



# NPAPATF-PERSPECTIVES e-Perspectives

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Dear Susan,

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](mailto:sorr@patf.org) or 412-345-0596.

**25th annual benefit a smashing success!**  
***Alan Cumming rocked our world!***

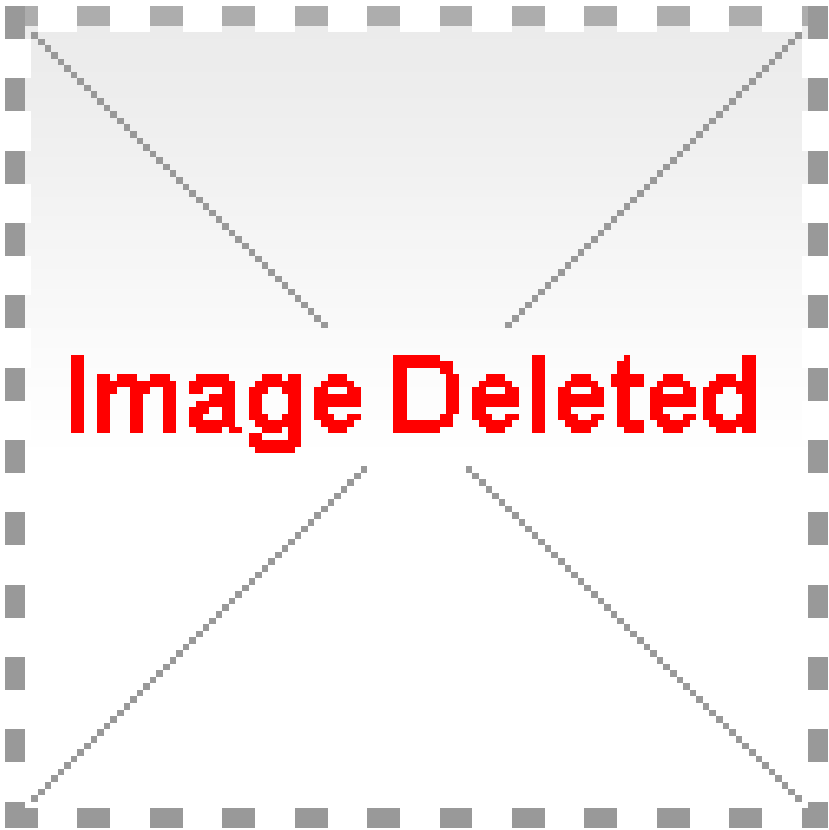
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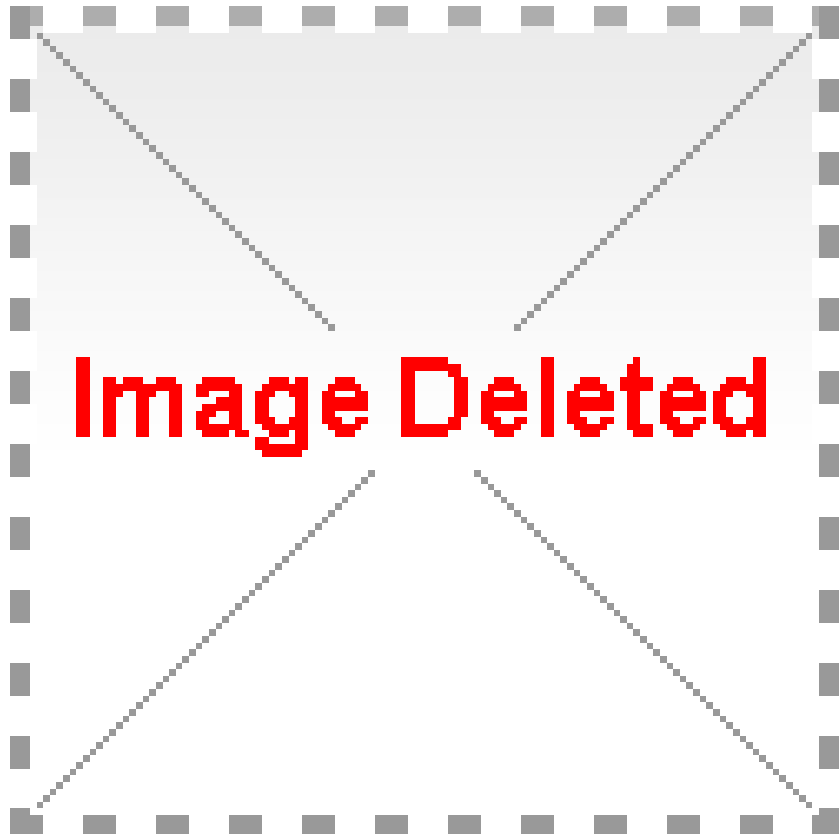
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***Broadway Cares executive director Tom Viola, acclaimed performer Alan Cumming, and PATF Annual Benefit co-chairs Tony and Linda Bucci. Click [here](#) to see all of the fabulous photos of the event.***

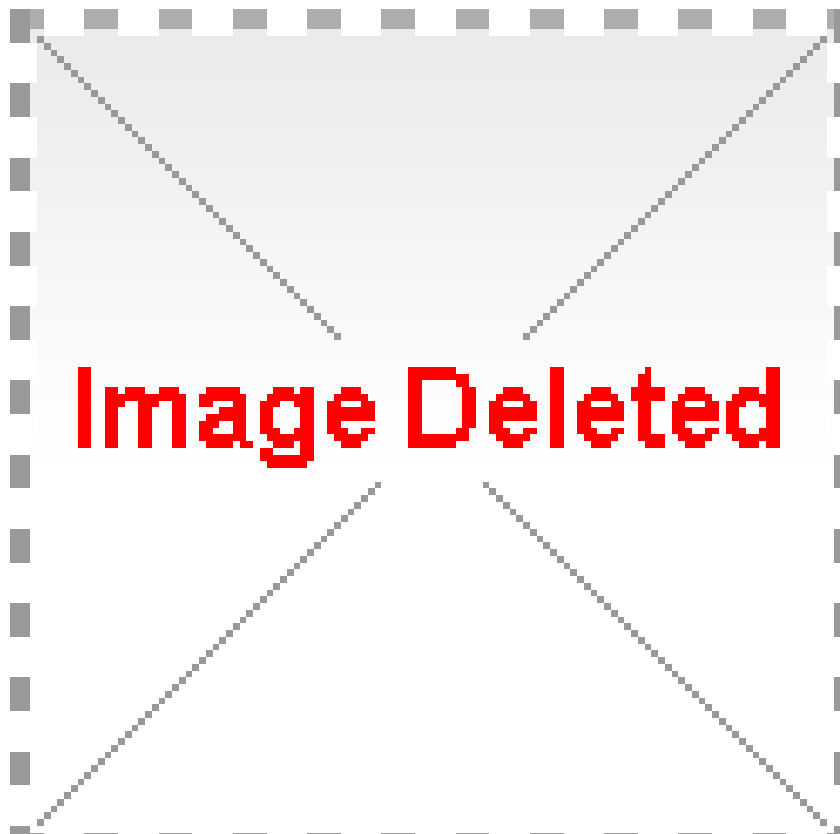
Thanks to the charming Alan Cumming's star power, and the huge happy crowd that appreciated the good food, good friends, and great performance, March 16 set a new record for fun for a worthy cause...not to mention a record in PATF's fundraising history. With more than 400 attendees, PATF raised \$150,000.

Event co-chairs Tony and Linda Bucci served as living proof that being beautiful on the inside makes you beautiful on the outside. They looked ravishing as they delivered opening remarks, and praised PATF for keeping its clients the top priority. It was a glamorous night for all. Thanks to everyone who came out and gave glamour a purpose. Visit [www.patf.org](http://www.patf.org) or our Facebook page to see photos from the evening!

***Annual meeting honors volunteers, staff  
Video, performers highlight Kelly-Strayhorn event***



*PATF's 2011 annual meeting awardees gather together after being honored.*



*PATF clients Rich Vinski and Susan Howe appeared in a retrospective video introduced at PATF's annual meeting.*

a variety of entertainment as a salute to volunteers and staff for their hard work. The event - - which took place at the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater - - included a performance by Dreams of Hope member Kaitlin Hunter; a video presentation from Art Institute student Kristin Martz; and the vocal stylings of 8-year-old Verona resident Grace Borneo, daughter of Hilary and Mary Ann Borneo. Edgewood pianist Rachel Steigerwalt and Etna guitarists Judy and Jared Opel provided entertainment throughout the reception. PATF staff member John Musser emceed the event as his alter ego, Veronica Bleaus.

Honored at the meeting were:

-Peter Ennis, who received The Sam Golden Award. During his eight-year tenure as PATF general counsel and board member, Ennis has offered thousands of hours of legal advice and governance expertise.

-John Knorr, who received The Power of One Award. Knorr joined the PATF Pro-Bono Legal Network in 2009 as its only criminal attorney. Since then, Mr. Knorr has donated more than 100 hours of legal expertise to help 16 clients with criminal issues. Without Mr. Knorr, these clients would have been forced to use the public defenders office or had no representation at all.

-Americorps, who received the Together We Can Award, presented to an organization that demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force through their volunteer service. PATF's recent partnership with Health Corps has lent PATF dedicated individuals who have been instrumental in improving client care.

-Marlene Davis, who received the Partners in Prevention Award. Davis has worked tirelessly on HIV prevention for more than 20 years, and is committed to the new FAITH initiative.

-Ed Fochtman, Jim Petraglia and Terry Sexton, who received the Making a Difference Award. These attorneys from Reed Smith provide free legal assistance twice a year for PATF clients who need estate documents.

-Marty St. Clair, the scientist responsible for discovering the impact of AZT on HIV, received the Founders' Award at the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on Dec. 1.

Staff members honored at the annual meeting included Joe Glackin, who received the Alan Jones Award, for his dedication to PATF since he began working here a decade ago. Also honored were John Musser, Susan Orr and Ron Smutny, who have worked for PATF for one year or longer.

## **FISA Foundation highlights Girlfriends Project** *Pittsburgh Filmmakers documents program at PATF*

Pittsburgh's FISA Foundation has a mission to "build a culture of respect and improve the quality of life for three populations in southwestern Pennsylvania: women, girls, and people with disabilities." Their ideals align perfectly with PATF, which is why the FISA Foundation has been partnering with PATF on the innovative HIV prevention program, the Girlfriends Project.

Working with Pittsburgh Filmmakers, FISA is proud to highlight the Girlfriends Project as part of their Centennial video series. Shooting for the video took place at PATF last week, with the final product expected to be released on the FISA Foundation website and on YouTube in April.

## **PATF food pantry offers vital support** *Produce, canned goods, etc., help to meet client needs*

If you are a PATF client and in need of food, simply come to PATF's Food Pantry on 5913 Penn Ave. You can receive three bags of groceries and one bag of household supplies every month.

After you fill out a short form, Megan Mauer will help you select a variety of fresh produce, dairy, canned goods, refrigerated items, and household essentials.

Three bags of groceries may not be enough to get you through the month. If you need more, log onto <http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/gethelp/>, where you can type in your zip code for a list of food pantries in your area.

PATF's food pantry is open noon to 4:00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and 3 to 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.

## **One step closer to finding a cure?** *Calif. researchers discover way to "edit out" undesirable genes*

Researchers in California may be one step closer to finding a cure for HIV. Scientists with Sangamo Biosciences Inc. have discovered a treatment to cut DNA at specific locations, "editing out" undesirable genes. Researchers are then able to remove the CCR5 gene, which allows the HIV virus to infect T-cells, wreaking havoc on a person's immune system.

In a clinical trial, six men with HIV had their blood filtered to remove some of their T-cells. The T-cells were treated to remove the CCR5 gene, and then infused back into the patients. Three months later, five of the six men had three times as many modified cells as expected, and nearly 6 percent of their total T-cells were HIV-resistant. More testing will be needed to determine safety and long-term effectiveness, but this is definitely a huge step toward someday curing HIV. For information visit: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/41834106/ns/health-aids/>

## **Friends of PATF**

### ***Next Gay and Lesbian Executive Committee meeting to support PATF***

The next Gay and Lesbian Executive Committee (GLEC) meeting will take place Wednesday, March 30 at 6 p.m., at WQED.

March's meeting will showcase Persad and PATF. Betty Hill, executive director of Persad, and Kathi Boyle, executive director of PATF, will be presenting. GLEC members are asked to support the PATF food pantry by bringing a donation of any of the following protein items: canned food, peanut butter, tuna, canned chicken, or stew.

Hill will discuss what's new at Persad: the state's new policies on affirming and competent care; Healthy People 2020 and health targets for the community; how you can get involved; and feedback / suggestions for Persad.

Boyle will discuss: PATF -- where it is today; services provided; barriers to providing services; how you can help; M2M HIV/AIDS Prevention; and executive director transition and how to apply for the position (Boyle recently announced her retirement.).

## **PATF's Boyle announces retirement**

### ***Executive director search underway***

Kathi Boyle, PATF's executive director for nearly seven years, recently announced her upcoming retirement this summer.

As such, PATF's board of directors has started a search for a new executive director. Visit [www.patf.org](http://www.patf.org) for information regarding the position.

Please be on the lookout for information about upcoming recognition of Boyle's stellar, immeasurable service to PATF.

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