

**AIDS COMMITTEE
OF SIMCOE COUNTY**

The Link

STOP AIDS
KEEP THE PROMISE

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter/Spring 2007

NEW AIDS BUREAU FUNDING

ACSC was one of a select group of AIDS Service Organizations which received additional funding under a program called 'System Enhancement'. This new funding will allow us to hire a part time Health Promotion Coordinator, provide funding for accounting services and assistance with jump starting our H.O.P.E. troupe

We were in a race against time for over two years to maintain the Support Services position. Due to lack of sustainable funding for this position it was decided that as of September 01, 2006 we had to put the position on hold. We also took the time to review what was needed within the services and programs being offered. The result was to look more towards the area of health promotion in the sphere of meds, diet, exercise and the pursuit of a holistic approach to the daily activities of life.

We now are fully engaged in bringing health promotion to the forefront of our outreach to HIV positive individuals here in Simcoe County and beyond to northern areas such as Bracebridge and Parry Sound. Support Services remain part of what we offer in terms of referrals, assistance with government and agency forms. Our Positive Action Fund which comes under the umbrella of support and provides for financial assistance in emergency situations such as the need for food vouchers, medical transportation and housing issues. We receive no government assistance for this fund and all dollars within the fund come from fundraising events held throughout the year.

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

- Fundraising Events
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NEWS RELEASE

On Feb. 21, 2007 it was announced that the present federal government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have formed a partnership for a project to fund the Canadian HIV Vaccine Initiative. The project will encourage collaboration between Canadian and International researchers and institutions in the discovery, development, clinical trials and manufacturing of vaccines within Canada for use globally. The federal government is contributing \$111 million and the Gates Foundation \$28 million.



Rogers supplies our internet services, cover our fundraising events and allow us air time on their television network at no cost to ACSC. Rogers is ACSC's Official Sponsor. Many thanks to Rogers for their great support.



Georgian Business Solutions handles our web site design and hosting at no cost to ACSC. Our web site looks great and any changes are done very quickly. Many thanks to Richard and Kara for their great support.

AIDS 2006
Time to Deliver



3 FUNDRAISING EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

Taste For Life

This will be our second year to host this event in Simcoe County. This year we have 3 restaurants who are participating and we are anticipating a few more to join us.

On Wed. April 25, 2007.

- The Hun — Barrie
- Arabesque — Barrie

On Thurs. April 26, 2007

- Davidson's — Stroud

Visit: www.atasteforlife.org

Ribbons in Harmony

A concept fundraiser which hopes to bring several community partners together and merge our ribbons as a joint fundraiser.

The event planned for summer 2007 will be a county wide awareness campaign bringing to the forefront the struggle to raise awareness and funds to maintain vital programs and services here in Simcoe County.

Walk for Life

On Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Centennial Park our 12th Annual Walk for Life will take place. This event sponsored by ACSC's Official Sponsor Rogers television hopes to raise \$7,500. towards our Positive Action Fund. This fund is for emergency financial support for HIV Positive individuals here in Simcoe County.

ACSC is one of 15 Positive Action Centre's in Ontario.

Visit: www.aidswalkforlife.ca

THE GARDEN PROJECT- A JOINT COMMUNITY PROJECT WITH RVH

ACSC and RVH are looking at a joint garden project that will bring together two community partners and their volunteers to our Barrie location sometime in early May 2007. We at ACSC are very excited to offer our clients an opportunity to plant and harvest veggies and tend to a flower garden so close to home for many.

We will be announcing more details sometime in April. In the meantime get your 'green thumbs' in shape!

A garden of flowers and veggies in the heart of Barrie is looking for volunteer gardeners to demonstrate the art of the 'Green Thumb'.



OPENING DOORS CONFERENCE—APRIL 18, 19 AND 20, 2007

Bayview Wildwood Resort will host this year's Central East Opening Doors Conference from April 18 to 20, 2007. This conference is sponsored by the AIDS Bureau and various pharmaceutical companies. It is of particular interest to both HIV Positive Individuals and health care professionals.

Topics being offered range from 'Medicine Wheel Spirit Dance Workshop, Rapid Point of Care HIV Testing in Ontario to a panel discussion on International Issues.

ACSC will be offering 10 HIV Positive Individuals here in Simcoe County the opportunity to attend at no cost. For details as to Registration Packages and eligibility please contact ACSC at 722-6778 or toll free at 1-800-372-ACSC. (2272).

AGM WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 01,2006

It was by all accounts a very low keyed AGM with 12 persons attending. A handout with the agenda and reports from the Board Chair (Sharon Silk) and the ED (Gerry Croteau) were circulated. Our treasurer, Doug Jackson, noted that we had draft Audited statements only and he gave a brief overview. Our auditors, Powell Jones and the AIDS Bureau had not completed discussions on our 2005/2006 audit which has meant a delay in finalizing the audited statements.

It is now February 2007 and we have been recently advised by the auditors that our statements should be forthcoming. We will then issue our Annual report to the membership and wish to express our thanks for your patience.

The accounting firm, The Bookkeepers Group Ltd are presently doing our accounts receivable and data processing/reconciling our bank statements.

ACSC—BOARD PROFILE IN VOLUNTEERISM

A Board member is a volunteer who brings with them a desire to give to ACSC a particular interest that they have in making a contribution to the betterment of HIV/AIDS Awareness here in Simcoe County. Someone who feels that he or she may be able to influence the work we do here at ACSC and how we do it. Within the HIV/AIDS Awareness work it is sometimes difficult to recruit Board members to ACSC because of stigma of being affiliated with the work and the clients we seek to assist.

Board members offer expertise in financial matters, legal issues, fundraising abilities and we have a permanent seat on our Board for someone who is HIV positive. ACSC has been fortunate over the years to have had consistency in Board direction and we continue to invite individuals to submit a resume and chat with our Board Chair about ACSC Board membership.

TRIBUTE TO TIFF IDEMS—SUPPORT SERVICES

Tiff joined the staff of ACSC in February 2004. She brought with her not only her passion and expertise in client service but a desire to make a difference for HIV positive individuals living and working in Simcoe County. Her work on such committees as Think Clear, Take Back the Night, Needle Exchange, and Women's Resources put ACSC back on the community agenda. Her skills in partnering with other agencies brought ACSC into the main stream of social services here in Simcoe County.

Tiff has now relocated to the Oshawa area and is working with the AIDS Committee of Durham Region in Support Services. Both clients, staff and board members miss her very much.

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ACSC is one of 63 charities who volunteer at the Boardwalk Gaming Centre on Bayfield street here in Barrie for Bingo sessions.

Our volunteers give three hours twice a month to assist with ACSC's time slots; of which there are two per month. We assist with cleaning tables, emptying garbage, assisting Bingo clients and monitoring the smooth operation at the bingo session.

ACSC receives on average approximately \$1500. to \$1750 per month and the funds are Electronically Transferred to a trust account . This trust account does have restrictions on what items the money can be used for and is monitored by the Lottery and Gaming commission of the city of Barrie.

If you would like to speak to us about volunteering please contact our office at 722-6778.

Visit us at
www.acsc.ca

HIV SUPPORT GROUP— 'SHARE & CARE'



Coming to Barrie in the Spring of 2007 will be a 'Share & Care' group who will meet and have an opportunity to share their HIV experiences with and among those who care.

We hope to make this as informal as possible with anonymity and confidentiality being well guarded. We will also provide not just the place but also refreshments such as pizza /coke and pot luck treats.

This is open to HIV Positive individuals and their partners. ACSC is pleased to make this group a safe place free from stigma and discrimination. We envision an environment that will allow for dialogue to flow easily and that everyone will come away having benefited from attending.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of this group please contact either Steven or Gerry at 722-6778 or toll free at 1-800-372-ACSC (2272).