want to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others living with HIV/AIDS," said Red Ribbon Coordinator Susan Tanner.

The Red Ribbon Advocate program is open to individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS, and want to learn more about HIV/AIDS issues and advocacy skills. The meetings are held in Wilmington once a month for nine months during evening hours. For more information about the program or to become involved, contact a member of the Consortium staff at 302-654-5471.



Graduates of this year's program includes (from left, front row) Beverly Catts, Virginia Meade, Clarence Parker, Charlotte Demby, Bennie Blake. Back row from left are Kevin Massie and Ed Floor.

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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.

Spotlight on The Wellness Foundation of Delaware, Connections

For some, living with HIV/AIDS can be daunting and overwhelming at times. It should, however, be comforting to know that many organizations throughout the state work hard to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have the support they may need.

In New Castle County, Connections Community Support Programs is the largest provider of comprehensive, integrated, mental health and substance abuse treatment in Delaware, and providing behavioral health service to Delawareans is their mission.

Farther south in Sussex County, The Wellness Foundation of Delaware works to encourage individuals living with HIV disease to take a more active role in their treatment and general well being.

Connections

With 30 locations throughout Delaware, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. reaches out to about 4,000 individuals a year battling mental health and substance use conditions, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS in many ways. Case management, employment services, individual and group counseling and affordable housing are just a few of the services offered through this organization.



Connections works with the Consortium to run WomanSpace (shown at left), a 10-unit permanent housing residence for women with mental health

and/or substance abuse issues and their children.

Connections opened in 1985 to serve people making the transition from the Delaware Psychiatric Center back into the community. Over the last 20 years, the staff has recognized that people with mental health issues also have a high rate of substance use issues, homeless and HIV/AIDS.

“Although we’ve been working with people living with HIV/AIDS since Connections opened, we branched out to create programs specifically for this population in the late 90s,” said Kirsten Olson, Director of Development and Housing at Connections.

“We now operate three housing programs specifically for persons with HIV/AIDS, and offer HIV case management services in New Castle and Kent Counties.”

“Everyone at Connections works hard to ensure that people living with mental health and substance use issues, as well as HIV/AIDS, live a good quality of life,” she added.

For more information about Connections and the programs they offer, contact Kirsten Olson at (302) 984-3380 ext. 107.

The Wellness Foundation of Delaware

The mission of the Rehoboth Beach-based Wellness Foundation of Delaware is simple: HIV/AIDS is easier to manage in all aspects when you have the support of others living with the disease.

That’s why The Wellness Foundation employs six peer staff educators that work with individuals in all three counties in Delaware. Whether newly diagnosed or a long-term survivor, the goal of The Wellness Foundation’s staff is to empower those living with HIV/AIDS and enable them to live a long, happy, healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

That goal was celebrated on Oct. 13, when the staff of The Wellness Foundation hosted its Sixth Annual ‘Living Well With HIV’ Conference at Dover Downs. Hundreds turned out for a day of discussion, awards and expos focused on HIV/AIDS. Guest speakers included Bruce Rashbaum, M.D., a specialist in HIV/AIDS who is living with the disease and Michelle Lopez, a Trinidad immigrant, lesbian and mother of a child living with HIV.

Breakout sessions included information sessions on challenges of HIV Care and Delivery, the Ryan White CARE Act, finding love with HIV, family perspectives of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C co-infection. The Living Well Quilt, which was created by individuals living with HIV/AIDS and sewn together by the senior citizen residents of Ingleside homes in Wilmington, was dedicated to The Wellness Foundation.

“This event is a celebration of life,” Wellness Foundation Executive Director Dan DiGuglielmo said at the event.



Dan DiGuglielmo is the executive director of The Wellness Foundation.

20th Annual Delaware AIDS Walk a HUGE success!

To every person who attended this year's Delaware AIDS Walk — THANK YOU! This year, more people raised more money and more awareness than any other AIDS Walk in Delaware history. Whether you got caught in the rain in Wilmington or enjoyed the spring-like weather two weeks later in Dover and Georgetown, we could not have asked for a better turnout at all three Walks.

Every aspect of the 2006 Walk grew significantly from last year — attendance rose from about 4,000 walkers last year to 6,000 walkers this year at all three Walks, and the amount of funds skyrocketed from \$128,000 last year to \$170,000 this year. These numbers are truly something to be proud of, and we know can keep growing into 2007!

The success of this Walk would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Faith Community Partnership and Ministry of Caring. Together we can truly do so much more. This year is proof of that.

Thank you again to everyone who participated — we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Consortium staff members and volunteers work the registration table at the Wilmington Walk, held on Sept. 24 at Rockford Park.



Thousands of supporters step off at the Wilmington Walk.



The tower at Rockford Park.



Members of the Caribbean Student Association of Delaware State University attend the Walk at Silver Lake Recreation Area in Dover.



Walkers in Dover enjoy the sunshine and warm weather on the Walk route.

Easy As Pie Order Form



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

PLEASE CHOOSE A PICK-UP LOCATION:

- Lobby of Community Service Parking Garage**
Corner of 11th & Orange Sts.,
Wilmington
- Ministry of Caring - Francis X. Norton Center**
917 Madison St., Wilmington
- Wild Thyme Inc.**
5725 Kennett Pike, Centreville
- St. Francis Renewal Center**
1901 Prior Rd., Wilmington
- New Ark United Church of Christ (Wells Hall)**
300 E. Main St., Newark
- Delcor Interiors**
217 N. Broad St., Middletown
- Kent/Sussex Counseling Services**
1241 College Park Dr., Dover
- Sussex Counseling Services**
20728 DuPont Blvd., Unit 313,
Georgetown
- CAMP Rehoboth**
37 Baltimore Ave., Rehoboth Beach
*Please note that pies can only be
picked up until noon on Nov. 22 at
this location*

CHOOSE YOUR PIE(S):

Please specify quantity:

- _____ Dutch Apple
- _____ Pumpkin
- _____ Pecan
- _____ No Sugar Added Apple
- _____ Sweet Potato

Total Pies _____ X \$20 each = _____
 Additional donations = _____
TOTAL = _____

Pie orders can be paid in cash, check (made payable to the Delaware HIV Consortium) or by credit card. We accept Visa, Master Card and American Express. Please send payment with this order form. Thank you for your support!

_____ Type of Card

_____ Credit Card Number

_____ Signature

_____ Exp. Date

PLEASE CHOOSE A PICK-UP TIME:

- Tuesday, Nov. 21
11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 21
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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The Board of Trustees is proud to welcome our newest Board Member, Mr. Frederick Dawson. Mr. Dawson is the Vice President of Bassett, Brosius & Dawson, Inc. and is involved in a number of civic organizations and groups. We look forward to using Mr. Dawson's talents to improve the lives of Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS.

A very special THANK YOU to all of our sponsors and donors

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