

AIDS Foundation

OF CHICAGO

www.aidschicago.org

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New Law Advances HIV Testing in Healthcare System

Governor Rod Blagojevich marked National HIV Testing Day this year by signing Senate Bill 929 into law. The law allows for an expansion of voluntary HIV testing while preserving patient protections, including testing only with informed consent, providing pre-test information, and the right to refuse testing. Healthcare providers can now administer HIV testing once they have received verbal or written informed consent from patients; in the past, only written consent was permitted. When fully implemented, the law will help make HIV testing more readily accessible and allow more Illinois residents to learn their HIV status.

"The signing of this bill marks a new paradigm for HIV testing in Illinois that not only streamlines procedures but also ensures testing remains informed, ethical, and grounded in the tenets of patients' rights," said AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) President/CEO Mark Ishaug.

The bill, sponsored by State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) and State Senator Carol Ronen (D-Chicago), resulted from the efforts of such diverse stakeholders as AFC, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois Hospital Association, and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Some other highlights of the bill include requiring medical providers to inform patients about how to refuse testing, delivering HIV-positive results in person, providing counseling and referrals for newly diagnosed patients, and an IDPH-led statewide implementation plan.

AFC thanks our partners, especially State Representative Ford and State Senator Ronen, for their critical support in championing the bill.

The law goes into effect June 1, 2008. To learn more about the bill, visit aidschicago.org/advocacy/news_6_27_07.php



AIDS RUN & WALK DRAWS THOUSANDS TO LAKE FRONT

MORE THAN 7,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S AIDS RUN & WALK, INCLUDING 811 STUDENTS FROM LOYOLA UNIVERSITY. FOR MORE EVENT INFORMATION SEE PAGE 4.

AFC's Funded Partners Honored at Recognition Breakfast



PETE MCLOYD (LEFT) AND THOM BELL OF THE RUTH M. ROTHSTEIN CORE CENTER WITH TANESHA CLARK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS PROGRAM.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) held a recognition breakfast in June for more than 100 representatives of partner agencies that were awarded grants and contracts by AFC between July 2006 and June 2007. In the fiscal year that ended June 30, AFC distributed more than \$9.8 million to community partners for prevention, care, and advocacy projects and services.

"AFC is proud of its record of support for essential HIV-related community services," said Cynthia Tucker, AFC director of prevention and community partnerships. "With these grants and contracts, thousands of people will receive the HIV prevention and care services they need to improve their lives."

The 2007 community funding report includes public contracts administered by AFC, special public and private initiatives, and private grants awarded through AFC's annual competitive grantmaking cycle. To view a list of grant and contract recipients, please visit aidschicago.org/pdf/2007/grants.pdf.



“Twenty-two years later, our mission hasn’t changed, but our strategies and tactics for fulfilling the mission have, and must continue to evolve...”

Dear Friends:

This past summer I attended a one-week seminar at the Harvard Business School called Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management. Thanks to a generous scholarship from the Harvard Business School Club of Chicago, I had the opportunity to learn from 140 other non-profit leaders from around the globe, as well as world-renowned professors and lecturers.

The program focused on leadership development, providing my colleagues and me with opportunities to examine our organizational missions and develop new strategies in an era of increasing demand for services, changing operating environments, and recurring financial pressures.

The timing for my participation could not have been better, as back at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) we had just conducted a stakeholders meeting to discuss our upcoming three-year strategic plan. We invited service providers, foundation leaders, elected officials, and AIDS advocates together to share their thoughts on what issues AFC should prioritize in the years 2008 through 2010.

This meeting, along with dozens of other interviews and over 400 survey responses, provided us with a more accurate reading on the environmental factors we must address for our work to stay relevant and effective.

AFC has always been committed to ensuring that our work reflects the needs of the communities we serve. Since the organization began in 1985, our mission has been to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS and improve the lives of people affected by the epidemic. Twenty-two years later, our mission hasn’t changed, but as I learned during my time at Harvard, our strategies and tactics for fulfilling the mission must continue to adapt to a constantly changing environment.

In November, we will release a bold, three-year strategic plan that will invigorate our work and respond to the needs of an expanding epidemic. With your continued support, we will be able to put the plan into action. To receive an electronic copy of the report, as well as alerts on AIDS policy issues, join our Statewide Advocacy Network – aidschicago.org/join.

Sincerely,

Mark Ishaug
President/CEO

HOW TO GIVE TO THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

Your gift will help provide services for people affected by HIV/AIDS; fund community-based agencies; educate the public, policymakers, and service providers; as well as support advocacy for sound AIDS policy and programs. Give online at aidschicago.org/donate or call Tracy Hough at (312) 922-2322 ext. 366.

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- **Employee Matching Plan** Have your employer match your contribution
- **In-Kind Services** These can include donated printing, materials, professional services, and/or silent auction items—such as restaurant gift certificates, vacation homes, etc.
- **Stock** By contributing appreciated stocks, you receive the tax deduction while avoiding capital gains
- **Friends of the Foundation** Make automatic monthly payments to sustain AFC’s work

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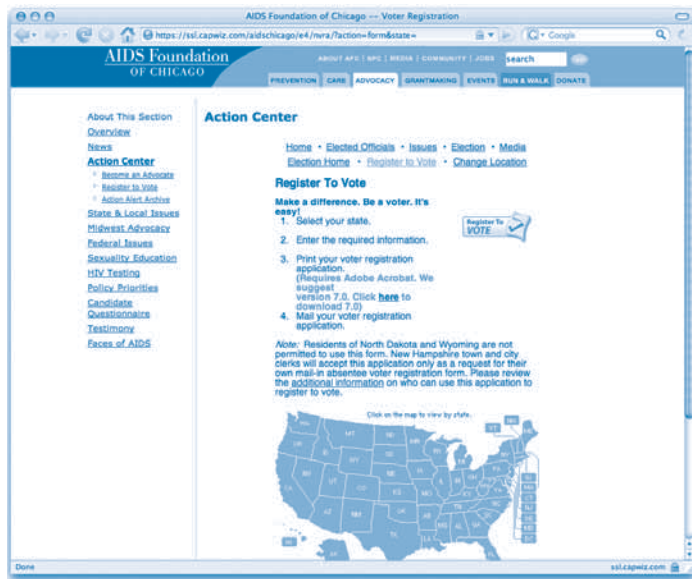
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Click into Action with New Online Advocacy System

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is excited to introduce a new online advocacy tool, which makes taking action on HIV/AIDS public policy issues as simple as a few clicks of the mouse. The new system will enable advocates to voice their views to elected officials on the local, state, and federal levels directly through AFC's website.

The online system serves the dynamic needs of advocates with user-friendly tools and the most current information available. Featured alerts allow users to take action on urgent civic issues and receive ongoing updates. Research tools provide information on elected officials and government agencies, as well as tips on effective ways to communicate with representatives and obtain general information on the legislative process. Visitors can even send messages to media sources and register to vote!

This new action center went live in August. With this system, AFC aims to expedite and strengthen HIV/AIDS advocacy and to help those in the community to make a difference. To get started, visit capwiz.com/aidschicago/home.



AFC Develops Prevention and Care Efforts through Coalition Building



CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SCHAKOWSKY OF ILLINOIS ADDRESSES ANSA CONFERENCE ATTENDEES ABOUT THE CRITICAL ROLE FOOD STAMPS PLAY IN INCREASING LOW-INCOME AMERICANS' ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOODS. REP. SCHAKOWSKY WAS ONE OF FOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE THIS SUMMER.

The Food and Nutrition Advocacy Partnership, a coalition convened by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and funded by the Altria Group, Inc., has been working to improve the processing of food stamp applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. Although SSI beneficiaries are automatically eligible for food stamps, many have not been receiving the food assistance they need. Because many SSI beneficiaries are elderly, chronically ill, and/or disabled, they are in great need of access to nutritious food to manage their health.

The contact point at which a client applies for SSI offers a crucial opportunity to increase participation in the Food Stamp Program. Since January, advocates have been working to improve the joint processing of SSI and food stamps at local offices. To aid in outreach about this initiative, a fact sheet was developed by the Department of Human Services, the Social Security Administration, and several Illinois advocacy partners to educate consumers and caseworkers about food stamps. To view the fact sheet, visit aidschicago.org/pdf/2007/adv_joint_processing.pdf.

Another innovative coalition, the Great Lakes AIDS Policy Connection, was launched by AFC in partnership with the Minnesota AIDS Project in 2005 to connect Midwest AIDS advocates and strengthen policy work. A total of 11 agencies from the Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin participate in the coalition. The partners gathered for an annual retreat in October to share winning strategies, best practices, and organizing tools to advance sound HIV/AIDS prevention and care policies throughout the region.

To view a presentation on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Midwest and learn more about partner agencies, visit aidschicago.org/advocacy/glacp.php.

Community Dazzled by *Dance for Life* 2007



DANCERS WITH GIORDANO JAZZ DANCE CHICAGO TAKE FLIGHT.
(PHOTO: BARRY BRECHEISEN PHOTOGRAPHY)

more than \$3 million, showcased 16 of Chicago's top professional dance companies, established a fund that provides assistance to dancers living with HIV/AIDS, and helped raise money for eight of Chicago's leading AIDS organizations.

Special thanks to *Dance for Life* founder and event producer Keith Elliot as well as co-producer Mary Jo Irbe, and co-chairs Martin Gorbien, Gail Kalver, and Harriet Ross for making *Dance for Life* 2007 a spectacular event. For more information about past and future events, visit danceforlifechicago.com.

In August, more than 1,200 guests celebrated an evening of spectacular dance to benefit some of Chicago's AIDS organizations. Six of Chicago's renowned dance companies showcased their most thrilling choreography to an eager audience gathered at Millennium Park's Harris Theater to raise money for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Proceeds from the evening benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Centro San Bonifacio, Pediatric AIDS Chicago, and the Dance for Life Fund.

Over the past 16 years, *Dance for Life* has grown into the largest performance-based HIV/AIDS fundraising event in the Midwest, with many of Chicago's finest dancers, dance companies, and choreographers participating. Since its inception, *Dance for Life* has raised



DFL CO-CHAIRS HARRIET ROSS AND MARTIN GORBIEN WITH CINDY STERN (CENTER). (PHOTO: BARRY BRECHEISEN PHOTOGRAPHY)

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AIDS Run & Walk Raises Critical Funding and Awareness



AN ADVOCATE AT THE RUN & WALK HOLDS A RALLY SIGN THAT CALLS FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR AIDS HOUSING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HIV/AIDS AND HOUSING, VISIT AIDSCHICAGO.ORG/ADVOCACY/CITY_FUNDING.PHP

On September 15, a record-setting crowd of more than 7,000 AIDS advocates descended on Grant Park to run, walk, and raise funds in support of HIV/AIDS services. The event garnered an estimated \$400,000 for AIDS organizations across the Chicago metro area, thanks in large part to the growing success of the CommunityDirect fundraising program. More than 67 HIV/AIDS community groups participated in CommunityDirect, which allows agencies that form teams to keep 100% of the funds they raise for the event. A total of 230 teams participated – the largest number in the event's history.

For the first time ever, *AIDS Run & Walk Chicago* featured a rally for social change, highlighting the important role of increased housing, healthcare, and HIV prevention services to more effectively combat the epidemic. Hip-hop artist J Xavier, a 15-year old phenom who raps about safe sex and HIV education, headlined the event and helped build media and youth participation.

Special thanks to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Public Health, Special Events Management, and the thousands of runners, walkers, and donors who helped make this year's *Run & Walk* a success!

Prevention Conference Marks National HIV Testing Day

Public health advocates and community members gathered on June 27 for a day-long conference called "Preventing HIV: Ethics, Activism, and Promising New Strategies." The conference took place on National HIV Testing Day to focus a multilateral response to the needs of people affected by and at risk for HIV/AIDS.

The sessions featured a broad range of topics, including the roles that gender inequalities, drug use, and new prevention technologies have on efforts to curb the epidemic. World-renowned AIDS activist Louise Binder urged participants to address violence and reproductive rights, and to change a current public health system that she says has failed women and girls. Echoing Binder's perspective that systemic factors contribute to the epidemic, Dr. Monica Ruiz, acting director of public policy for amfAR, also provided insights on the outlook of several HIV prevention interventions.

In the evening, conference participants explored the relationship between crystal methamphetamine use and HIV infection rates in the gay community with a presentation by Susan Kingston, a public health expert from Seattle. She stressed a more holistic approach to looking at addiction as well as the often overlooked impact of alcohol abuse.

The event was sponsored by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, Abbott, and the Illinois Department of Public Health. To view presentations from the event, visit aidschicago.org/prevention/news.php.



WORLD-RENOWNED AIDS ACTIVIST LOUISE BINDER SPEAKS TO MEDIA ON NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY.

Red-Hot Designers Unite for the Cure



In June, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) Junior Board gathered a crowd of 200 to Transit Night Club for an evening of fashion to benefit local HIV/AIDS prevention, advocacy, and care programs. The event, *Make a Statement: Design for the Cure*, showcased ensembles created by 13 designers. All the designs featured red fabric to symbolize the need to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"Young people are cultural leaders when it comes to fashion, but we don't always take the lead when it comes to our health," said AFC's Junior Board President Toby Eveland. "This event helped raise awareness of the epidemic and the need to continue fighting for prevention and a cure."

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that adolescents and young adults aged 15–24 likely comprise between 15%–30% of new HIV infections in Illinois. Individuals aged 20–24 have HIV infection rates double those of adolescents.

Funds raised during the evening will be used to support AFC's grantmaking, policy, and public education programs. *Make a Statement* was the second major event organized by the Junior Board. Stay tuned for more community and fundraising events from the Junior Board in the future.

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Transit Night Club
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NEW COALITION FOCUSES ON HIV PREVENTION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Chicago Coalition for Microbicides has expanded its mission beyond microbicides advocacy to build widespread support for sound HIV prevention strategies for women and girls. For more information or to join the Chicago Women and Girls HIV Prevention Coalition, please contact Jessica Terlikowski at jterlikowski@aidschicago.org.

HIV VACCINE RESEARCHERS PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY

AFC has been chosen as the Chicago partner for the National HIV Vaccine Research Education Initiative (NHVREI). NHVREI is a five-year collaboration between community-based organizations and HIV vaccine researchers. AFC will work primarily with partners in the African-American, faith-based community to raise awareness about vaccine trials. For more information, please visit aidschicago.org/prevention/vaccines.php.

AFC RECEIVES CORRECTIONS GRANT

AFC was selected to receive a grant from the National AIDS Fund, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and the MAC AIDS Fund to support programs for HIV-positive incarcerated individuals and their families. The grant will help community-based organizations that work in collaboration with Illinois correctional facilities provide increased access to HIV prevention supplies, care and treatment support, and post-release connections to care resources.

RIGHT: DANCERS FROM LES BALLETTS TROCKADEROS DE MONTE CARLO.
(PHOTO: SASCHA VAUGHN)

OCTOBER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS HIGHLIGHT HIV PREVENTION

In October, AFC hosted a public lecture entitled "Gay, Sexy and Healthy: Strengthening Prevention for Men Like Us." On October 11, AFC's Service Providers Council hosted its annual conference "The Power of Prevention: Meeting Today's Challenges." To learn more, visit aidschicago.org/events/conferences.php.

UPCOMING BALLET PERFORMANCE TO BENEFIT AFC

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance and AFC are excited to present *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*, a delightful and amusing ballet performance on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Purchase tickets online at harristheaterchicago.org or call (312) 334-7777.



Award-winning Researcher to Lead New AFC Department



AFC'S NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION, DR. TOMAS SOTO.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is pleased to announce Dr. Tomas Soto, winner of the Illinois Psychological Association's Humanitarian Award, has just joined the staff as the director of AFC's recently created research and evaluation department.

"We are thrilled to have Tomas on board," said AFC President/CEO Mark Ishaug. "AFC is committed to measuring the success of our programs and those of the agencies we fund. Tomas' 18 years of experience in HIV-focused research and evaluation make him a valuable addition to our team."

Dr. Soto received his doctorate in clinical/community psychology from DePaul University and holds a master's degree in public health from

the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to joining AFC, Dr. Soto worked as the director of behavioral sciences for the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, where he was instrumental in the development, expansion, and integration of mental health and substance abuse services for HIV-positive clients accessing primary care services. He currently serves on the American Psychological Association's Committee on Psychology and AIDS.

At AFC, Dr. Soto will focus on assessment of current research and program evaluation activities and needs; development of an agency-wide research and evaluation strategic plan; and strengthening partnerships among HIV/AIDS researchers and evaluators.

DONORS

We received the following donations of \$1,000 or more between January 1, 2007 and July 31, 2007 (excluding event sponsorships and tickets). Although space limitations prevent us from thanking all of our donors here, every contribution, regardless of size, is important to the success of our work.

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