



27 Years AIDS Community Resources

Viewpoint

By Michael Crinnin
Executive Director



I just got through re-viewing prom photos: that time of the year. There were shots of beaming couples, singles, and groupings – happy to be dressed up and, ‘putting on the Ritz’, for a night. It’s impossible not to smile during this exercise – whether you know those pictured or not. In this case I didn’t know any of the happy campers, but I knew a lot about them.

In one way or another all pictured were associated with our Utica-based outreach and prevention program for gay youth: the “LGBTQ Youth Safety Initiative.” This was the 6th such event we sponsored in the Mohawk Valley for young people who continue to feel unwelcome at their own school proms. It has always struck me as a ‘good news/bad news’ affair.

There is something very painful about kids feeling so good about an event that shouldn’t have to be. ‘Separate’ is never ‘equal’ no matter how you play it – no matter how good a time... and on some level I believe these young people feel the bitterness of this very sweet experience.

The historical ‘separate but equal’ thing America imposed on African Americans up until a few decades ago was never ‘equal’ no matter how many white voices touted the policy. Once civil rights laws were finally in place, there were motels and restaurants in the South that chose to go out of business rather than serve blacks. Here, today, there are schools that cancel proms rather than have to acknowledge a gay homecoming couple, schools that cancel all student clubs in order to insure there will be no ‘Gay/Straight Alliance’, schools that don’t allow anti-bullying curriculums because ‘gay bashing’ would have to be acknowledged and the school doesn’t want to look as though it’s ‘sanctioning homosexuality’...

The data on the health risks faced by gay teens is more than alarming. They are disproportionately homeless, bullied, victims of physical and sexual

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

Here’s looking at
you...

Meet the man
who, for the past
16 years, has been
the faithful history
keeper of the AIDS
Walk/Run.
Turn to 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

New program, New jobs



ACR responds to climbing HIV numbers in women

AIDS Community Resources has been chosen to implement a New York State Department of Health Women's Initiative to reduce HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the Central, Northern, and Mohawk Valley regions of New York State. The program, to begin this summer, will offer HIV/STI prevention and related services for women ages 18-65.

Because of the high impact on African Americans, ACR's Women's Initiative will place special emphasis on reaching heterosexual African American women at high risk for HIV/STIs.

AIDS Community Resources has hired four Women's Health Advocates to implement the program in Syracuse, Utica, and Watertown. The Advocates will utilize the Safety First Outreach mobile units in Syracuse, Utica, and community settings in Watertown to counsel individuals about risk reduction; provide evidence-based group interventions; and provide confidential HIV, chlamydia, and gonorrhea screenings in the mobile units and in approved community settings.

The Women's Initiative is funded through a yearly \$193,735 allotment from the New York State Department of Health. Its goal is to decrease the rate of HIV/STIs among women living in Syracuse, Utica, and Watertown, New York, and their male partners.

Program Services:

Community Street-based outreach: face-to-face risk reduction sessions, distribution of HIV/AIDS, STI, and hepatitis written materials and supplies, skills-building demonstrations, and referrals.

Individual Risk Reduction Counseling: Comprehensive one-on-one risk HIV/STI reduction counseling sessions to reduce risk for the acquisition and/or transmission of HIV/STIs.

Educational Groups (Utica and Syracuse): A six-session intervention addressing influences that place women at risk for HIV/STIs.

Educational Groups (Watertown): A single-session, video-based HIV/STI prevention session to encourage condom use and negotiation skills.

Rapid oral HIV testing and urine chlamydia and gonorrhea screening available at ACR offices and designated community-based locations and at street-outreach sites in Syracuse, Utica, and Watertown.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of AIDS Community Resources is three-fold:

- To prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases;
- To provide support services to those who are living with HIV/AIDS; and
- To promote sexual literacy and improved medical outcomes.

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violence, chemically addicted, and with a suicide rate 3 times higher than the norm for all teens.

On some level there is far more openness – far more discussion on all issues ‘gay’: another good news/bad news scenarios. When I was growing up there was no discussion other than the rare ‘sin’ and depravity remarks by clergy, law enforcement and a politician or two. There were no TV talking heads or radio bobble heads routinely discussing gay rights (and those against them), gay marriage (and those against it), gay ordination (and those raging against it), etc. Silence was the norm and offered its own kind of pain and confusion.

I wonder though what it’s like for today’s gay youth who are constantly barged by discussions of the aforementioned issues? What’s it like to see images (on TV, supermarket news stands, computer screens, iPads, and on their phones...!) of young men and women in other countries executed for being gay: ‘lynched’ and stoned..? I don’t care how loudly they are plugged into their iPods, these commentaries and images are inescapable, relentless, and assaulting. Gay kids are the walking wounded whether they realize it or not, and as the data reflects, they pay a steep price.

So, they dance – and we shamelessly encourage it. They dance and dress up and show up at a public venue to pose for brilliantly smiling photos – for a night and for a right that we intend them to have for a life-time of nights. Say, “Cheese”!



Pride Prom chaperones: Left to right Miguel Rivera, Kelly Wolfe, Mary Doody, Ellen Gooch, Danny Harrigan

In the North Country... Coming soon to a neighborhood near you

June 24, 2010, Watertown~ AIDS Community Resources, Inc. (ACR) made application to the USDA to purchase a mobile van to serve residents of the North Country as part of its Safety First Outreach program. If awarded to AIDS Community Resources, the USDA would provide a grant of \$24,500 toward purchase of the unit, and offer ACR a ten-year loan of approximately \$40,000 to complete the purchase.

ACR has conducted mobile outreach in Syracuse since 1999 and in Utica since 2001 with significant success. “AIDS Community Resources believes in meeting people where they live and gather,” said ACR Executive Director, Michael Crinnin. “We believe having someone to talk to can help sort through a lot of challenges.” ACR staff and peer educators engage Syracuse and Utica community members in one-on-one conversations about prevention of HIV and other STDs. With acquisition of the mobile unit, this vital work will expand to the North Country.

11th Annual
“First Frost”
AIDS
Walk/Run

5K Fundraising Walk
5K Fundraising Run

presented by:



This is the Syracuse Safety First van. The North Country van would be similar – only newer. ACR’s mobile units are suited to HIV/STD testing and will establish neighborhood harm reduction and prevention services not now available to residents of Jefferson, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties. The North Country van will complete the fleet of ACR’s vehicles which provides mobile comprehensive risk reduction counseling and HIV/STD testing services currently in Syracuse and Utica.

If you want to help ACR raise money for a North Country Safety First van, sign up today for the First Frost AIDS Walk/Run, October 17, 2010, Thompson Park and Zoo. AIDSwalkCNY.com



Fundraisers trump weather at

June 6, 2010, Baldwinsville~ Heavy, drenching rain pelted the windshields of cars as Central New Yorkers made their way to Beaver Lake Nature Center on the morning of the 18th Annual AIDS Walk/Run, presented by Empower Federal Credit Union, on the first Sunday in June. Thousands braved the elements in strong support of AIDS Community Resources. "The community showed - rain, sleet, high winds, earthquakes, or even a bad tarot card reading - nothing will stop them from helping ACR continue to prevent the spread of HIV and remember the ones we have lost," said ACR Development Director, Carrie Large. The 18th Annual AIDS Walk/Run raised \$177,210 – money AIDS Community Resources uses to educate Central New York youth about preventing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to fund programs like our Safety First Outreach and the Q Center.

AIDS Community Resources wants to thank our sponsors for their invaluable assistance:

Title Sponsor: Empower Federal Credit Union

Sprinter Sponsor: Bristol-Myers Squibb

Jogger Sponsors: Beacon Federal • Constellation Energy • Wal-mart

Walker Sponsors: CNY Diagnostic Imaging Associates • KeyBank National Grid • Rural Metro Medical Services • Syracuse Home UnitedHealthCare

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Ever faithful Bill Louer took second place in individual fundraising.



Team Beacon's Wilpower, the top fundraising team years, has plans to take back first place next year.



Jesse McCauliffe, left, shown with radio personality Deaf Geoff, and fellow Henninger student Cortney, was top TATF student member, raising \$480.



Team Stumblers raised money by staging a series of fun parties.



Port Byron's team was voted "most creative."



BNY Mellon was third highest fundraising company.

18th Annual AIDS Walk/Run

Photos courtesy of Baker Photography



AIDS Walk/Run Final Results

Most Creative Team – Port Byron TATF

Biggest Team – Baldwinsville TATF (95 participants)

Top Teen AIDS Task Force Student Member

Jesse (from Henninger) - \$480

Eric Austin (Westhill) - \$200

Mackenzie Ross (Baldwinsville) - \$140

Top Teen AIDS Task Force

Baldwinsville - \$5,144

Westhill - \$1,425

Chittenango - \$1,233

Top Individual Fundraisers

Lynne Cleary - \$9,097

Bill Louer - \$7,910

Dave Mevoli - \$7,325

Top Fundraising Company Teams

Starbucks - \$17,665

MAC Cosmetics - \$9,097

BNY Mellon - \$3,161

Top Fundraising Community Teams

Team Stumblers - \$21,507

Beacon's Wilpower - \$17,207

Greg's Rainbow - \$2,933



Greg Coughlin died of AIDS in 2002 but his spirit lives on in Greg's Rainbow, a team of his family and friends.



Team Starbucks, a longtime and loyal supporter, raised more money than any other company team.



Two honors for this group: Team MAC took second place in the company team competition and Captain Lynne Cleary, right, was the top fundraiser overall with \$9,097.



highest fundraising teams.



Congressman Dan Maffei, a regular participant of the AIDS Walk/Run, helped kick off the event.



The team from Baldwinsville High School won a trophy as top Teen AIDS Task Force. With 95 members, Baldwinsville was also the biggest team at the AIDS Walk/Run.



Dave Mevoli, was presented a plaque for being the third highest individual fundraiser.



Westhill Teen AIDS Task Force was the number two TATF. Not shown is third place Chittenango TATF.

AIDS Walk/Run coverage continues...

A huge *thank you* to History Keeper, Ed Baker



For the past 44 years, photographer Ed Baker has specialized in wedding and portrait photography.

In 1993 a friend inspired him to photograph the Gay Community, to try to capture relationships with his portraits. "I found people who had a great sense of humor and were great fun to work with," Mr. Baker said. "I have always enjoyed the AIDS Walk; it has been one of my favorite assignments." And why not? Early Sunday morning at beautiful Beaver Lake, working with dedicated people who are having fun. "The runners and walkers do all of the work," said Mr. Baker, "and I am having fun with my cameras." Through the years Mr. Baker's family members assisted him: son, daughter, his late wife, and now his girl friend have all joined in. Ed Baker says he always gets excited when they hold up the numbers at the close of the event telling the amount raised. Ed, so do we!

Thank you for chronicling the AIDS Walk/Run for the past 16 years!

18th Annual AIDS Walk/Run – 10K Run Results

Results by Leone Timing & Results Services



Overall winner – male
Ryan Gilmore - 36:57

Overall winner – female
Shelly Connors – 43:16

Male 1-19
Ethan Pacheck – 39:22
Jim Mather – 41:14

Female 1-19
Caroline Marshall – 46:23
Becca Bergman – 49:23

Male 20-29
Arthur Craig – 45:54
Karl Ruggaber – 46:56

Female 20-29
Breann Dodge – 47:01
Betsy Meldrim – 47:59

Male 30-39
Jason Pare – 41:43
Dave Celuch – 45:29

Female 30-39
Felicia Case - 45:32
Jessica Charbonneau – 48:55

Male 40-49
Michael Centore – 40:18
John Ferrini – 48:57

Female 40-49
Denise Calcagnino – 52:36
Danielle Carr – 57:52

Male 50-59
Leo Berman – 47:10
Gary Burak – 47:20

Female 50-59
Colleen Zawadski – 1:12:07
Diane Crossett – 1:18:31

Male 60-99
William Spreter – 56:28
Arthur Hudak – 1:01:42

Female 60-99
Gloria Becerra – 1:17:41

Serving up safer sex

Zanetta Green, HIV Prevention Specialist for ACR's Safety First Health Outreach Project, has found an unconventional approach to getting community buy-in. She's adapted a vegetable tray to hold condoms, dental dams, lube, and HIV prevention information so she can share more easily with people who approach the outreach team. If you'd like to hear Zanetta talk about real issues in our community, tune in to Radio 1540 AM - WSIV from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Saturday.



Zanetta Green has come up with a new way to "serve" the sexual safety message.

In the North Country... Serving up the facts on nutrition



Weight loss remains a common problem for people living with AIDS. HIV drains the human immune system of vitamins and nutrients, making proper nutrition an integral part of any successful treatment of HIV/AIDS.

In collaboration with Liberty Resources, ACR's Watertown office is offering an important nutrition counseling program that helps people make good food decisions. It teaches budgeting, shopping, planning for, and preparing meals. Consumers learn how to read food labels by focusing on items like calories, fat, sodium content, and serving size. After initial counseling, participants get a \$25 voucher redeemable at local supermarket where they put their new lessons into practice. When they return a receipt they receive another voucher. Clients can be part of the program for up to 18 months.

"Clients I have referred so far love this program," said North Country Case Manager Cathy Vaughn. "They like taking an active role in maintaining their health." Nutrition Assistant Brian Cowden said the program is a good fit for Liberty Resources as well. "Watertown has been wonderful. The people have been like sponges soaking up every bit of knowledge we can offer."

North Country Case Manager Cathy Vaughn has a new weapon in her arsenal to help rebuild the health of HIV positive consumers.

If you'd like information call Cathy Vaughn in Watertown at 785.2222 or 1.800.475.2430. The nutritional counseling program will expand to ACR's Cayuga County office in Auburn later this summer.



In the Mohawk Valley... Peers recognized for contributions to ACR



Utica, May 2010 ~ ACR'S Abdul Vohid points to volunteer Jim Lorman as Jim was singled out for a special award for dedicated service to AIDS Community Resources. Jim works with HIV Prevention Specialist Mike Johnson on outreach and is willing to help whenever called upon. Jim is very proud to go back to the treatment facility where he had once lived and tell the director about the good work he is doing now with people he meets on Safety First Outreach – people who face the problems he once had. Jim was ecstatic when he won the plaque. "He is paying it forward in more than one way," said Abdul Vohid. "He's working so others can avoid both the HIV virus and the addiction."



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ACR offers its services to anyone without discrimination based on age, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, political affiliation, marital status, handicapped status, or mode of transmission.

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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

October 17, 2010

11th Annual First Frost AIDS Walk/Run
5K fundraising walk and 5K timed run at Thompson Park in Watertown.
www.AIDSwalkCNY.com

December 1, 2010

World AIDS Day
Remembrance service at 7:30 a.m. at LeMoyne College's Panasci Chapel.

November - December 2010

Holiday Angels
Join us as we brighten the holiday season for those affected by HIV and AIDS by providing needed items for our clients. Call 800.475.2430 for more information.

November - December 2010

2010 Holiday Ornament
a solid brass collectible ornament with gold and enamel finish. Call 800.475.2430.

Follow us on:



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.
 TRANSYOUTH [ages 14-24]: 1st Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 STEPPIN' OUT [ages 19-22]: Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
 For location and further information: qcenter@AIDSCommunityResources.com

UTICA LGBTQ YOUTH GROUP:

New Time, New Location. Thursdays 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 For locations and further information, contact Mary Doody at 315.701.2422 or glbtqyouth@AIDSCommunityResources.com

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