

Winter
2012



COMMUNIQUE

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

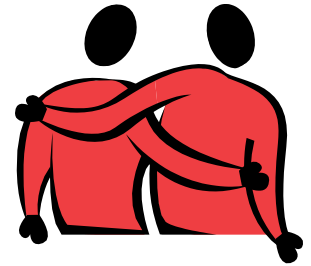
CARC, through its member agencies, strives to ensure quality housing and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut and to promote effective HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention education.

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

"Keep smiling, keep shining; Knowing you can always count on me, for sure; That's what friends are for; For good times and bad times; I'll be on your side forever more; That's what friends are for."

From the Executive Director...

"That's What Friends are For" was recorded in 1985 by Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight, Elton John and Stevie Wonder as an AIDS benefit. The song hit number one on the Billboard chart and raised over \$3 million. In those early days of the epidemic, the only medicine we had against the ravages of the disease was friendship, mutual support, camaraderie, and love. Much has happened since then:

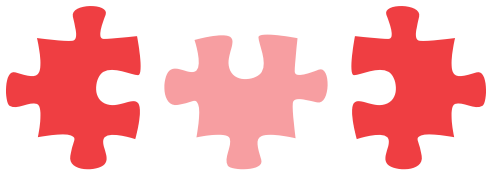


- 1987 AZT, the first antiretroviral drug, becomes available; Randy Shilts' investigative book, *And the Band Played On*, chronicling the spread of HIV/AIDS and government indifference is published;
- 1988 C. Everett Koop sends a report, *Understanding AIDS*, to every household in the U.S., December 1 is commemorated as World AIDS Day;
- 1990 Ryan White dies; Congress enacts The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act;
- 1992 The first combination drug therapies are introduced and are more effective than AZT alone;
- 2000 World Health Organization estimates between 15-20% of new HIV infections worldwide are the result of blood transfusions, where the donors were inadequately screened for HIV;
- 2005 CDC recommends antiretroviral post-exposure prophylaxis for people exposed to HIV from rapes, accidents or occasional unsafe sex or drug use (*see related nPEP article inside*);
- 2007 Timothy Ray Brown, co-infected with leukemia and HIV, is cured from HIV due to a bone marrow transplant;
- 2010 President Obama removes the travel ban that prevents HIV+ people from entering the U.S. and releases the first ever National AIDS Strategy;
- 2011 Clinical trial finds HIV+ heterosexuals who begin antiretrovirals when healthy are 96% less likely to transmit the virus to uninfected partners.

Much indeed has happened in the twenty-two years since that song became a number one hit. But the message remains true. Regardless of the federal changes that are coming, we at CARC commit ourselves to confronting this epidemic with friendship, mutual support, camaraderie, and love.

Save \$\$ This Winter

Citizen's Oil Co-op offers savings on home heating oil, propane, and bioheat. The Co-op will donate \$10.00 to CARC for each person that signs up for oil, propane or bioheat. Co-op members pay between 20-25 cents below the state average for full service heating oil. For complete details or to sign up online go to www.oilco-op.com. Type CARC in the referral box when joining.



Employment Resource

Employment Practices Improvement Collaborative (EPIC) is a free online resource for job seekers with barriers to employment. These free, interactive, online classes include soft skills courses, employability training courses and simulations or interactive vignettes that teach a range of skills. Some titles are specifically for ex-offenders, people in recovery, job seekers with a spotty work history and people with hidden disabilities. EPIC is funded through a federal grant to the CT Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) and operated by Career Resources, Inc. EPIC is available under the e-learning tab at www.connect-ability.com.



CARC

Spotlight

Daniela Vlad, director & head designer of Daniela Vlad Couture in West Hartford, has been a CARC supporter and event volunteer for the past two years. She custom designed two dresses for last year's silent auction at Oscar Night® Hartford and helped with set up and silent auction layout. In October, Daniela was a featured speaker at our *Opening Doors to Employment* conference at the Four Points by Sheraton in Meriden. In January 2012, Daniela joined the Oscar® planning committee and immediately jumped right in and began helping with this year's event. Daniela is currently working on coordinating the swag bags for the event, helping to secure tables, coat-racks and is also designing a custom gown valued at \$1,300 for the Oscar Night® Pre-Event Online Auction. Huge thanks to Daniela for all the support, enthusiasm and energy!

Oscar Night® Hartford

On Sunday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m., 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 reception with local celebrities; red carpet interviews; a private screening room and large screens throughout the venue; a silent auction; prizes for *Most Glamorous* and *Guess the Winners* contests, delicious cuisine provided by local restaurants, and a signature cocktail created for the event. For tickets visit www.ctaidscoalition.org. Prices are \$55 per person or \$100 per couple for general admission and \$100 per person for VIP admission.



Thank you!

Bond Funds Received for Repairs

CARC recently received state bond funds to assist four of our members with renovations to their housing facilities that are currently used for care and housing of people living with HIV/AIDS and are in need of significant renovations. The renovations and upgrades to these four facilities will aid in maintaining a safe and healthy living environment, as well as improving the quality of life for residents.

- Leeway (New Haven) - Replace flooring from carpet to vinyl, install new automatic sliding doors for main entrance and renovate gazebo.
- St. Philip House (Plainville) - Replace the building's heating system.
- St. Luke's LifeWorks (Stamford) - Repair ceilings in six-unit building.
- Perception Programs (Willimantic) - Replace the heating system with additional zone to balance the building's heating.



AIDS Housing Funds Shrink in Connecticut

HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing announced the 2012 HOPWA allocations on January 18. Connecticut has four areas that receive funds (Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield counties and the Balance of State). Connecticut's total allocation in 2011 was \$3,249,162 and the 2012 allocation is \$3,228,628, for a total loss of \$20,534. There are essentially two key reasons for the loss. First, HOPWA experienced a loss of \$2.3 million dollars. Second, new jurisdictions became eligible for funds, so the funds were divided between more recipients. The National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) and other national advocates are working to modernize the HOPWA formula to make it more equitable; the current formula disproportionately favors the larger, earlier epicenters of the disease. For more information on HOPWA visit www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/programs/. For information on NAHC visit www.nationalaidshousing.org.

nPEP Launched in CT

In 2005, the CDC released guidelines on the use of nPEP (non-occupational exposure prophylaxis) to prevent HIV disease. nPEP is a month's course of antiretroviral medications to prevent transmission of HIV. Those eligible are victims of sexual assault who report to an emergency room within 72 hours, are uninsured or under-insured and unable to afford the costly medications. The Department of Public Health recently released a Request for Proposals to establish an nPEP program in Connecticut. CARC's AIDS LIFE Campaign has long fought for such a program and applauds the DPH for making funding available. The announcement of who will be funded to administer this program will occur in mid-February.

A Note of Gratitude

CARC extends special thanks to the students and faculty of Hall High School in West Hartford for their recent donations in honor of World AIDS Day. The faculty purchased wristbands to wear for "Dress Down Day" and the AIDS Awareness Club made bracelets which were sold to students during lunch. We would also like to recognize Hartford Stage for choosing CARC as the recipient of donations collected for World AIDS Day at their December 2 production of *A Christmas Carol*.

CARC would like to extend special thanks to all of our supporters who recently responded to our year end appeal. Your generous gifts will help support the many important services and programs provided by CARC for people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.

For more information on how to support CARC, visit our website at www.ctaidscoalition.org or call us at 860-761-6699.



Oscar Night® Hartford 2012

See inside for details.

CARC Staff

John Merz
Executive Director

Wendy Graveley
Development Director

Shawn M. Lang
Director of Public Policy

Jennifer Chase
Communications Coordinator

Cecilia Lewis
Manager of QA & TA

André Cabán
Membership/Consumer Coord.

Aaron Lucas
Fund Administrator/Bookkeeper

Board of Directors

Yvonne Deal Chandler
Better Quality Management

Nancy Howell
Independence Northwest

Robert Freeman
APT Foundation

Jennifer Kolakowski
Recovery Network of Programs

Kasey Harding
Community Health Center

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.ctaidscoalition.org

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