



25 Years  
AIDS Community Resources

Viewpoint By Michael Crinnin  
Executive Director



Must reflect on our recent 25th Anniversary recognition event (check out the photos both on-line and within...). Like so many ritual celebrations, it turned out to be more than the sum of its parts – something I only fully appreciate now.

Night of, it's pretty much impossible not to get caught up in the details: a couple hundred folk, awardees, awards, food and drink, entertainment, emcee, program, seating, flowers, silent auction, the flow of the evening, hosting activities, etc. etc. I found myself on automatic pilot: greeting and thanking and introducing and acknowledging and attending. Then, in a blink, it was over. Unaware of hunger or thirst or fatigue, I never ate or drank or sat down until most left. I had a job to do, and it wasn't until the next day that I began to 'loosen up' and reflect.

I suspect that much about my emotional state during the event had to do with holding in the grief of so many years of loss, holding back any possibility of tears, holding off the images of those not there enjoying the affair - not there with me.

I miss all those men and women, most long dead, who built this agency along with past staff and Board members. In the early days, and for many years thereafter, more volunteers worked here than staff, and most of them were AIDS diagnosed... They threw themselves with a vengeance into helping other infected folks and educating anyone who would listen. Their time here was brief but intense and foundational. Twenty-five years of comprehensive services operating out of 6 offices in 9 counties are built on their shoulders. I do not exaggerate.

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Serving  
Cayuga,  
Herkimer,  
Jefferson,  
Lewis,  
Madison,  
Oneida,  
Onondaga,  
Oswego,  
St. Lawrence  
Counties

The North Country  
is booming ...  
First Frost  
AIDS Walk/Run  
raises thousands!  
Coverage starting  
on page 6.



## AIDS COMMUNITY RESOURCES

is a not-for-profit, community-based organization, supported by both public and private funds, bringing information, education, direct services, referrals, and advocacy to everyone in our nine-county region who needs help with HIV/AIDS.

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**Newsletter Editor**  
Jean Kessner

# World AIDS Day

One day each year, December 1, the world stops to pay attention to HIV/AIDS. The observance started in 1988 when AIDS deaths were graphic, prolonged and agonizing. Medications now extend and enhance the lives of those infected with HIV. Though AIDS-related deaths still occur, they are very often less public.

In 2008, this incurable disease has grown stronger than ever, but many people believe it is yesterday's news. Or that it has been cured. Or that it has been contained.

It is none of the above. For years the government told us there were 40,000 new HIV infections in the United States each year. Now we know there are 56,300 and perhaps as many as 64,500 new HIV infections.

It is with renewed dedication that we come together on Monday, December 1, 2008 for Services of Hope and Remembrance. Please join AIDS Community Resources:

*In Syracuse*

7:30 a.m. • Panasci Family Chapel at Le Moyne College

*In the Mohawk Valley*

5:30 p.m. • Salvation Army Chapel on Clinton Street, Utica

*In the North Country*

7:00 p.m. • Life Church, 535 Thompson Boulevard, Watertown

## A new resource for HIV+ individuals

### *Staying Healthy for Life*

A guide, written in easy-to-understand language, is now available for people who have been diagnosed with HIV. The *Staying Healthy for Life* guide can be viewed online at: [http://www.health.state.ny.us/publications/patient\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.health.state.ny.us/publications/patient_resource_guide.pdf) [www.health.state.ny.us/publications/patient\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.health.state.ny.us/publications/patient_resource_guide.pdf).

The guide emphasized three main points:

- Find a doctor or healthcare provider right away, even if you have no symptoms.
- Make arrangements for medical insurance or help with medical expenses as soon as possible after testing positive.
- Work with an HIV case manager who can help you with the two items listed above.



**AIDS  
Community  
Resources  
Case Managers  
are here to serve  
you. Contact ACR at  
1.800.475.2430.**

*Continued from page 1*

During the 25th event, we honored people from all three regions we serve – individuals who have transformed personal loss into raising awareness and money for continued and expanded services. It was humbling to be in their presence: none of them cared about personal recognition – all of them cared about preventing one more loss to this disease – one more broken heart. For them, this was one more ‘coming out’ - of private grief into the public arena to remind and challenge and demand that the lost lives of their loved ones not be in vain. They knew who they were standing in for.

There were many more in attendance that night than the 200 with name tags affixed. The abundance of energy, goodwill, smiles, and tears reflected the unseen guests that so many of us brought with us. It was a reunion as much as it was a recognition; it was a renewal as much as it was a remembrance; it was a moment full of lifetimes cut short and lifetimes extended. It was a ritual celebration of hope and transformation ...and we carry on.

## In the Mohawk Valley Safety First Van:

## New & Improved

It is impossible to over emphasize the importance of a matching grant from the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Inc., used toward the purchase of a new Safety First outreach van to be used in Utica and the Mohawk Valley. The \$29,445 grant was made possible through the Community Foundation and the Bessie C B Capron Fund. An additional \$15,000 grant from The Bank of New York Mellon, combined with fundraising through the AIDS Walk/Runs made up the remainder of the \$58,890 cost for the vehicle, which represents a significant upgrade over the present Safety First van.

Thanks to these generous grants, the Mohawk Valley Safety First team can now assist those at highest risk for HIV and STDs to gain access to HIV testing and STD screening right in the community where they live. Very often, people encountered during Safety First outreach would make appointments to come into the office for testing and then not keep that appointment. The new van allows ACR to test when the inspiration first strikes.

As we reported in the September-October issue, a grant from MAC Global Foundation helped secure a new van for use in Central New York. AIDS Community Resources has now upgraded both vans in its Safety First program fleet to better provide HIV and STD screenings in neighborhood locations.



Updated Safety First vans for Central New York and the Mohawk Valley.

# Central New York ... The North

## ACR honors 27 for.

October 30, 2008 ~ AIDS Community Resources observed its 25th anniversary at an evening event at Lake Shore Yacht and Country Club in Cicero by honoring 27 individuals and corporations whose contributions have kept ACR services vital and strong. All photographs of the 25th anniversary event are courtesy of James Bass Photography.



Standing with Michael Crinnin, and honored for their services in the North Country: Kristie Fuller, a teacher at Indian River High School, who for the last 18 years has educated her students about HIV. She serves as an unpaid advisor for the Teen AIDS Task Force (TATF) – now known as “Teaching Awareness Through Friends”; Carmen Sweet, a longtime volunteer and fundraiser who has inspired his church, Emmanuel Congregational Church of Watertown, to take up the AIDS cause; and, Ethel Soukey, who has been active in ACR’s cause since her brother, David Swem, died of AIDS in 2002.



In the Mohawk Valley, ACR recognized the educational and fundraising efforts of (from left) Chaleau Valeriano-Evans and Charlene Valeriano who volunteer year-round educating and fundraising. Their team is the top fundraising team in the AIDS Hike for Life. John Leech was recognized for his strong support in helping, through his catering and generosity, to make AIDS Community Resources events successful. Lastly, Diane and Robert Caine, who administer the fund they set up in memory of their son Bradley Clifford Caine. The fund is used to enhance the quality of life for HIV/AIDS clients in the Mohawk Valley. The honorees were photographed while they watched a video presentation about their achievements.

In Central New York two corporations whose contributions have allowed ACR to take fundraising to the next level were selected for special tribute. Empower Federal Credit Union became AIDS Community Resources’ first ever title sponsor in 2006, allowing ACR to do more marketing – like billboards and advertising – to bring attention to special events. ACR fundraising dollars rose significantly after Empower’s contributions. MAC Cosmetics was recognized for local and international help to AIDS Community Resources. From the boots on the ground – the Central New York fundraising team led by Holly Piselli – to the Global AIDS Fund, MAC Cosmetics is a true friend. From left: Holly Piselli of MAC Cosmetics, Olivia Fried, Joan Gentile, Michael Crinnin, Matt Boak and Bill Brunner from Empower Federal Credit Union.



ACR honored the AIDS Walk/Run Committee which is responsible for raising \$1.9 million dollars over the past 16 years! The committee has 17 members (from left): Lisa Johnson, Ed Skellan, Dan Manning, Kathleen Westers, Jim Gaffey, Amanda Foster, Meghan Gaffey, Jeannine Murtaugh, Colleen Clancy, Mike Ducharme, Jessica Bull and Tom Angiolillo. Committee members not pictured: Jessica Badgett, Pat Campbell, Tom Honors, Ray Kyle and Melissa Samons.



Magic Hat Brewing entertained the crowd with card games

# Country ... The Mohawk Valley

## service to *AIDS* cause



Thank you to our Master of Ceremonies, Michael Benny.



Former Chair of AIDS Community Resources' Board of Directors, Andrew London congratulating present Board Chair, Laura Murgia.



Longest-serving member of the AIDS Walk/Run Committee, Mike Ducharme, receives a carnation from a newer member, Amanda Foster.

Excellent fare provided by Karen's Catering



AIDS Community Resources would like to thank the following sponsors who made the 25th anniversary event possible:



### Special thanks to silent auction donors:

- Asti
- Baker Photography
- Bella and Grace Pet Couture
- Blue Man Group
- Michelle DaRin
- DeWitt Car Wash
- James Bass Photography
- JetBlue Airways
- Juanita's
- Julie's Place
- Lotus Star Studio

- M-A-C
- Philosophy
- Pioneer Health Club
- Starbucks
- Syracuse Chiefs
- Syracuse Stage
- Syracuse Symphony Orchestra
- The Concept
- The Renaissance
- Greg Victory & Dave Mevoli

# First Frost AIDS Walk/Run **smashes** record!



On the day of the 9th Annual First Frost AIDS Walk/Run, presented by Empower Federal Credit Union the total raised a record-breaking \$40,837 to help pay for AIDS Community Resources' youth HIV prevention programs and emergency client needs in the North Country. As always, more money poured in during the following weeks and the total now stands at \$44,072. Last year the event raised \$37,600.

The event was held Sunday, October 19, at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park in Watertown where hundreds of volunteers and walkers enjoyed a free tour of the zoo, an awards ceremony with prizes, good food, entertainment, music and fun!



Watertown High School team



Indian River TATF



Clifton-Fine TATF

All money donated in the First Frost AIDS Walk/Run supports emergency client services and prevention programs like TATF – Teaching Awareness Through Friends - in Northern New York. Formerly known as Teen AIDS Task Force, TATF works with schools and community groups to prevent infections of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in youth. Many TATF chapters participated in the First Frost AIDS Walk/Run. The top two teams in fundraising were Indian River and Clifton-Fine High Schools.

## *Sponsors*

AIDS Community Resources wants to thank our sponsors for their invaluable assistance. In addition to Empower Federal Credit Union, our sponsors are: Data Key Communications, Dealmaker Auto Group, Time Warner Cable, National Grid, Panera Bread, Kinney Drugs Foundation, and Wal-Mart. Our media sponsors are Newswatch 50, Froggy 97, Z93, ESPN, WNER 1410 and 790 WTNV.

# BIG

## In the North Country... teams raise big money for AIDS programs

"This was a fantastic day for TATF and for the North Country. With HIV infection rates increasing, and with one in four teenaged girls nationwide being infected with a sexually transmitted disease, it is vital to keep prevention programs strong," said Wil Murtaugh, ACR's Director of Special Projects/Development. "The good news is that the North Country always steps up to help their youth stay safe."



Carmen Sweet has done it again! With help from his church, Emmanuel Congregational Church, he put together a huge team and raised the most money - \$8,150 - at the First Frost AIDS Walk/Run in Watertown on October 19th.

A new team of fellow physicians, health care professionals and friends, led by Dr. Marylene Duah, made a strong appearance. Dr. Duah treats 65 HIV/AIDS patients in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties.



## 2009 Calendar: AIDS has no boundaries

### Order yours today!

Dayne Moyer is Mr. January in the ACR 2009 calendar. From Frankfurt in Herkimer County, Dayne was diagnosed with AIDS when he was five years old. He turns twenty-one in January. His case manager, Jessica Green said, "He is just the nicest young man."

A number of Utica Case Managers at AIDS Community Resources have worked with Dayne over the past 8 years, and every one of them said they felt fortunate for the opportunity to know him. "Dayne is bright, talented, witty, fun-loving, humorous and feisty," said Wenona Wake, his former Case Manager who now serves as ACR's Director of Prevention. "If you told Dayne he couldn't do something he would show you he could. Many people would describe him as a real fire cracker."

Read Dayne's story – and get a look into the lives of 11 others who have come to terms with being HIV positive in the 2009 ACR calendar, "AIDS has no boundaries."



2009

26 years  
AIDS Community Resources

1983 - until it's over

Call 800.475.2430  
to order ACR's 2009 Calendar.  
**\$10 donation.**  
**SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!**



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Or mail in the back of this newsletter to:

AIDS Community Resources • 627 West Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13204

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November – December 2008

**Holiday Angel Collections**  
Call 1.800.475.2430 to sponsor

### December 1, 2008

**World AIDS Day** – Service of Hope and Remembrance,  
7:30 a.m. Panasci Family Chapel, Le Moyne College

### December 1, 2008

**World AIDS Day** – Service of Hope and Remembrance,  
5:30 p.m. Salvation Army Chapel, Clinton Street, Utica

### February 6 – 8, 2009

**Heart to Heart Tennis Event**  
Call 800.475.2430 to register your team.

### February 7, 2009

**Black HIV Awareness Day**

### February 21, 2009

**World's Shortest Mardi Gras Parade**,  
noon, Armory Square, Syracuse

### April 26, 2009

**11th Annual AIDS Hike For Life** – 5K fundraising  
walk/run at Hamilton College. [www.AIDSwalkCNY.com](http://www.AIDSwalkCNY.com)

### June 7, 2009

**17th Annual AIDS Walk/Run** – 5K fundraising  
walk, 10K run and Beaver Lake Nature Center.  
[www.AIDSwalkCNY.com](http://www.AIDSwalkCNY.com)

### August 16 – 22, 2009

**Empire State AIDS Ride** – 560 mile bicycle ride  
from Niagara Falls to New York City. Join the ACR Spokes  
Team! Call Carrie at 800.475.2430 or mail to:  
[clarge@aidscommunityresources.com](mailto:clarge@aidscommunityresources.com)

## PEER/VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Orientation sessions for new peers and volunteers are held twice monthly in both Syracuse and Utica. In Syracuse, call 475.2430. To sign up in Utica, call 793.0661.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### SYRACUSE YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS:

**LGBTQ** [ages 13-18]: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**TRANSGENDER** [ages 14-24]: Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
**STEPPIN' OUT** [ages 19-22]: Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

For location and further information: [qcenter@aidscommunityresources.com](mailto:qcenter@aidscommunityresources.com)

### UTICA YOUTH GROUP:

Sundays from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

For locations and further information, contact Mary Doody at 800.475.2430  
or [glbtqyouth@aidscommunityresources.com](mailto:glbtqyouth@aidscommunityresources.com)

### TREATMENT ADHERENCE GROUPS:

Alternate Tuesdays in Utica  
Alternate Wednesdays in Syracuse  
800.475.2430 for information