

THE CONNECTION

Newsletter of AIDS Project Quad Cities



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Update - the 17th Annual Red Ribbon Dinner and grand Auction.... You All Roared at RRD!!!!

This attendees of this year's Roaring Twenties themed Red Ribbon Dinner and Grand Auction let us all know they were there and supportive. The reviews from participants were resounding in their excitement and enthusiasm. The food, art and entertainment were all top rate!! We all took a step back in time as the music of Josh Duffee and his Orchestra filled the air with the rhythm and sounds of the Twenties. Event chair Bob Ramos and committee followed in the tradition of excellence. A total of \$65,000 was raised throughout the evening activities. "Though Client Assistance funds were down this year, the generosity of our supporters is beyond belief, especially during the current economic climate," stated executive director Wendy Kelly. "The Board, Staff and clients are all extremely grateful to Bob and his committee," Kelly said. APQC appreciates the generous donation of time from committee members and dinner volunteers, especially our M.C. Kai Swanson and Auctioneer Jana Stenzel and her crew. We are also extremely grateful for those artists and businesses that donated to the Auction as well as our event sponsors. The Red Ribbon Dinner is already hard at work for next year. So if you missed this year's fun and fellowship – vow not to miss it again!



Thank you to the following members of the 2010 Red Ribbon Dinner committee:

Bob Ramos – Event Chairman
Chuck Arnold, Thea Hansen-Bettis,
Norbert Herrera, Todd Hess, Justin Landwehr, Rohn Rich

Thank you to the following event sponsors

50,000 Feet Inc.
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Thoughts from the Executive Director.....

As APQC has evolved over the years, we have made great strides but have many miles to journey. This last year the agency has accomplished so much. 6 years ago when I joined APQC, Polly, Thea and I talked endlessly about the future of the agency – where we were headed and where we were going. Many of those thoughts turned to plans, became part of the strategic plan and have become a reality. One of the big issues that we faced was space for the agency for the services we provided and wanted to provide. In 2007, that became a reality. The agency purchased a building that would be home for APQC. What a difference a location and space has made. Programs and services are thriving and growing. Demand for services has grown, as grant dollars have shrunk. APQC has learned to work simply. Staying focused in grassroot services; working with clients meeting them where they are at. The vision and plan of growing the agency has never left anyone’s sight. As the work with the disease became more scientific and inclusive, the agency has kept pace. Staying focused on the mission of providing sexual health care, we continue to strive to be better. Another major accomplishment in 2009 was to apply for a Center for Disease Control (CDC) HIV prevention grant. The preparation for this application started 6 years ago in conversations with Polly, Thea and I. The application was written, submitted and we are awaiting the results, but the work continues. As new populations have come to the forefront, the agency has adapted. We have modified programs and services to fit the needs. We continue to grow and meet the needs of the community. I thank the supporters, volunteers and staff for the tireless effort and hours they have devoted and continue to devote. APQC is more than just another community based agency, we are an extended family.

**TODD’S PLACE
FEED THE NEED**

Please help APQC fill its Food Pantry.

During the month of March & April, AIDS Project Quad Cities will be having a Food Drive to help stock its pantry shelves. All can goods or non- perishable foods items will be accepted. In conjunction with The Feinstein Foundation all collected items will be matched by Their MILLION DOLLAR give away. What this means is every can good will have \$1.00 value and other non-perishable up to 1 LB. will equal \$1.00. Feinstein will match dollar for dollar what we raise. In addition, they will match any monetary donation raised during the month of April for the food Pantry.



How can you help?

- Drop off any cans goods at the APQC office -
Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Establish a drop off box at your place of Employment –
APQC will provide all Informational materials and drop off boxes
- Host can goods dinner party - from Pizza to Lobster –
Charge a can donation at the door.
- Solicit from friends, family and neighbors
- Mail a monetary donation to 2316 5th Avenue, Moline IL 61265

FEED-THE-NEED is a program for clients infected HIV/AIDS to ensure nutritional stability. Sponsored by AIDS Project Quad Cities.

**For additional information contact
APQC at
309-762-5433.**



Thank You!

AIDS Project Quad Cities extends a special thank you to the following individuals and businesses that provided monetary or in kind donations since December 2009.

Cash/Grants/Memorials/United Way/In Kind Equipment/Materials/Services/Artwork

Alcoa Inc.	Darryl Hanneken	Jennifer Jackson	Marla Hess	Sandra Seeley
Andrew Bonde	Darwyn Buechler	Jerold Wulf	Mary Ann Wicks	Sandra Siefker
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Barbara Deal	Diane Reinsch	Joel Franken	Norbert Herrera	Stephen & Sandra Cramm
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Christine McCarthy	Jana Stenzel	Liz Gann	Rod Kurriger	United Healthcare Services, Inc
Chuck Arnold	Janet Fitzgerald	Lonnie Hicks	Rohn Rich	United Way of the Q.C.
Claudia Ramirez	Jay McCowan	Lojo Russo	Ronald Cameron	US Bank
Craig Mekow	J.C. Deck	Lorriane Krause	Ronald Coder	Wanda McKinney
CSL Plasma	Jeffrey Simpson	M.D. Koch	Ronald Friichtenicht	Wayne & Nancy Nieland
Dale & Jef Farland	Jean Condon	Mark Fowler	Rosio Bojorquez	Wells Fargo Foundation
Dale Kruse	Jennifer Baden	Mark Wilkinson	Sandra Millage	Wendy Henzen
Dan Christison	Jennifer Carpenter	Mark Zevenbergen	Sarah Gustafson	Wendy Kelly
Dan Fox	Jennifer Carpenter	Michael Hetrick	Scott & Roxane Burzlaff	William McFarland
Deb Peterson-Fitzsimmons	Jim Thyne	Michael Petersen	Sharlin Barfield	

We sincerely apologize if we have omitted any person or organization that contributed to APQC since December 2009. Please contact the office to get the situation rectified at (309) 762-5433.

Please Help APQC!

The following are excerpts from testimony Wendy Kelly, Executive Director of APQC presented on January 22nd to an Illinois House Panel on the State HIV budget crisis (for the full list of all testimony please visit http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/adap_2010.php)

.....The immediate impact of this funding cut reaches far and wide in the APQC service area. The current and high risk client base ranges from new born babies that are at risk of sero conversion without intervention and follow up, to the 65 year old woman that went to Cancun to recover from a divorce and contracted HIV. Since July of 2009, Rock Island County has had four women with HIV give birth. These babies need intense case management and care while their mothers need a multitude of support services. Yesterday, prior to traveling here, APQC case management transported an HIV positive female to the doctor with her four children. During this clinic visit we were informed that her youngest child had not been seen since he was 2 months old. The baby is now 7 months old, and his physicians are unsure of what his HIV status will be. With current funding cuts, the State of Illinois will be facing the reality of producing another generation of infants with HIV and other medical issues, and those children will be looking to the state to provide a lifelong commitment for care and medication. Some politicians may think that these children and older adults can seek services elsewhere, but agencies like APQC can attest to the fact that these citizens of Illinois have nowhere else to turn. Community organizations are the last stop gap for these individuals and their families as there is no one else to help APQC, as a provider, is charged with the job of providing the best possible service including minimizing costly hospitalizations and medical costs associated with latent stage diagnoses and care treatment services. If an individual is diagnosed early, there is every opportunity to increase wellness and reduce cost.....

What does this astronomical cut in funding mean for APQC? It means that the State of Illinois has only funded our prevention efforts for the first six months of 2010. Additionally, the amount of funding they provided was **50% less** than 2009 **AND** no proposed funding for the second half of 2010. We are faced with a real crisis. Client numbers are growing as the number of new infections rise in the Quad City area, and the demand for testing is increasing. ***If we have to shut down the APQC prevention program, there are no other Community organizations in our area to provide these services.***

In an effort to replace some of our lost funding, AIDS Project Quad Cities has implemented some special events and a direct mail appeal. We hope the QC community can rally in these tough economic times to embrace and support us. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, family, and co-workers, and join us when you can to support APQC.

UP COMING EVENTS

Putt Putt Golf Tournament – May 13th, 2010

Valley Falls Adventure Golf - 324 W 1st Ave Coal Valley



First Flight Registration begins at 4:00 pm with play starting at 4:30 pm. Buffet dinner to follow. Dinner begins at 5:30 for the Second flight with registration at 6:00 pm. Play begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$20.00 per person or \$100.00 for a team of four. – Prizes awarded to the top team in each flight. There will also be a “Putt-off” and a 50/50 raffle. Fun for the whole family while your \$\$ goes to support continued prevention services!



Love movies? Come join us on the third Saturday of each month! APQC will be showing a movie and providing “old fashion popcorn” on the third Saturday of each month at our office. The suggested donation is \$5.00 and the show will start promptly at 5:00 pm. Up coming titles are Torch Song Trilogy, Broke Back Mountain and the Bird Cage – We do take requests – so mark your calendars and join us for a great time.

What's Happening at AIDS Project Quad Cities

New Name New Site – AIDS Project Quad Cities will be entering our 25th year with a new name and new website. Our Board of Directors overwhelmingly ratified a new name for APQC. This summer our official new name will be “The Project” *our mission your life*. Thanks to Michael Peterson and his partners at 50,000 Feet, Inc. in Chicago, APQC was the recipient of an in-kind donation that redesigned our logo and all additional branding material. Our friends at Digiforce are once again designing a fresh new look for our website – there will be updated links, archives, program information, events, volunteer opportunities, donations, streaming info, blogging, and links to Twitter and our Facebook page. We are very excited and hope you will be too.

After Eight Years – Illinois Case Management will be returning to APQC. Effective April 1, 2010 – Illinois case managers Marie McGinnis and Jean Dutton will become AIDS Project Quad Cities employees - welcome girls! Illinois case management left APQC eight years ago when it transferred to Community Health Care, Inc. Since then it went to RICCA and back to CHC. “I am so glad,” stated Wendy Kelly, Executive Director, “To have Illinois and Iowa Care Case management under one agency again just makes sense for the clients and the community”. The lead agent role for Illinois Clients will remain with Winnebago County Health Department and Marie and Jean will continue to be housed in the Quad City Virology Clinic. The agency is proud and pleased to have Jean and Marie on our staff please join us in welcoming them to the APQC family!

Many thanks to our Change for Children/Kids Fund supporters. This year's Kids Christmas was by everyone's standards a success. As one of our clients so eloquently put it – watching your child open a gift that they have wanted so much – the smile, the squeals the absolute joy on their face makes my heart overflow. A huge thank you to Sandra Seeley Owner /Operator of Queens Parlour and Cosmetology Salon and her patrons for the Angel tree; A-1 Nails in Moline and the elves who gleefully wrapped at our party. And a special thank you to Ron Friichtenicht for the pizza and Clayton Peterson for connecting our kids to his generous friends.

Remember Thursday night dinners at Connections Nightclub – We are looking for Chefs of all skill levels. Please contact Thea Hansen at 309.762.5433 if you are interested in cooking a whole dinner, sides, or dessert and if you would like to be on the email distribution list for the menu of the week.

Shop, Search, Shop and Search Some More.....Okay – to all you online shoppers and surfers of the net – APQC is now a member of the most popular search engine and online shopping collective for non-profits in America. To support us all you have to do is use Goodsearch.com as your search engine a couple times a week. **Yahoo powers it and for each search you make APQC will receive a penny.** They also have online shopping with over a 1000 stores of which APQC will receive a percentage of your purchase. Use the links below to access Goodsearch, select AIDS Project Quad Cities as your charity of choice, and surf away. Please check it out and let us know what you think and as always thank you for support APQC.

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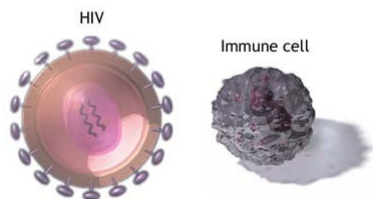
APQC Access line... Starting April 1, 2010—you can call 309.269.9306 any time after 5:00 pm with any questions or concerns regarding HIV/AIDS or if you are a client with an emergency or special need.

What HIV does in your body (source www.aids.gov)

When you are infected with HIV, there are multiple things happening in your immune system at the cellular level.

Transmission - When HIV enters your body through sexual contact, transfusions with infected blood, or by injection with a needle that has infected blood in or on it, researchers believe that the virus attaches to a specific type of *immune system* cell called a *dendritic cell*. These cells are found in *mucocutaneous* (mucosal membranes) areas that line the mouth, the vagina, rectum, penis, and the upper gastrointestinal tract. Scientists think that these dendritic cells transport the virus from the site of the infection to your lymph nodes where HIV can infect other immune system cells.

- continued on page 6-



Life-cycle of HIV in your cells - HIV can infect multiple cells in your body, including brain cells, but its main target is the *CD4 lymphocyte*, also called a **T-cell** or **CD4** cell. When a CD4 cell is infected with HIV, the virus goes through multiple steps to reproduce itself and create many more virus particles. The process is broken up into the following steps: **Binding and Fusion**: This is the process by which HIV binds to a specific type of *CD4 receptor* and a *co-receptor* on the surface of the CD4 cell. This is similar to a key entering a lock. Once unlocked, HIV can fuse with the host cell (CD4 cell) and release its genetic material into the cell. **Reverse Transcription**: A special *enzyme* called *reverse transcriptase* changes the genetic material of the virus, so it can be integrated into the host DNA. **Integration**: The virus' new genetic material enters the *nucleus* of the CD4 cell and uses an enzyme

called *integrase* to integrate itself into your own genetic material, where it may "hide" and stay inactive for several years. **Transcription**: When the host cell becomes activated, and the virus uses your own enzymes to create more of its genetic material—along with a more specialized genetic material which allows it make longer **proteins**. **Assembly**: A special enzyme called *protease* cuts the longer HIV *proteins* into individual proteins. When these come together with the virus' genetic material, a new virus has been assembled. **Budding**: This is the final stage of the virus' life cycle. In this stage, the virus pushes itself out of the host cell, taking with it part of the *membrane* of the cell. This outer part covers the virus and contains all of the structures necessary to bind to a new CD4 cell and receptors and begin the process again. These steps of the life-cycle of HIV are important to know because **the medications used to control HIV infection act to interrupt this replication cycle.**



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