



PAPATF-PERSPECTIVES e-Perspectives

Issue 02/October 2010

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Dear Susan,

Welcome to *e-Perspectives*!

Welcome to *e-Perspectives*, a monthly e-newsletter that highlights current and upcoming Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force events, accomplishments and programs, as well as national and international HIV/AIDS information. Through *e-Perspectives*, we keep you posted on all that PATF does to improve the health and quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in southwestern Pennsylvania. A sincere thank-you for your support and interest in PATF.

Have questions or comments about *e-Perspectives*? Please contact editor Susan Orr at sorr@patf.org or 412-345-0596.

Countdown to World AIDS Day, PATF 25th anniversary *Organizations join forces for commemoration*

World AIDS Day and the PATF's 25th anniversary commemorative lunch are just one month away. Please mark your calendar for the following events taking place throughout the week of Dec. 1:

Press Conference with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: City-County Building

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force 25th anniversary luncheon

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Rivers Club, One Oxford Centre
CONTACT: 412-345-7456 or sorr@patf.org

Red Plate Specials

Visit www.patf.org or Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's Facebook page for Pittsburgh restaurants supporting World AIDS Day!

AIDS Quilt Display

DATE/TIME: Sunday, Nov. 28, 3-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church
CONTACT: 412-363-8082, ext. 135 or
raphaprogram@ymail.com

Red Ribbon Dinosaur and Window, donated by the Art Institute of Pittsburgh

DATE: Week of Nov. 29

LOCATION: AIP, 420 Blvd. of the Allies

Red Ribbon Cookies, donated by the Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: City-County Building

The Names Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt

DATE: Week of Nov. 29

LOCATIONS: City-County Building, Future Tenant Art Space, GLCC, PATF, Rodman Baptist Church, Shepherd Wellness, UPMC Falk Clinic, Andy Warhol Museum

CONTACT: scott.ridenour@bnymellon.com or 412-234-2045

Know your status: Free HIV testing, prevention info

DATES/TIMES: Monday, Nov. 29, and Thursday, Dec. 2, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

LOCATION: Falk Medical Building, University of Pittsburgh Early Intervention Project

CONTACT: 412-647-3112 or harringtonp@upmc.edu

Free, confidential HIV testing

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m.- 3p.m.

LOCATION: GLCC, 210 Grant St., Downtown

Sixth Annual Red Ribbon Gala

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m.

LOCATION: 20th Century Club

CONTACT: 412-973-9524 or drg83age@aol.com

Candlelight Vigil

DATE: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Starts at Carnegie Mellon University, down Forbes Avenue to the lawn outside Heinz Memorial Chapel.

23rd Annual WORLD AIDS Day Memorial Service

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Heinz Chapel

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PA/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center Act Aware Conference

DATE/TIME: Thursday, Dec. 2, 1-6 p.m.

LOCATION: University Club

CONTACT: 412-624-1895 or smurphy@pitt.edu

AIDS Quilt reception

DATE/TIME: Friday, Dec. 3, 6-7p.m.

LOCATION: First United Methodist Church

CONTACT: 412-683-4477 or shepherdwellness@aol.com

World AIDS Day Wrap-Up Social

DATE/TIME: Sunday, Dec. 5, 6-9 p.m.

LOCATION: Andy Warhol Museum

CONTACT: 412-345-0583 or beveratt@patf.org

FAITH kick-off a success

Attendance exceeds goal

Nearly 60 people from throughout the Pittsburgh faith community attended the Oct. 14 kick-off of FAITH - a.k.a., Fighting AIDS Inspires the Heart -at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

This faith-based initiative goal's is to further PATF's mission by building relationships with the southwestern Pennsylvania ecumenical communities, according to Tony Anderson, project coordinator.

"The Prayer Breakfast was a tremendous success due to attendance and the expressed interest of those there to get involved," said Anderson. "It was a true collaboration between the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Southwestern Pennsylvania AIDS Planning Coalition, and PATF."

Former staff reconnect at reunion

Colleagues reflect on 25 years of PATF

More than a dozen former staff, along with family and friends, reconnected during an Oct. 2 reunion at PATF. Long-time staff member Alan Jones, who coordinated the event, had this to say about the evening:

"It was a wonderful evening, having 13 older PATF staff members and others get a chance to visit with each other to remember PATF in an earlier time. Most of these staffers had worked in the early days at PATF, some like Tammy Frech was on board for 11 years. Several of us had worked with our founder, Kerry Stoner. There were some special moments shared by all staff."

Jones said plans discussed at the reunion include putting together a series of written memories, and photographs to commemorate PATF's 25th anniversary.

Pittsburgh Gives to PATF

Second annual campaign provides matching gift

Thank you to everyone who donated to PATF through Pittsburgh Gives on Oct. 13. Because of generous friends, \$15,000 was designated to PATF and The Pittsburgh Foundation will provide a matching gift of \$3,000.

If you didn't have a chance to participate in Pittsburgh Gives,

you can support PATF in many other ways. Log onto www.patf.org and click on "Make a Difference."

Two special community events for one special cause
Elegant in Black II, Club 231 support PATF

Stylish Elegant in Black II and Uniontown-based Club 231 both chose to support PATF on Oct. 16, via their respective fundraisers

The second annual Elegant in Black, presented by Distinct Sophistication took place on Mt. Washington. Proceeds from a sports memorabilia auction benefited PATF. A benefit drag queen show at Club 231 donated raffle proceeds and "the queens' tips" to PATF. A sincere thanks to both organizations for supporting PATF.

Spotlight on....Dr. Charles Rinaldo
Researcher played critical role in birth of PATF

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Charles Rinaldo's professional mission has been a critical, complicated, often grueling one. However, it also has been a life-altering calling. That calling has been to find a cure for AIDS.

Dr. Rinaldo serves as chairman of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health. Moreover, he is principal investigator of the Pitt Men's Study, which has investigated the natural history of AIDS in more than 3,000 homosexual men in Pittsburgh since its 1983 inception. Because of that role, Dr. Rinaldo also played a significant part in the creation of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, an organization he considers to be as needed today as it was when it was founded 25 years ago.

"In the early 1980s, we at the Pitt Men's Study felt that there needed to be a community-based task force to help people deal with the various issues associated with the AIDS epidemic. AIDS was at its height at that time, both locally and nationally. There was an obvious need for such an organization -- San Francisco and New York City had already set up programs - but the Pitt Men's Study's purpose was not to deliver support services, and we weren't funded for that. Yet, we felt obligated to help."

That being said, Study representatives led by Tony Silvestre and the Study's Community Advisory Board approached the community to establish PATF, including making contact with establishments and organizations connected with the GLBT community and religious organizations.

"(Pitt Men's Study member and PATF founding executive director) Kerry Stoner and others did all the work in forming

the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. We just pointed them in the right direction. PATF ended up being created by the community for the community, which has been a strength for PATF.

"The AIDS Task Force is an interlocking bridge that delivers services to all at-risk communities, since MSM (men having sex with men) has been just a part of this matrix. PATF has done a fantastic job of accomplishing this.

"During the past 25 years, many similar organizations have come and gone, but PATF has prevailed. We're very fortunate."

According to Dr. Rinaldo, the future of PATF is that the disease is still here, so there's still a need for Pitt Men's Study research to take place, and for PATF's services to still be offered.

"Unfortunately, this will be a lifetime pursuit, unless there is a miracle cure or prevention that puts all of us out of a job. For now, we're lucky to have a place like PATF."

Did you know?

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control

- Approximately 1-1.2 million people are living with HIV in the United States.
- There are more than 56,000 new infections per year in the United States.
- 50 percent of the population living with HIV/AIDS is in care. However, 25 percent are undiagnosed. These people who are unaware may transmit disease unknowingly.
- It is estimated that 50 percent of new infections come from persons undiagnosed.
- Among children under 13 years of age, there were an estimated 182 diagnoses of HIV infection in 2008.
- Adults ages 40 to 44 have the highest diagnosis rate than any other age group at 5,788 diagnoses per year.
- It is estimated that 35,659 persons diagnosed with HIV infections contracted the disease sexually.
- Approximately 4,110 persons diagnosed with HIV infections had transmittance via injection drug use.

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