

Red Matters

Volume 2 • Issue 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF AIDS CALGARY AWARENESS ASSOCIATION

October 2010

A great day to Walk

We are excited to announce that the 2010 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life was a sunny success.

On Sunday, September 12th, over 500 walkers and 90 volunteers came together under delightfully sunny skies. The fund-raised amount announced on walk day was just over \$146,000. Late donations continue to roll in and we're confident that we'll meet our goal!

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 \$14,610. Espresso Yourself was our Top Corporate Team, raising over \$6,000 and Team Love was once again our Top Non-Corporate Team, raising \$10,195.

56 teams came out to show their support at this important awareness raising event. Check out our website for more great pictures of this year's teams!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the walkers, team captains, sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make this event a great success!



The walk is underway, happy Walker returns, Team Love poses. All photos courtesy of David Seeley.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Core Training

October 13 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 8 & 22, November 5 & 19, December 3 & 17 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.

Wellness Day

October 14 Time: 2:00 - 6:00pm
Location: Calgary Cares Centre

Services include acupuncture, massage therapy, nutritional counseling, MAC Cosmetics and more. For registered clients of AIDS Calgary.

Volunteer Activity Night

October 27 Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm
Location: Calgary Cares Centre

Volunteer activity nights are a fun way to get involved with AIDS Calgary on a short term basis. 12-15 volunteers join us to assemble condom packs, make ribbons, assist with agency mail-outs and do other easy tasks to help us provide our daily services. Register by calling 403-508-2500 or email volunteer@aidscalgary.org

A special thank you to our event sponsors:

Sprint - Alberta Dental Association and College, Calgary Herald, Mix 97.7, Starbucks, Trojan

Stride - Gay Calgary and Edmonton Magazine, Merck Frosst, Sorrenti's

Step - Cruiseline, Beatroute Magazine, Majestic Tent and Event, World Health Club, Calgary Foundation, Pumphouse Theatre

Stroll - Avenue Magazine, Citytv, Monarch Music, Unicom Graphics, HOJA, Tac Mobility

Valued - Twisted Element

Prizing - Avon, Big Rock Brewery, Calgary

Jewelry, Calaway Park, Calgary Hitmen, Calgary Roughnecks, Calgary Vipers, Classique Dance and Activewear, Eau Clair Hair, FabBar, Fort Calgary, Halo Steak, Heather Glen Golf Course, Heritage Park,

Laurier Lounge, Latin Corner Dance Studio, Lisa Heinrichs, Naked Leaf, Old Spaghetti Factory, 17th Avenue Framing, Rubaiyat, Sacred Balance, Shakers Fun Centre, Sheraton Suites Eau Claire, Spruce

Meadows, Starbucks, Steeps Te Urban Tea House, Sunterra Market, Spolumbo's, Swizzlesticks Salon, Theatre Junction Grand, Uptown Theatre, Verde Tea, Vertigo Theatre, World Health, Yuk Yuks

African Communities project

In May of this year, our African Communities project hit the ground running. In 2009, and in partnership with the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work, we were able to release our final African Communities report. This report formed the basis of our new African Communities project.

The project has been hard at work recruiting an Advisory

Committee, attending community events and beginning community outreach. We are now training our Advisory Committee and bringing peer educators on board for many of Calgary's diverse African Communities. These peer educators will be able to go back to their communities and deliver HIV prevention messages.

October will be a busy month for the program with a Community Forum taking place on October 23rd and Cultural Competency training on October 20th.

For ongoing updates about the program check out our website at aidscalgary.org.

For more information on the project please contact Josephine

Mazonde at 403-508-2500 or jmazonde@aidscalgary.org.



Out in the community...

Now More Than Ever

What do human rights have to do with HIV/AIDS?

Significant challenges persist in both the treatment and prevention of HIV in Africa and Eastern Europe. Human rights issues are repeatedly cited as the most significant barrier to successful prevention and treatment but have largely gone unnoticed. All over the world, those most in need of HIV support and services still remain the least likely to receive them. Who are we failing? These are our women, children, and criminalized populations.

Women and girls face widespread discrimination and violence. Women are oppressed by laws restricting their rights to own property, even following a divorce or death. A lack of economic power leads to a lack of power to negotiate condom use or refuse sex. Women often have unequal access to education, health information, and services. Additionally, women often face discrimination and judgment from health care professionals, whether in accessing safer sex supplies or seeking antiretroviral drugs during pregnancy. Less than 10 percent of women in the developing world have access to medication to prevent HIV transmission to their babies (something rarely seen in the developed world), and pediatric formulations of HIV medications are in very short supply.

Youth aged 15-24 account for over half of new HIV infections worldwide. Children and youth frequently lack access to HIV information, practical sexual education, and safer sex supplies. Sexual messaging towards youth is often filled with messages promoting abstinence and sexual morality rather than condom use. Children orphaned by AIDS in Africa are denied basic rights to social protection and routinely experience abuse, exploitation, and discrimination from the adults around them.

Criminalized populations are regularly deterred from HIV services because of discrimination and violence. These populations include men who have sex with men, sex workers, and people who use drugs. The police are often perpetrators of this violence, reinforced by the laws against sodomy (and homosexuality), narcotics, and sex work that exist in many countries. Prisoners in many parts of the world lack access to basic health services, including HIV testing and treatment. Prisoners living with HIV and aware of their status are often subject to discrimination and segregation within the prison population. Failure to take effective action against rape and a lack of safer sex, injection, and tattooing equipment worsen the impact of HIV/AIDS in these institutions.

In spite of significant increases for global HIV funding, there has been little investment in human rights initiatives. With a global economic crisis and a staggering estimate for universal treatment costs, the future of this funding is uncertain. AIDS is not in recession; to protect public health we must protect human rights. Without acknowledging this central piece we will continue to fall short of our goals.

Source: Human Rights and HIV/AIDS, Now More Than Ever. 10 Reasons Why Human Rights Should Occupy the Centre of the Global AIDS Struggle. Accessed August 5, 2010. <http://www.hivhumanrightsnow.org>

Reprinted from *The A Word* (<http://aidscalgary.blogspot.com>). This article was written after the 2010 International AIDS Conference which focused on human rights.

News Brief

Prostitution laws struck down by Ontario court

On September 28, an Ontario Superior Court justice threw out three of Canada's Criminal Code provisions relating to prostitution saying they contributed to safety issues faced by sex workers. Three sex workers were challenging the provisions: communicating for the purposes of prostitution, living off the avails of prostitution, and operating a common bawdy house. Justice Himel stated that the current laws "are not in accord with the principles of fundamental justice." The government will be appealing the court's decision.

Editor: Amanda Chapman Contributors: Amanda Berjian, Amanda Chapman, Famira Racy Printing: Unicom Graphics

Red Matters c/o AIDS Calgary Awareness Association 110, 1603 10th Ave. SW, Calgary, AB T3C 0J7

Phone: 403.508.2500 Fax: 403.263.7358 Email: newsletter@aidscalgary.org Web: www.aidscalgary.org

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