

Red Matters

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THE NEWSLETTER OF AIDS CALGARY AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

October 2009

Holiday Hampers

November marks the launch of AIDS Calgary's annual Holiday Hamper program.

Our holiday hampers contain all the essential items for a festive holiday dinner in addition to basic personal care items.

In addition to monetary donations, we are seeking donations of goods from the community to fill up our hampers. This year, we are appealing to you to consider donating some necessary items.

In 2008 we distributed 107 hampers, a 67% increase over 2007. In 2009 we have seen a drastic increase in new client intakes. **Meeting basic needs has been identified as a primary concern of our clients and our holiday hampers help to fill those needs.**

In 2009 our goal is to increase hamper distribution by another 20% to 130 hampers. You can help by supplying items from the list below. Whether you can give 1 or 130 of the following items, this holiday gift to our clients will be greatly appreciated.

- 130 books of adult bus tickets (book of 10)
- 130 bottles of shampoo and conditioner (355mL or larger)
- 130 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste (130mL or larger)
- 130 boxes of laundry detergent (1.9kg box or larger)
- 130 bars of body soap
- 130 packages toilet paper (6 pack or larger)
- 130 male or female razors (3 pack or larger)
- 130 male or female sock packs (3 pack or larger)
- 130 male or female sticks deodorant (70g or larger)

Thank you for your consideration this holiday season. Your gift will ensure a brighter holiday for our clients. If you have any questions or would like more information about our Holiday Hamper program please contact us at 403-508-2500 or info@aidscalgary.org.

2009 Walk - A Smashing Success!

We are thrilled to announce that the 2009 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life was an unparalleled success!

On Sunday, September 20th, over 600 walkers and 125 volunteers came together despite gray skies and chilly weather. Together we surpassed our fundraising goal, raising over \$142,000!

Funds raised from the AIDS Walk support our HIV/AIDS

prevention education, community outreach and support services for people at risk for, living with, and affected by HIV.

Bryon Callaghan was once again our top walker, raising over \$14,000. Team RBC was our Top Corporate Team, raising over \$5,900 and Team Love was our Top Non-Corporate Team, raising \$9,296.

We saw an amazing increase in teams this year. 59 teams came out to show their support at this important awareness raising event, an increase of 43%. Their enthusiasm was palpable throughout the day and creative costuming was the new norm!

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Core Training

November 7 Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm, Location: AIDS Calgary Training Room.

Increase your knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS in this free workshop. Topics covered include: safer sex & HIV/AIDS, living with HIV/AIDS and challenging stereotypes. To register, call (403) 508-2500 or email info@aidscalgary.org.

Friday Lunch

October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18 Time: 1:00pm. Location: Calgary Cares Centre.

Friday lunches are an opportunity for those living with HIV/AIDS to share in a hot, nutritious meal in a safe non-judgmental environment. *For registered clients of AIDS Calgary.*

Coffee Connection

October 16 & 30, November 13 & 27, December 11 Time: 1:00pm. Location: Calgary Cares Centre.

Drop by for some coffee and conversation. For registered clients of AIDS Calgary

GLBT-A Community Giving Conference

October 23, 2009, Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm. Location: Fort Calgary, 806 - 9 Avenue SE

Hot New Positive Program

CNP+ is a new social group at AIDS Calgary for people living with HIV/AIDS. This is a one year pilot project. The purpose of the group is to provide a safe place for people to meet others, make friends and participate in activities.

Upcoming events include a bowling night, attending the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and more!

To get involved, please contact Michael at 403-508-2500 or cnp@aidscalgary.org. Keep your eye on our online event calendar at aidscalgary.org for more details on upcoming events!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all the walkers, team captains, sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make this event our most successful Walk ever!

A special thank you to all of our event sponsors:

Sprint

Alberta Dental Association & College
Bridge Brand
Gay Calgary and Edmonton Magazine
Pfizer

Stride

General Teamsters Local 362
Merck Frosst
Sorrenti's Catering
Starbucks
Twisted Element

Step

Cruiseline
International Fitness Holdings
Majestic Tent & Event
Tac Mobility
Trojan

Stroll

Banff Boutique Inn
The Bison Restaurant and Lounge
Calgary Eagle
Delta Bow Valley
Jamieson Laboratories
The Keg

Palisade Security
Yves Veggie Cuisine

Media

Avenue Magazine
Beatroute Magazine
Calgary Herald
Citytv
Impact Magazine
JackFM, Lite96,
660News, Fan960
Outlooks Magazine

Prizing

Cactus Fire, Fire Escape,
Heritage Park, Hotel Arts,
Old Spaghetti Factory,
Panago Pizza, Pumphouse
Theatre, Sage Theatre,
Sheraton Hotels, Swizzlesticks,
Theatre Calgary,
Uptown Theatre, Willow
Park Wine & Spirits, Vipers
Baseball



Thank you to our volunteer photographers: Joe Foley, David Seeley, & Michael Witwicki



HIV/AIDS Research News

A number of important medical breakthroughs have occurred in the fight against HIV/AIDS this year, with some of the most groundbreaking studies coming out of Canada.

This Canadian medical breakthrough deals with a vaccine that can prevent people from becoming infected with HIV and could provide a therapeutic function for people living with the virus.

What is it? A vaccine that may provide immunity to HIV

When was it discovered? This vaccine has been 20 years in the making and could go for human trials as early as October 2009

Who is developing it? The vaccine was developed by University of Western Ontario professor Dr. Chil-Yong Kang, who is being supported by Sumagen Canada Inc.

Why is this groundbreaking? Although vaccines have been protecting people against viruses since 1798 when the first smallpox vaccine became available, there hasn't been a

vaccine to protect human populations against HIV.

In simple terms vaccines are produced by taking a virus, killing it, and injecting it into your bloodstream. Your immune system recognizes the virus and makes antibodies to defend against future attacks. However, the vaccination process with HIV was a great deal more difficult than a simple procedure.

The Canadian vaccine may soon be approved for testing in the United States. There are 27 other vaccines for HIV/AIDS being tested on people currently.

What separates the new Canadian vaccine from the rest is that it does not use purified pieces of the pathogen -- known as antigens, but instead uses a genetically modified whole virus. Finding the right mutation has been the product of 20 years of research at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

If successful, the vaccine will prompt the body to produce antibodies to prevent the virus

from infecting cells, and will prime T-cells to launch a ground war and destroy any cells harboring the virus.

The vaccine has already been tested on monkeys and rats without any identified adverse effects or safety risks

How long until this treatment is available? If approved, the human testing for the vaccine will have two phases: The first will test its safety; the second will test how much of an immune response the vaccine stimulates. Even if approval is granted, it will likely take years before results from the human trials can be completed.

Possible issues: Animals don't get AIDS the same way humans do, so it is difficult to determine whether new vaccines show any promise.

Reprinted from The A Word. For more articles on recent research in HIV, please visit <http://aidscalgary.blogspot.com>.

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