



25 Years
AIDS Community Resources

Groundbreaking HIV prevention program

expands

In 2008 AIDS Community Resources, Harvey's Pharmacy, and the New York State Department of Health established a syringe access program in Syracuse designed to reduce a significant pathway for HIV infection. The program, ESAP (Expanded Syringe Access Program), was so successful it has been extended for three years.

HIV Prevention Specialist Joanne Jimenez.



“The biggest step for them is to confide in us.”

On the streets of Syracuse and Utica, heroin is the injection drug of choice. Heroin powder (or tar) is cooked down, strained for impurities, drawn into a syringe, and injected into a vein. Injection drug users (IDUs) can become infected with HIV and Hepatitis C and transmit the viruses to others by sharing contaminated syringes and through high-risk sexual behaviors. The CDC estimates that 20% of HIV infections occur in this way.

Syracuse ESAP uses vouchers to get new syringes in the hands of IDUs. “It took a while for the voucher system to catch on,” said HIV Prevention Specialist Joanne Jimenez. “Now friends are telling friends that you can go to Harvey’s for new needles without a hassle.”

Here’s how ESAP works: ACR’s prevention workers to go into targeted neighborhoods in the street outreach van; educate about the dangers of sharing needles; and give vouchers that can be redeemed at Harvey’s Pharmacy for ten new syringes. At first, 12 to 19 vouchers were traded in each month. By June 2009, the number had grown to 50.

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



She ran her heart out, won her division and helped prevent AIDS. Not bad for a Sunday jaunt in the park.

Complete coverage of the 17th Annual AIDS Walk/Run beginning on page 4.

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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ACR in Syracuse

627 W. Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
315.475.2430 • 800.475.2430
Fax 315.472.6515

ACR in Utica

401 Columbia St.
Utica, NY 13502
315.793.0661 • Fax 315.735.9551

ACR in Watertown

230 Franklin St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315.785.8222 • Fax 315.836.0033

ACR in Canton

9 Miner St.
Canton, NY 13617
315.386.4493 • Fax 315.253.3952

ACR in Auburn

17 E. Genesee St.
Auburn, NY 13021
315.253.7924 • Fax 315.253.3952

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10 George St.
Oswego, NY 13126
315.343.7778 • Fax 315.343.4663

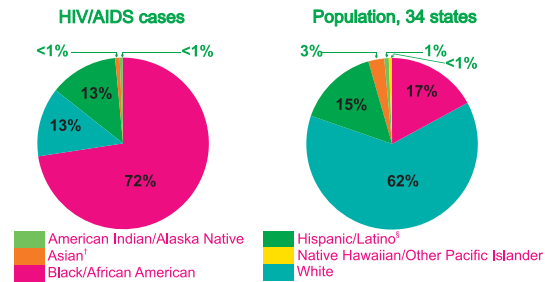
Newsletter Editor

Jean Kessner

Emergency campaign to reverse the *AIDS epidemic among African American youth*

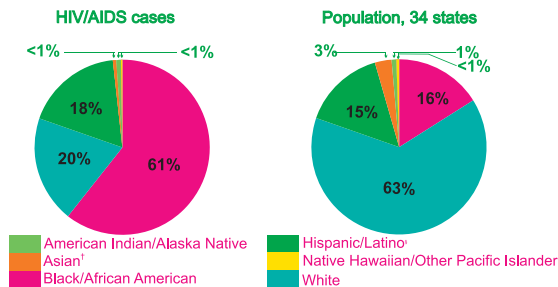
These graphs illustrate the alarming and increasing threat HIV/AIDS represents for young African Americans. According to the Department of Health and Human Services:

Percentages of HIV/AIDS Cases and Population among Adolescents 13 to 19 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity Diagnosed in 2007 - 34 States



Just 17% of all young people in the U.S. between the ages of 13 and 19 are African Americans, yet 72% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 13 to 19 year olds were in black/African American adolescents.

Percentages of HIV/AIDS Cases and Population among Young Adults 20 to 24 Years of Age, by Race/Ethnicity Diagnosed in 2007 - 34 States:



African American young adults are also disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Only 16% of young adults 20 to 24 years of age are African American, yet 61% of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in that age group are in African Americans.

In Central New York...

Response to a growing epidemic



George Kilpatrick of WCNY talking with students before taping an interview.

June 2, Syracuse~ WCNY broadcaster George Kilpatrick knew he had to take action when he learned:

The primary cause of infection in African American girls 13-19 is heterosexual sex without a condom.

The primary cause of infection in U.S. boys 13-19 is unprotected sex with other males.

Kilpatrick scheduled a show on WCNY; interviewed Nottingham TATF members about sex, students, and staying safe. The result was a very informative television segment with Nottingham TATFers supplying strong information about sexual safety and healthy decision-making.

Continued from page 1



Pharmacist Gary Brothers of Harvey's Pharmacy. "People trust him."

On outreach, HIV Prevention Specialists establish trust and then encourage individuals to come to the office for an HIV test – offering a \$5 Burger King gift card if they follow through. "The biggest step for them is to confide in us and use our services," said Ms. Jimenez. "Then we can start on the road to safety and healing."

It is not a requirement to totally abstain to participate in ACR's substance abuse programs. Cold turkey is often not a viable option. But some respond when encouraged to set achievable goals. For instance, if they get high five times a day, the first goal is to reduce that to four. It's the voucher that gets them in the door.

Ms. Jimenez credits Gary Brothers of Harvey's Pharmacy as a key player. "He treats people decently. He doesn't judge. People trust him."

Every other pharmacy ACR approached in trying to establish ESAP a year ago said no. None of their fears has come to pass. "I've been very happy with how the program is working," said Mr. Brothers. "I know we are making a real difference in people's lives."

The New York State Department of Health's decision to extend ESAP by three years is a sound one that will help reduce the spread of HIV in Syracuse and give injection drug users a chance at a healthier life.

Levy K-8 School girls walk their own walk to **FIGHT HIV/AIDS**

This group of Syracuse school girls known as "Levy Building Women" has stepped up to the plate to support AIDS Community Resources. Early in the school year they selected topics they wanted to learn more about and agencies they wanted to help. AIDS was at the top of their list, along with breast cancer and domestic violence. The day before the 17th Annual AIDS Walk/Run at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville, Levy students held their own AIDS Walk through their east side neighborhood, soliciting donations from friends to raise the minimum \$25 per person as they would have done to participate in the big AIDS Walk/Run event.



TATF educator *receives award*



The Media Unit recognized the good work of Jana Gaeta, Teen AIDS Task Force educator for Syracuse, by naming her the "2009 Youth Worker of the Year." Jana's energy for the job is recognized at AIDS Community Resources as well. "Jana throws her heart and soul into making sure the teens she is responsible for educating are smart about HIV and STDs and smart about the choices they make," said ACR Executive Director, Michael Crinnin. "She's a great role model and the teens love her."

Well done, Jana!

In Central New York... *17th Annual*

The 17th Annual AIDS Walk/Run, presented by Empower Federal Credit Union, set a one-day fundraising record of \$201,245. This incredible accomplishment was due in part to the work of several key teams and individuals, and the large number of dependable supporters ACR has amassed over 17 seasons.

"What impressed me most," said AIDS Community Resources' Executive Director, Michael Crinnin, "were the 13-hundred people who came out to support us. That's the key to stopping AIDS."

All of the money raised at the AIDS Walk/Run stays in Central New York for emergency client services and for ACR's extensive youth HIV prevention programs.



Hey you. Yeah, you, there in the crowd. Thank you!!!! for helping A



Congressman Dan Maffei launched the 17th Annual AIDS Walk/Run and then walked with Abby Davidson Maffei, Michael Crinnin, and Marion Crinnin.



We've seen costumes over the years, but The Empire took the prize as most creative team.



Thank you Starbucks for raising the most money ever!
\$22,546



Ethan Pacheck is first while brother Adam is second by a second.



B'ville Bees, Top Teen AIDS Task Force (TATF)



Chittenango TATF



Westhill TATF

Annual AIDS Walk/Run



Top fundraising teams:

1. Starbucks - \$22,546*
2. WilPower - \$17,553
3. Team Stumblers - \$12,274

Top Teen AIDS Task Force teams:

1. B'ville Bees
2. Chittenango High School
3. Westhill High School

Top Fundraisers:

1. Bill Louer - \$10,118*
2. Lynne Clarey - \$4,800
3. Chuck Simpson - \$3,800

Top TATF Fundraisers:

1. Michael Guardino
2. Christina O'Brien
3. Caleb Mannix

All totals are from June 7.

* all time record

AIDS Community Resources raise more than \$201,000 in one day!



ever!



WilPower's Bill Louer, 4th from right, was highest individual fundraiser. WilPower the team took second place.



Team Stumblers held parties to raise money and came in third place overall.



Lynne Clarey (left) of MAC Cosmetics was 2nd highest fundraiser.



I TATF



Presenting sponsor Empower Federal Credit Union with Dollar Dog front and center.



Andrew DeMarzio came out in a big way – winning a crown to join the \$500 club.



Part of the money from the AIDS Walk/Run benefits the Q Center, so Q center youth worked for their own cause.

AIDS Walk/Run coverage continues...

And the winner is...

Undoubtedly the most sought-after prize at the AIDS Walk/Run was two tickets to the Dave Matthews Band concert at Alliance Bank Stadium, courtesy of TJ Sheehan. Kathleen Hallstead (right), pictured with her friend Kathy Falco, won the tickets.



Camping for cash

Radio personality DeafGeoff from HOT 107.9 camped out in Carousel Center from May 29th through June 1st beginning on the Friday morning show at 5:30 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. Monday morning, his personal fundraiser to support the AIDS Walk/Run. He gathered prizes and products from Carousel retailers, which he traded to his fans for cold hard cash. One gift he could not part with was the Build-a-Bear with hearing aids. On his blog, <http://www.hot1079.com/pages/deafgeoff.html>, DeafGeoff announced he had raised \$5,862.90 for the cause. He's proud of what came in, but says it's still far short of the goal of \$10,079 and says he's still taking donations.



The AIDS Walk/Run is so hugely successful in part because of all the behind-the-scenes work (and giving) from hundreds of individuals and companies. Randy from Sam's Club #6438 in Clay/Liverpool showed his company's public spirit by presenting this generous check for \$250 to ACR's Carrie Large.

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

Title Sponsor: Empower Federal Credit Union

Sprinter Sponsors: Bank of America, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Jogger Sponsors: Beacon Federal, Constellation Energy, Wal-Mart

Walker Sponsors: Kinney Drugs Foundation, Syracuse Home, www.WellCareRevolution.com

Friends Sponsors: Geddes Federal Savings & Loan Association, Green & Seifter Attorneys PLLC, Oneida Savings Bank, P&C, Price Chopper, Tibotec Therapeutics, TJ Sheehan, UPS, Wegmans

Media Sponsors: Family Times, Fox 68 WSYT, HOT 107.9, My 43 WNYS, POWER 106.9, Syracuse New Times

Rider profile: Sheri Dozier Owens



In less than a month, Sheri Dozier Owens will bicycle from Niagara Falls to NYC to raise money for AIDS Community Resources in the 7th Annual Empire State AIDS Ride. This is Sheri's third ESAR. She needs your help to raise \$3,500 entry fee for the 560-mile event. Sheri takes a week off from her job as Media Center Director at Syracuse City Hall to ride. If you want to be Sheri's teammate, contact Carrie at clarge@AIDSCommunityResources.com. To support Sheri financially, her Web site is: http://web.me.com/sdozierowens/Faith-works/Faith_Works/Faith_Works.html



“Like many Americans, I thought the battle with AIDS was over. I am saddened to say that I was wrong and equally disheartened to quote the statistic that 50% of new HIV infections occur in African Americans.”

Add a line to your resume... *Volunteer at ACR*

WANTED: individuals with a background in group facilitation to pilot HIV positive support groups in Syracuse, Utica, Watertown and Auburn. The candidate should possess clear boundaries, strong interpersonal and communication skills plus a demonstrated ability to relate well with a diverse population.

WANTED: individuals to provide periodic coverage on a multiple line phone system. Professional, friendly face and voice to greet the public and assist Syracuse staff.

For more information contact Mary at 800.475.2430.

In the Mohawk Valley...

Helping Young People Excel



Street Movers took 3rd place in the group category.

A talent competition now in its second year, HYPE has become a very important and creative outlet for the Utica youth who want to shine; who are conscientious and involved in their community in a positive way. They all consider themselves Peer Educators because they take AIDS Community Resources' mission seriously, know how HIV/AIDS affects their peers and community, and put their talent out there to help raise community awareness.

The group pictured here, Street Movers, was a very entertaining and charismatic dance group that choreographed their own unique routine. What set them apart from other acts I've seen was the focus on each of their individual styles within the group. They were recruited from Proctor High School and were a big hit with the crowd.

Event Co-Organizer, Nicole Skinner



627 West Genesee Street
Syracuse, New York 13204
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Or mail in the back of this newsletter to:
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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 email to: clarge@aidcommunityresources.com

October 18, 2009

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

November – December 2009

Holiday Angel Collections
Call 1.800.475.2430 to sponsor

December 1, 2009

World AIDS Day

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]: 1st and 3rd 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@aidcommunityresources.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@aidcommunityresources.com