



Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

## “It Takes a Village” Event Brings Community Together

**M**ore than 250 adults and children bounced, played, and tested their way to better health on Saturday, June 27 at the “It Takes a Village” Community Health Fair in Garfield Heights, hosted by PATF and its Partnership for Intervention and Empowerment (PIE) Project.

PIE Project Director Mildred Johnson welcomed guests to the event, which was held in conjunction with National HIV Testing Day, and Darla Kravotta from the County Executive’s office opened the festivities with a proclamation from Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato.

According to Johnson, “This health fair was a huge success. The guests loved the fact that the event was family-friendly with activities for the kids, like a bouncy-house, balloon animals and a juggler. The adults not only learned about HIV/AIDS, but also received free health screenings and health information from a variety of organizations, such as Healthy Black Family, Children’s Hospital, Planned Parenthood and Mental Health America.”

Throughout the past four years, the PIE Project has been working with the Garfield Heights public housing community to reduce the risk and harm of substance abuse and HIV infections.

“We’ve been able to develop really strong ties and accomplish a lot in this community over the past few years,” said Johnson. “More than 100 residents participated in our substance abuse and HIV prevention programs; however, with the Housing Authority’s closure of the Garfield Heights site and relocation of its tenants, keeping people engaged has been a challenge. That’s why we hosted the community health fair.”

“It Takes a Village” was successful in both bringing the community together and providing access to a number of medical and social service providers.

## PATF Presents First-Ever Code “Red” Mini Ball

**T**o commence celebrating Pittsburgh’s Black Pride weekend, PATF hosted its first-ever Code “Red” Mini Ball July 23. Commentated by Father Sir Chris Infinti and a “special guest commentator,” the free event included 10 categories of strutting on the catwalk, including European Runway, Urban Streetwear, BQ Up in Pumps, Realness of All Kinds, Hand Performance, and Pittsburgh American Idol.

“The Code ‘Red’ Mini Ball was meant to be entertaining and fun, but not just a social networking event. It’s an HIV prevention event directed toward a high-risk audience,” said Daphne Parker, Director of HIV Prevention Programs. “We hope to expand this event in the future to reach out to even more members of the Black American community, which accounts for more new HIV infections, AIDS cases, people living with HIV, and HIV-related deaths than any other group.”



A WAMO-FM DJ helps to greet the more than 250 adults and children who attended the June 27 “It Takes a Village” Community Health Fair.



Children line up to take their turn in the ever-popular bouncy-house at “It Takes a Village.”

## PATF Sets New Vision for the Future

**Informed by the groundbreaking** Regional HIV Needs Assessment commissioned by the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) and conducted by the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, PATF has redefined its vision and set an ambitious course for the future. Our new vision is *to be the region's leader in providing innovative support services that improve the health and quality of life for all individuals living with HIV/AIDS and to be relentless in preventing the spread of the virus.*

Armed with a renewed vision and refined mission, the PATF Board of Directors, management and staff identified four critical priority areas to ensure quality services for the community and organizational health for PATF.

The critical priorities are:

1. Focus community attention on HIV/AIDS and reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma.
2. Understand and address the needs of more individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.
3. Funding and sustainability.
4. Foster an environment where employees feel valued and have opportunities to grow.

PATF is in the process of developing strategic, three-year goals and objectives that correspond to each priority. Draft examples include:

- A. Position PATF as the regional knowledge leader in the prevention and impact of HIV/AIDS on the community.
- B. Develop and provide services tailored to address the unique needs of the populations identified in the Regional HIV Needs Assessment.
- C. Look for ways to collaborate, partner or work with other agencies/people to maximize our capacity and services to the community.
- D. Develop a more diversified revenue stream.

"We are at a critical juncture," said PATF executive director Kathi Boyle. "More and more people are seeking our help, but government funding is flat at best, the general community thinks HIV/AIDS is no longer an issue and the economy is struggling. We know we must be proactive and creative in how we address these challenges and we're incorporating that kind of innovative thinking into our strategic plan.

"The Board of Directors has devoted an enormous amount of time and effort to ensure PATF will continue to be a leader in the HIV/AIDS community."

PATF expects to complete the strategic plan in a few weeks and will begin implementing strategies immediately. Please check our website [www.patf.org](http://www.patf.org) in August to download the final strategic plan.

### Don't know what to do with your old books?



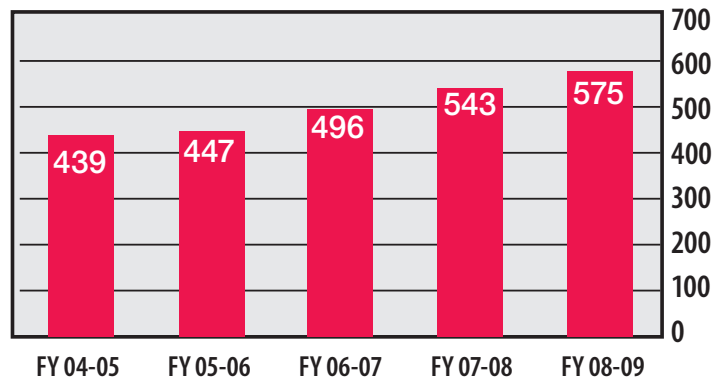
**Donate them to PATF.**  
**Our clients love them. Simply drop your books off to our office at 5913 Penn Ave during normal business hours.**

## Need for Services Continues to Grow

**O**ver the last five years, PATF has taken numerous steps to reach out to those who are struggling to live with HIV/AIDS, from enhancing our case management delivery model to relocating our office. The result has been a dramatic increase in the number of people PATF has helped.

PATF experienced the most significant growth in the number of people accessing our Case Management services. In program year 2004-05, we served 439 individuals while in program year 2008-09 we served 575 individuals—an increase of 31 percent. Below is a graph representing the growth in case management services:

### GROWTH IN CASE MANAGEMENT



PATF attributes the rise in Case Management clients to a number of factors, but three primary reasons come to the fore.

1. Our case managers are effective and continually receive high ratings from their clients (in 2008, 82 percent of client-survey respondents rated the service at 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 5).
2. We relocated our offices to East Liberty to make our services more accessible.
3. Because of new HIV infections and greater longevity for those living with the virus, the HIV-positive population continues to grow, but it is growing disproportionately faster in the economically disadvantaged community; thus the need for support services is increasing at an even greater rate than the general HIV-positive population.

Tragically, HIV/AIDS has the deepest impact on those least equipped to manage it. In addition to the clinical challenges of this disease, and the often debilitating side effects of its treatment, many of our clients struggle with addiction, discrimination, and mental health diagnoses. However, the most common denominator among our clients is poverty. In 2008, the median income for an individual PATF client was just \$674 a month. For the 13 percent of PATF clients who worked in 2008, the average income was just \$1,316 a month.

According to PATF executive director Kathi Boyle, "As HIV/AIDS affects more people who struggle financially, we have experienced an extraordinary increase in the need for basic life essentials such as food, transportation assistance and utility assistance. Ironically, government funding for these basic needs has significantly declined over the last three years."

With financial support from extremely generous individuals and businesses, PATF has been able to meet the growing demand for help so far, but as Boyle says, "In today's uncertain world, the only thing I am certain of is that more people are going to need our help."

# 10th Annual Impact Day: Deloitte Pittsburgh Donates Time To LGBT Community Sites

**F**or the first time since the creation of Deloitte's national day of community service 10 years ago, Deloitte personnel were given the opportunity to work on projects directly supporting the LGBT community in Pittsburgh.



Deloitte established IMPACT Day as a way to symbolize its commitment to community service. This year on June 5, more than 30,000 Deloitte employees took part in 700 community service projects in 70 cities. In Pittsburgh, all of the IMPACT Day sites were focused in the East End neighborhoods, including PATF. Deloitte graphic designer Carl Koepler and consultant Karl Sjogren led 11 cross-functional Pittsburgh office members, including partner Mike Ferguson and director and PATF board member Rich Voller, on four primary projects. These projects included processing client documents to help PATF comply with federal and state regulations, organizing and restocking the PATF Food Pantry, reorganizing PATF financial records storage and preparing safe-sex packets for distribution at Pride events and other PATF programs.

Voller estimated the value of the Deloitte time on IMPACT Day to be in excess of \$25,000, which PATF will be able to use toward a HUD requirement for matching "in kind" support.

## PATF's Girlfriends Project Gains National Attention

**P**ATF's Director of HIV Prevention Programs, Daphne Parker, has been invited to introduce the Girlfriends Project—an innovative health education program for women—at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta on August 23.

The Girlfriends Project is an informal, health-education party akin to a Tupperware party format: Women invite three to five friends age 17 or older to their homes, where a PATF representative educates guests about HIV/AIDS and domestic violence, and offers referrals and resources. The PATF representative also performs free, confidential HIV testing and counseling. Party hosts receive cash incentives at their parties.

"There are several great aspects to this program," said Parker. "A woman who is well-liked and well-respected within the community steps forward to host a Girlfriends party at her home, so the atmosphere is much more comfortable, friendly and relaxed than a standard presentation. Also, the fact that we're able to provide one-on-one, confidential time for each guest after each party is attractive to guests—our aim is to make it as convenient, safe and comfortable as possible."

PATF presently is offering the Girlfriends Project in three underserved areas: Braddock, Duquesne and Clairton.

"The need to educate these women is great," said Parker. "The Girlfriends Project takes us one step closer to meeting that need."



Local Deloitte staff members enjoyed volunteering their time to help at various East End locations as part of the 10th annual IMPACT Day.

## HIV TESTING

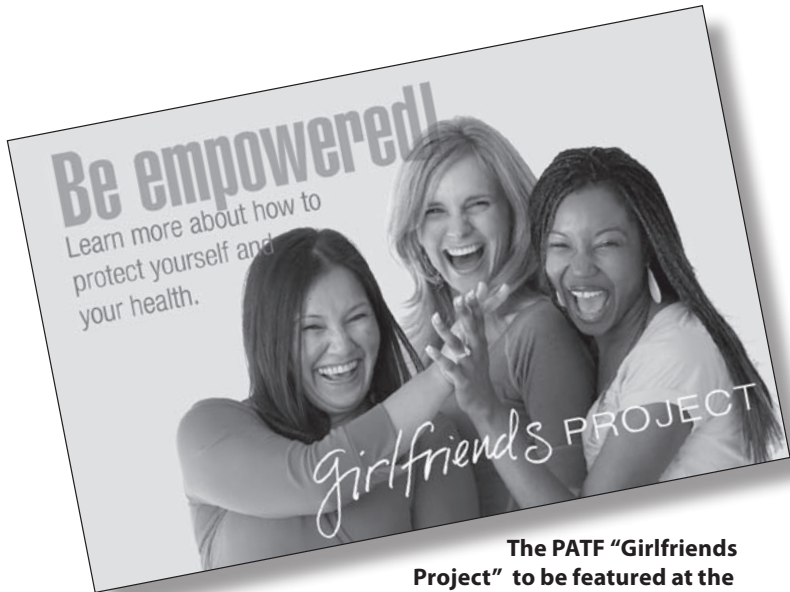
The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force is the only provider of free, anonymous, community-based HIV testing in the region. If you would like to take an HIV test, here are locations and schedules. No appointment is necessary at any location.

**Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force**  
5913 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Sundays Noon to 4:00 p.m. (July & August)  
Mondays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Rapid HIV testing available

**Gay & Lesbian Community Center (GLCC)**  
5800 Forward Avenue  
Squirrel Hill  
Thursdays  
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Rapid HIV testing available

**Miryam's (Women's Shelter)**  
1410 Fifth Avenue  
Uptown Pittsburgh  
3rd Thursday of every month  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Rapid HIV testing available

For more information on HIV testing or HIV prevention, please contact PATF at 412-345-7456.



**The PATF "Girlfriends Project" to be featured at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2009 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta!**

(see page 3)

## FOUNDERS' SOCIETY & ALLIES PROGRAM

In 2005, PATF established the Founders' Society to honor the brave volunteers who founded PATF in 1985 and to recognize committed friends for their outstanding contributions to our Annual Campaign.

In 2007, PATF introduced the Allies Program of the Founders' Society to recognize individuals who demonstrate their

financial commitment to the mission of PATF by making a three-year, leadership-level pledge to support the Annual Campaign.

PATF gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their extraordinary support of our 2008-09 Annual Campaign:

### VISIONARY (\$5,000 or more)

Steven R. Herforth & Peter J. Karlovich ▲  
Scott Noxon ▲  
The Oshry, Rack & Kamons Families ▲  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Voller ▲

### GUARDIAN (\$2,500—\$4,999)

Jay Blackford & Carl Salancy ▲  
Kathi Boyle & Betty Hill ▲  
Beth Brown  
Gwyn Cready & Lester Pyle ▲  
Peter Ennis & Laura Ellman ▲  
Paul J. Gitnik ▲  
Nachum Golan & Steve Hough ▲  
Dr. Robert Schoen & Nancy Bernstein ▲  
The Scott Family & Riverside Design Group ▲  
Peter & Regina Vercilla ▲

### CHAMPION (\$1,000—\$2,499)

Duvall A. Aiken  
Kevin J. Altomari & Dawn Gideon  
Donald B. Arnheim & Dr. William Cohen\* ▲  
Jane S. Barnes & Charity Imbrie  
Mary Bockovich & Frank Miller ▲  
Brian J. Boeglin  
James Broff

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Daniel Gup & Terri R. Klein  
J. Randolph Hiller ▲  
Geri Kay  
Chandler Ketchum ▲  
Stanley Koepke  
Larry Leahy, DMD ▲  
Daniel M. Mathews & William Vodzak ▲  
Richard Parsakian ▲  
Darrell Phillips & David Binder ▲  
Richard E. Rauh  
K. Oliver Rea  
John S. Ruskowitz  
Deborah L. Rusonis  
Paul & Carol Stockman ▲  
Alan R. Surowiec

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Craig L. Vandergrift  
Richard Walters  
Robert T. Wargo  
Michael J. White

▲ Indicates a three-year pledge to the Allies Program.  
\* Indicates deceased.