



Pittsburgh **AIDS** Task Force

## PATF e-Perspectives

Issue 13/October 2011

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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.

### World AIDS Day 2011 will turn (PITTSBURGH)RED

**Events will include flash mob, press conference with Mayor Ravenstahl**

(PITTSBURGH)RED is gearing up for this year's World AIDS Day, to take place on Thurs., Dec. 1, at various locations around the city.

This year's events will feature a press conference with Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, a candlelight vigil, a FlashMob, and the 24th Annual World AIDS Day Memorial Service. The Highmark spire will turn red Mon. Nov. 29- Fri. Dec. 2.

Cruze Bar in the Strip District will host a kick-off party for PATF on Nov. 10, 8-10 p.m. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the bar sales will benefit (PITTSBURGH)RED, and community members will be distributing (PITTSBURGH)RED Fact Cards.

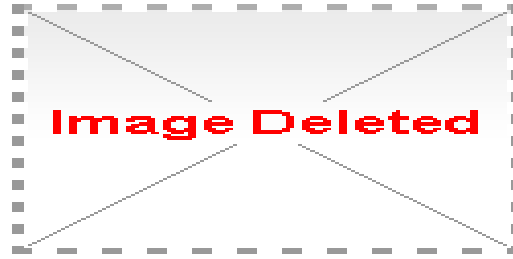
Local bars and restaurants are featuring Red Plate Specials; a portion of the proceeds from these items will go to support (PITTSBURGH)RED. Please 'like' PATF or (PITTSBURGH)RED on Facebook to find out which restaurants will be participating.

For more information, visit (PITTSBURGH)RED on Facebook.

call 412-345-0596

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**First FAITH Initiative Prayer Breakfast a success**  
*More than 80 people attended breakfast, hosted by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*



The FAITH Initiative kicked off its second year with a prayer breakfast on Friday, Oct. 14.

People filled Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to capacity for the event, which featured emotional personal perspectives from two women, a Passion and Commitment from Rev. Myrna Hallenbeck of Full Life Deliverance Ministries Inc., and the presentation of awards and special recognitions by Chuck Christen, PATF's Executive Director. Guest enjoyed a delicious breakfast, provided by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The event was a huge success, helping to raise awareness about the need to involve the faith community in HIV/AIDS prevention and education efforts.

The FAITH (Fighting AIDS Inspires the Heart) Initiative actively engages the Southwestern Pennsylvania faith communities to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS, increase awareness and education regarding the disease, and attempts to prevent new infections.



**PATF Community Outreach Coordinator Tony Anderson, PATF Assistant Girlfriends Outreach Liaison Pamela Smith, PATF Executive Director Chuck Christen, the Rev. Myrna Lewis Hallenbeck, and HIV/AIDS prevention advocate Mary Henze at FAITH Initiative's First Annual Prayer Breakfast on Oct. 14.**

## **Pittsburgh's Day of Giving: Results in!**

*Donations matched for hundreds of charities in region*

PATF sends a heartfelt thanks to the 74 people who donated \$7,480 to us during The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving 2011, on Oct. 4.

The Pittsburgh Foundation's Day of Giving generated funding for local nonprofits at the rate of nearly \$75 per second over the 24-hour giving period. The total raised for charitable organizations in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties was \$6,448,448, almost double compared to 2010's Day of Giving. Donors contributed to PATF or another charity through [pittsburghgives.org](http://pittsburghgives.org), then donations were partially matched from a pool of matching funds.

For more information about PATF's involvement in the Day of Giving, please email [jficarri@patf.org](mailto:jficarri@patf.org)

## *New research indicates that injectable contraceptive increases risk for men and women*

According to new research, women in eastern and southern Africa who receive a hormone injection every three months for contraception are twice as likely to contract HIV from their partners and are twice as likely to transmit the virus to their HIV-negative partners.

While researchers are not exactly sure what is causing these higher rates of infection, they believe that the injectable hormone contraceptive has biological properties, perhaps causing immunologic changes in the vagina and cervix or increasing HIV's ability to replicate.

These new findings are especially troubling because injectable contraceptive is very popular and has many advantages for African women: women can get the injection every three months, they do not need a doctor, and since it is long-lasting, women can control the timing of pregnancy without a lot of travel or inconvenience. Affordable and convenient birth control methods are extremely important to African women because thousands suffer complications including infection, bleeding, and death from childbirth every year.

The study followed 3,800 couples in Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The study found that women using hormonal contraception became infected at a rate of

6.61 per 100 person-years, compared with 3.78 for those not using that method; transmission to men occurred at a rate of 2.61 per 100 person-years for women using the hormonal contraception compared with 1.51 for those who did not. These findings have prompted the World Health Organization to convene a meeting to discuss the evidence and come up with a recommendation.

For more information on these findings, please click [here](#).

## Popular contraceptive used in Africa may double risk of HIV

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