

Lifelines

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10 Things to do for World AIDS Day

Dec 1st, marks World AIDS Day across the globe and a very busy day for APO. We have been invited to do speaking and testing events all over the Southwest region.

Here is a brief overview of all the activities we have planned around World AIDS Day. Please join us to mark this special day.

1) on 12/1 We will be on campus at Missouri S & T in Rolla collaborating with *Alpha Phi Alpha* to offer campus-wide testing from 10am-4pm in the Havener Student Union Atrium

2) On 12/1 We will be on the Drury Univ. campus collaborating with *Drury Allies* (LGBTQ student organization) in the Findlay Student Center from 10am - 2pm offering campus-wide testing.

3) On 12/01 Our Candlelight Vigil will be in Founders Park (330 Water Street) in downtown Springfield. The event is co-sponsored by APO, APO's YAC group, MSU BSW Social Work Club, MSU MSW Social Work Club, MSU School of Public Health Student Organization, Drury Allies, and the Evangel University Social Work Club. We will have speakers, the Missouri State Univ. Gospel Choir and Latino children's dancers from Hand in Hand. We will also have panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on-site if the weather permits. The program will run

from 5- 6pm

4) On 12/01 following the Candlelight vigil we will have a movie night at APO After Dark in collaboration with the Drury Allies. Starting at 7pm we will show "Safe in the City" and then the feature film "All of Us".

All of Us is a documentary about a young doctor in the South Bronx who "embarks on a research project to find out why black women are being infected with the HIV virus at an alarming rate. Dr. Mehret Mandefro takes us into the lives and relationships of two of her female patients, Chevelle and Tara, as they identify and struggle with the social factors that put them at risk."

5) On Friday Dec. 3rd APO After Dark will participate in the Springfield Downtown Art Walk from 6-10pm. We will feature photographers from Drury Univ. collection "The Face of AIDS in the Ozarks". We will also have AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on display and a local musician/singer will perform.

6) On Monday Dec. 6th on the MSU campus in collaboration with the MSU Association of Black Collegians we will offer campus-wide testing in the Plaster Student Union from 10am-4pm

7) On Monday Dec. 6th we are collaborating with Evangel University to offer a



The Staff and the Board of Directors of APO

Wishes you and Yours a Happy Holiday And best wishes for the New Year!

Lifelines is a publication of
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Notes from Lynne

By Lynne Meyerkord, Executive Director

Hi, folks. Hope this edition of the APO newsletter finds you hanging in there. These are challenging times and it is sometimes easy to get discouraged. Here are APO we like to focus on the positive, and recommend taking time to think of the people, places or pets who bring joy to your life.

There are many things to be thankful for and this is a fine time of year to reflect on those. Here at APO, we are thankful for the many individuals and groups who are helping us help people living with HIV/AIDS in the Ozarks. As far as groups and agencies go, we are thankful for the Springfield/Greene County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, FOCUS, the Springfield Black Tie Affair committee, the Price Cutter Charity Championship Golf Tournament, the wonderful folks involved with Home For the Holidays, Ridgecrest Baptist Church and the Lighthouse Ministries, Ozarks Food Harvest, Northpoint Church, Play-mor instructors and students at the area colleges and universities, the medical community, and supportive members of the media. There are numerous individuals who help us through, donations of time, energy, and money. Without all of the aforementioned entities, we could not exist.

There are many things to be thankful for and this is a fine time of year to reflect on those.

Personally, I'm thankful to the clients served by APO as they inspire me daily through their courage, determination, passion, and perseverance. I am also thankful to the APO staff, board, and volunteers for their diverse skills, creative ideas, sense of humor and their willingness to be involved, no matter what the obstacle or complication. I'm additionally thankful to all the folks (and critters) in my personal life for their patience and support.

I pledge that we at APO will continue to provide as many quality services as money and "person-power" allow. We will continue to seek input from clients and community members about how to improve our efforts, and we will continue to be responsive to the changing economic and healthcare landscape.

Have a thankful and joyful holiday season,
Lynne

The statements and opinions in Lifelines are published as a resource and do not imply recommendations or endorsements by Lifelines Or AIDS Project of the Ozarks

World AIDS Day.. *Continued from pg. 1*

World AIDS Day Continue pg 3

FREE 2 hour workshop on the Evangel University Campus targeting Social Workers, LPC's and students. Jeanne White-Ginder will be the Keynote speaker along with 3 local PLWHA's, a local ID physician (Dr. Sistrunk), and APO Staff (Lynne, Lauri, Julie). Seating is limited to 200 and RSVP is required. It is 2-4pm

8) On Monday Dec. 6th in Collaboration with the *Missouri State Univ. School of Social Work, The MSU*

BSW and MSW Social Work Clubs, Evangel University Social Work Program and student organization, and APO we will Host Jeanne White-Ginder in the MSU Plaster Student Union Theater. The MSU Gospel Choir will perform and Jeanne will address the audience. The event starts at 6pm

9) On Sat. Dec. 4th APO will offer free testing at the "Just Us Bar & Grill" in Joplin. It will be from 9-11pm and the location is 516 South Joplin Street, Joplin, Mo 64801

10) The 4th annual Home for the Holidays (HFH) fundraiser on Dec. 12th at 5pm in the Clarion Hotel Grand Ballroom. HFH is an evening of slightly tawdry holiday cheer to benefit the children served by APO.

This event is not only a fundraiser.. we have local TV and Radio personalities on-board. It has become a powerful education/outreach tool for the community. We will have a variety of performers, speakers, vendors and AIDS Memorial Quilt panels on-site as well. Tickets are \$10

16th Annual AIDS Walk

The 16th annual AIDS WALK was held on October 2nd in Phelps Grove Park. We had 220 participants. The Spooky Pooch Parade and interactive vendor village were a great success. Thanks to the YMCA for providing a wonderful bounce house for the kids to enjoy, to Michelle Sherwood for hosting the Spooky Pooch Parade, to Downtown Papa Brown for providing music and his P. A equipment. The event raised over \$23,000. Those funds will allow us to continue providing adequate care and services to the people we serve.

We would like to thank all those who came out to support the event and a special thank you to the following sponsors: M.A.C. Cosmetics and MAC AIDS Fund, Gillenwaters Developers, AJ, United Healthcare, Grove Pharmacy & Grove Spa, JP Morgan Chase, Sunshine Realtors, FOCUS, H.S.I., Cox Health, Allegiant Air, Huckstep & Assoc., KOLR/KSFX, Missouri Foundation for Health, GLO Community Center, and Pet Paws Pet Shop for underwriting our Spooky Pooch Parade.

16th Annual AIDS Walk raises

\$23,000...Over 220

Walkers stepped forward for a Change!

Thank You FOCUS!!



On Saturday evening, November 13, FOCUS held it's annual Black Tie Fundraiser for local charities that benefit the area LGBT population.

APO is one of the benefitting charities of this event.

We would like to thank FOCUS and the Black Tie committee for putting

together such a beautiful, memorable evening.

FOCUS meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Mille's Café. They provide support and encouragement to the local LGBT population by promoting a positive voice and image for gays and lesbians in the greater Springfield community.

National Avenue's Alternative Gift Market

Help Support APO by shopping at the National Avenue's Alternative Gift Market

Saturday, December 4th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sunday, December 5th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

This holiday season, honor friends and loved ones with gifts that make a lasting difference for people in our community and around the world. With each purchase you will receive a gift card and an ornament that you can give to friends and family.

There's something for everyone at the Alternative Gift Market:

Children can find valuable gifts that fit their budget and provide children in need with nourishing food and education.

Families can choose gifts that create lasting change by improving the health and economic well being of impoverished families.

Groups can come together to purchase gifts that go beyond giving by providing entire communities with the essentials they need.

Come shop at the *Market* for Christmas this year and know that you are making a difference in people's lives, both here and around the world.

National Avenue Christian Church

1515 South National Avenue

Springfield, Missouri 65804

natlave@sbcglobal.net

What is an Alternative Gift Market?

Alternative Gift Markets are shopping events that provide life-saving resources to others in need through the coordinated and charitable inspiration of individuals and communities. The Gift Market is promoted in the local community allowing people to express their compassion through the purchase of Alternative Gifts.

An Alternative Gift Market Shopper [donor] can support a variety of extraordinary causes such as providing school supplies for children in Nicaragua or food and shelter for a child in Springfield. In doing so, you have the opportunity to honor family members, friends, or colleagues this holiday season. As an 'alternative' to traditional, material gifts a donor can choose an ornament and a gift card that states the specific gift made to a cause or charity. Both the gift card and the ornament may then be presented to the recipient.

Many Alternative Gift Markets are held throughout the United States during the holiday season and thousands of people are finding ways to give gifts that make life changing differences for others. These gifts provide joy to the donor, the recipient, and ultimately the human beings whose lives are forever changed by the generosity of Market shoppers.

Sheila Has Left the Building

As many of you may have noticed our long term receptionist Sheila Freeman is no longer with APO. Sheila worked diligently for our clients for 12 years; always keeping their best interests at heart. With Sadness we said goodbye as she embarked on an exciting new venture in her life. We Thank Sheila for her years of service and we wish her nothing but the best as she starts a new life in Texas.

We would like to welcome Marybelle Harpster to the Clinic. Marybelle came to us from Cox Hospital after 14 years of service with their organization. Marybelle has worked with Dr. Adams and Sandy Brockman for many years. She brings a host of skills and experience to APO.

We would also like to welcome Luis Prieto and Amy Roets to APO.

Luis is our Youth Prevention Specialist. He works tirelessly to educate and keep the youth of SW MO safe. Luis spends a lot of his time at APO After Dark doing youth outreach and facilitating many educational & supportive youth groups. Luis is also bilingual and works to build bridges and make connections in our growing Hispanic community.

Amy Roets is our new Dietician, Amy became interested in HIV while working at an internship with Noah Alldredge (our previous dietician). She has a background in Biology, and will be seeing clients on a part time basis.

Please help us in welcoming our newest staff members. We hope they have many happy years at APO.

Mark your Calendars!

- *Dec 1, 2010 — **World AIDS Day Activities** (see page one for details)*
- *Dec 4, 2010 — **National Avenue's Alternative Gift market** (See Page 4 for more information)*
- *Dec 5, 2010 — **Cash For Cakes** 8:00am -Noon
Dancing Mule Coffee will be hosting Cash For Cakes to benefit APO. \$5 donation all you can eat pancakes and Johnny Cash music. 1945 South Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65804*
- *Dec 6, 2010 — **Jeanne White-Ginder visits Springfield**
Jeanne White-Ginder will be sharing the story of her son, Ryan White. Ryan was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at age 13. Both Ryan and his mother were integral in spreading the message that people living with HIV should be treated with respect, love and decency. Ryan passed away at the age of 18, and his mother continues to educate the world about HIV/AIDS. (See page 3 for more details)*
- *Dec 12, 2010 — **Home for the Holidays** (See page three for more details)*
- *Jan 20, 2011 — **APO's 25th Anniversary Open House**
4:30pm-7:00 pm at 1901 E. Bennett, Ste. D, Springfield, MO
Please help us commemorate APO's 25th anniversary.*
- *February 15, 2011 — **Annual Dinner**
6:30 pm Executive Conference Center*

APO and Broadway's Cast of Beauty and the Beast

The most beautiful love story ever told comes to life in this lush, romantic Broadway musical for all generations. And now the smash hit touring production of Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST is coming back to Juanita K. Hammons Hall! Based on the Academy Award®-winning animated feature film, this eye-popping spectacle has won the hearts of over 35 million people worldwide. It's a classic musical love story, filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest" and the beloved title song. Experience the romance and enchantment of Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!

The Wonderful Cast of Beauty and the Beast would like to invite the friends of APO to a once in a lifetime experience. Join us on Sunday February 13th at the Skinny Improv as the Cast of Beauty and the Beast perform their own brand of Cabaret.

**More Details and ticket information to follow*

**Information will be posted on our website closer to the event. www.aidsprojectoftheozarks.org*

Heartland Men's Chorus Visits APO

Heartland Men's Chorus is Kansas City's gay men's chorus, singing out in Kansas City since 1986.

The members of HMC have joined together for the purpose of making music as a not-for-profit, volunteer chorus of gay and gay-sensitive people who are making a positive cultural contribution to the entire community.

They are a member of GALA Choruses, the international association of the lesbian and gay choral movement. Founded in 1982, GALA Choruses represents 190 choruses, their 10,000 singers and 750,000 patrons in Australia, Europe, South America, and North America. More information about GALA Choruses and its member groups is available at www.galachoruses.org. **"Our Voices Win Freedom!"**

The HMC will be performing a matinee show in Springfield on Sunday March 13.

**More Details and ticket information to follow*

**Information will be posted on our website closer to the event. www.aidsprojectoftheozarks.org*

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

AIDS Project of the Ozarks has been at the front line in the fight against HIV/AIDS since 1985-when reliable information about the disease and its treatment was nearly impossible to obtain. All of APO's services to clients and the public, including brochures, publications, testing and education programs are provided FREE of charge.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Contributions from our supporters are vitally important and needed to help ensure APO is able to continue providing the same high quality services to our community.

I asked, "Why doesn't somebody do something?" then I realized I was somebody.

Enclosed is my: Donation Annual membership dues of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My donation is in honor of: _____ (Optional)

Complete and mail to AIDS Project of the Ozarks* 1901 E Bennett, Suite D, * Springfield, MO 65804

Contributions are tax deductible. All services to clients are provided in strict confidence. APO's mailing list is kept confidential