

**Fall
2011**



CONNECTICUT AIDS RESOURCE COALITION

Who We Are

The Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition is the statewide umbrella organization supporting HIV/AIDS service providers throughout Connecticut.

Our Vision

CARC envisions a future in which all people living with HIV/AIDS can live in dignity, and the AIDS epidemic has ended.

Our Mission

CARC, through its member agencies, strives to ensure quality housing and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut and to promote effective HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education.

110 Bartholomew Ave
Suite 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-2251
Phone (860) 761-6699
Fax (860) 761-6711
info@ctaidcoalition.org
www.ctaidcoalition.org

From the Executive Director...

In 1988, seven years after the first cases were discovered (documented in the CDC's MMWR journal, June 5, 1981) communities began holding World AIDS Day events each year on December 1st. These events have been used to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic. They have also been used as an opportunity to hold memorials to honor persons who have died from HIV/AIDS. Somber candlelight vigils, moments of silence and reading the names of those who lost their lives are common activities held at events throughout the world.

But what about our anger? The AIDS movement and all of the fine well-run organizations that were created in the early 80's were born out of anger and frustration and the need to do what the federal government was unwilling or unable to do for the affected communities. We've been at it - "the struggle" - for 30 years now but we are not the same as we were when we began.

We've lost that sense of urgency, that initial anger that propelled us onward. Some might say we've lost our way. We have done such a great job at reducing the hysteria that once surrounded the disease and assuring folks already infected with the virus that "it's not a death sentence" that we have lulled our society into complacency. Why are 56,000 new infections every year in the U.S. acceptable when we are dealing with a disease that is 100% preventable? Why is one new HIV infection every 9.5 minutes in the U.S. yesterday's news?

Instead of candlelight memorials and fashionably placed red ribbons, let's borrow from the spirit of ACT UP, the direct action advocacy group that was formed in 1987 by Larry Kramer. Chaining themselves to fences, lying down in the streets of Wall Street (sound familiar?) and storming churches to challenge homophobic religious teachings were all part of their activities. It was effective. It brought change; it brought funding; it brought awareness.

I'm not suggesting any particular protest (but encourage you to find World AIDS Day activities at ctaidcoalition.org). Rather I'm suggesting a new energy with which to confront this relentless pandemic. On this World AIDS Day, December 1, 2011, let us rekindle our passion, our sense of urgency, and if necessary, our anger. Too many people are still struggling with this disease and its stigma, misinformation and bureaucratic nightmares. And too many people have died of AIDS since June 5, 1981.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Meng".

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States

The first cases of what would later become known as AIDS were reported in the United States in June of 1981. Since then, 1.7 million people in the U.S. are estimated to have been infected with HIV, including over 600,000 who have already died and more than 1.1 million estimated to be living with the disease today. The response to the U.S. epidemic has yielded numerous successes, but challenges remain:

- While the number of new HIV infections (incidence) is down from its peak in the 1980s, estimates indicate that there have been approximately 50,000 new HIV infections annually in recent years.
- HIV testing is important for both prevention and treatment efforts and rapid testing is now much more widely available. Routine HIV testing is now recommended for all people ages 13–64, yet 20% of those infected with HIV don't know it, and many people with HIV (33%) are diagnosed late in their illness.
- Treatment advances have greatly reduced AIDS-related morbidity and mortality and extended the lives of many. Still, not all who need treatment have access to it and treatment is not a cure.
- The epidemic continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, particularly racial and ethnic minorities and gay and bisexual men.

Excerpted from The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet, October 2011



CARC

Spotlight

Kimberly Jackson has recently joined the CARC family in the position of Training Coordinator for the newly developed Case Management Training Institute.

Kim has nearly twenty years of non-profit experience predominately in program development. In her most recent position, Kim was the AIDS Program Director for Perception Programs in Willimantic, CT, where her responsibilities included the management of the Omega House and DPH funded HIV prevention activities. Her experience is enhanced by a Master's degree in Health Promotions with a public health major. She is currently working on her Masters of Health Administration.

As the Coordinator of the Case Management Training Institute, Kim is responsible for the overall coordination and marketing of training opportunities designed for those individuals with case management responsibilities in AIDS services, AIDS housing, domestic violence, shelters and transitional living programs. Specifically, Kim will lead our efforts in researching and evaluating training opportunities, demand for potential training, the overall marketing outreach strategy and execution of the program and analysis of the effectiveness of these training efforts.

Originally from the lovely state of Ohio, Kim resides in the Hebron area with a large pack of dogs and her partner, Wendy.



Oscar Night® Hartford 2012

On Sunday, February 26, CARC, in collaboration with Real Art Ways, will roll out the red carpet for our biggest annual event, Oscar Night® Hartford. The evening will feature an exclusive VIP cocktail hour with auction preview, red carpet interviews with the Hartford Courant's Maryellen Fillo, a private screening room for viewing the 84th Annual Academy Awards® live telecast, a silent auction featuring a wide variety of fabulous items, prizes awarded for Most Glamorous Costume and Guess the Winners contest, delicious cuisine provided by several local restaurants, and a signature cocktail created especially for the event.

We encourage you to buy your tickets early at ctaidcoalition.org. Tickets are priced at \$55 per person/\$100 per couple for general admission and \$100 per person for VIP admission.

CARC Hosts Employment Conference

On October 6, CARC held a one-day conference, *Opening Doors to Employment*, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Meriden. The conference addressed the unique issues people living with HIV/AIDS face while employed or when returning to work. Participants attended workshops on topics including: Work and Benefits, Ex-Offenders, Harm Reduction and more. During lunch Clarence Daniels Advocacy Awards were presented to Karen Buckley-Bates, former Director of Government Relations at DPH and Betty Gallo and Company. The Catherine Kennedy Award went to three members of DSS's Housing Team: Brenda Geltzer, Karin Motta and Cassandra Norfleet-Johnson. CARC extends special thanks to all of the wonderful presenters who made this conference a success.



Summer Camp

CARC thanks all those who supported this year's Summer Camp fundraiser at Sully's Pub in Hartford. Special thanks go to our guest emcee Jacques Lamarre, and to all the evening's performers: Sea Tea Improv, First Friday, Dan Johnson's Adventure Team, CONNetic Dance and the Imperial Sovereign Court of All CT.

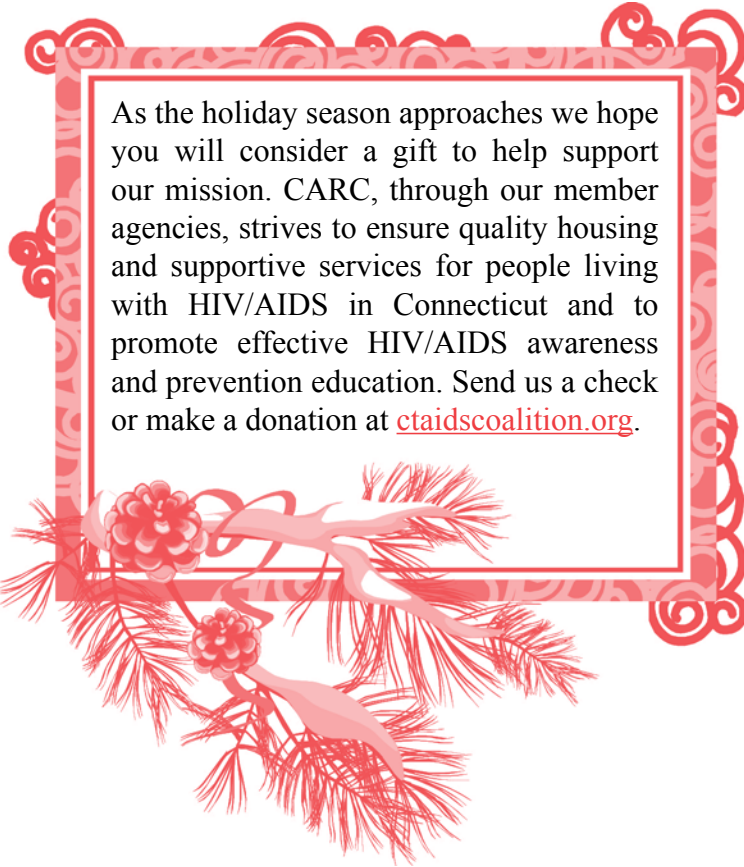
Facing AIDS for World AIDS Day

December 1, World AIDS Day, is an opportunity to take action. Through Facing AIDS 2011, you can help reduce stigma and promote HIV testing by putting a face to AIDS. Go to <http://facing.aids.gov> to find out how you can participate in the national campaign. We also encourage you to send your photos to CARC and we'll create a statewide montage on our website. Contact Jenn Chase at 860-761-6699 for information and photo release forms.



AIDS Walk 2011

On Sunday, October 16, nearly 200 people gathered at the MDC Reservoir in West Hartford for AIDS Walk 2011. Participants began the day warming up with coffee and Zumba led by Donna Frustere. After a few welcome remarks from Shawn M. Lang and Judith Green, the crowd began a scenic 3-mile walk around the reservoir. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who supported this year's walk, over \$10,000 was raised for CARC and AIDS Project Hartford.



As the holiday season approaches we hope you will consider a gift to help support our mission. CARC, through our member agencies, strives to ensure quality housing and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut and to promote effective HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education. Send us a check or make a donation at ctaidcoalition.org.

CARC Staff

John Merz
Executive Director

Shawn M. Lang
Director of Public Policy

Cecilia Lewis
Manager of QA & TA

Aaron Lucas
Fund Administrator/Bookkeeper

Wendy Graveley
Development Director

Jennifer Chase
Communications Coordinator

Kim Jackson
Training Coordinator

André Cabán
Membership/Consumer Coord.

Board of Directors

Yvonne Deal Chandler
Better Quality Management

Robert Freeman
APT Foundation

Kasey Harding
Community Health Center

Nancy Howell
Independence Northwest

Jennifer Kolakowski
Recovery Network of Programs

Chelsea Turner
CT Lottery

Return Service Requested

CT AIDS Resource Coalition
110 Bartholomew Ave, Ste 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-2251
T (860) 761-6699
F (860) 761-6711
www.ctaidcoalition.org

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 1380