

OUR  
SERVICE IS  
SUPPORT.



AIDS/HIV SERVICES GROUP • SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE BOARD

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first newsletter of AIDS/HIV Services Group (ASG) in almost two years! While that is far too long between communications with our friends, donors, supporters, clients, and partners, we've been working hard over that time to rebuild ASG into a truly amazing organization. After some rocky times, the Board of Directors and I felt the need to make some significant changes and we are proud and happy with the transformation underway. In June last year, we welcomed Peter DeMartino to lead ASG as the new Executive Director and continue to be amazed by the leadership, direction and talent that he's brought to ASG. As we begin to plan for the celebration of our 25th anniversary, we would like to thank you for being part of our new mission **of building community for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS**. ASG is on solid footing once again, with a talented, dynamic staff and a commitment to be a leader in the fight against AIDS/HIV. The future is bright!

– Cynthia Neff, President

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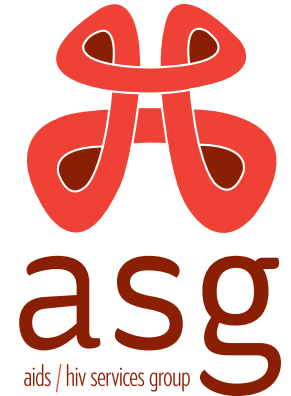
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(1) CYNTHIA NEFF, PRESIDENT (2) TOM RANEY, VICE PRESIDENT (3) DUSTIN FRENCH, TREASURER  
(4) ANNE CLEVELAND, SECRETARY (5) LORI CWALINA (6) MATT JOCLYN (7) SALLY THOMAS (8) SANDY KELSO  
(9) SI BECKER (10) TODD HOWARD (11) TOM DONOHUE (12) LIZ GOLD

## NEW LOGO DESIGN

ASG was selected as a benefiting organization in the 2010 Design Marathon, a Charlottesville event that brings professional graphic designers and design students together to donate time to local nonprofits. The logo redesign was inspired by the need to reflect the changes in our mission and vision as we head into our 25th year of service. Rather than focusing on medical case management, ASG now provides a multitude of services that work to create a **community for people living with, affected by, and at risk for HIV or AIDS**.

The nature of the AIDS epidemic has also changed in the past 25 years; our work to combat HIV cannot be represented by one red ribbon alone. The logo represents our new direction as an agency that focuses on promoting total wellness and independence for individuals facing the challenge of HIV or AIDS in their lives. The current logo, designed by Michael Shveima and Lian LaRussa, consists of four ribbons conjoined to portray strength, continuity, and community support. All of the design changes will be reflected in our new Web site that is currently under construction. We hope you like the new look!



PREVIOUS LOGO:



CHARLOTTESVILLE  
DESIGN MARATHON  
October 2010

designmarathon.wordpress.org

The Elton John AIDS Foundation focuses on supporting community-based prevention programs, harm reduction programs, public education to reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS, advocacy to improve AIDS-related public policy, and direct services to persons living with HIV/AIDS, especially populations with special needs. Sir Elton John serves as EJAF's chief fund-raiser and also as a highly visible and outspoken advocate.



ELTON JOHN AIDS  
FOUNDATION  
www.ejaf.org

## PROJECT THRIVE

*ASG recently received funding from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to implement **Project Thrive**, a **self-care management group for gay and bisexual men living with or at risk for HIV**. Project Thrive focuses on building self-esteem, psychosocial support, and health literacy.*

The group sessions will be led by local therapists, nutritionists, yoga instructors, and ASG staff. All participants will receive great incentives such as grocery card gift certificates, movie tickets, and more.

A sampling of the topics covered in the course include:

- Goal-setting and problem-solving strategies
- Managing negative emotions
- Nutrition and exercise
- Adherence and symptom management
- Navigating the health care system

Our values are rooted in a change model that seeks to provide people with a transformational experience. This program demonstrates our commitment to provide individuals with the tools they need to live healthy and productive lives. We hope to eventually offer similar group sessions to all members of the community.

## SERVICES

ASG provides integrated, participatory services aimed at strengthening individual and family connections to the community of their choosing. We encourage our clients to identify their goals and build the confidence and skills they need to realize their dreams. We offer supportive services for all people, regardless of HIV or economic status. We empower people to rise up and reclaim their lives to live fully despite HIV through the following programs:

### Care Coordination

**CHARLI Care Coordination (Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates)**

### Education

**Free, Confidential, Rapid HIV Testing**

**Hope for Healing—Substance Abuse and HIV Support Group**

### Housing

**Mental Health Services**

**Nutrition Assistance and Counseling**

**Project Thrive—Wellness Course for Gay and Bisexual Men**

**Transportation Assistance**

# SAVE THE DATE!

CHARLOTTESVILLE  
**AIDS WALK**  
OCTOBER 1, 2011  
9 A.M.

### CARE COORDINATION SERVICES

*Our Care Coordinators help individuals living with HIV and AIDS reach their goals and lead healthy, productive lives. The Coordinators work with clients to establish a safe and secure environment. While many of our clients are Ryan White eligible the Coordinators also work with non-Ryan White eligible individuals to connect them to ASG programs and services.*

Please contact Hannah Green at [Hannah.Green@asgva.org](mailto:Hannah.Green@asgva.org) if you have any questions about Project Thrive or if you are interested in participating as a session leader or group member.

GO TO **ASGVA.ORG**

BOOKMARK IT, AND CHECK BACK SOON FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE!

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

CHRISTOPHER  
BARNETT

*A native of Free Union, Virginia, Chris is the Testing Coordinator at ASG. Chris organizes testing events throughout our service area.*



**ASG:** Chris, what is your role at ASG? How long have you been with the agency?

**Chris:** I have been employed by ASG going on four years now. I have had the pleasure of wearing many hats within the agency, and I have grown as a person from each role that I have filled. I began working as an Outreach Specialist and Health Educator under the Virginia Department of Health Men Who Have Sex With Men grant. I worked with the gay and bisexual community using programs such as MPowerment and Popular Opinion Leader. I had the pleasure of working with clients one-on-one to help them manage their sexual health with CRCS (Comprehensive Risk and Counseling Services). I am now the HIV Testing Coordinator, and I make sure that the high standards of the Community HIV Testing Grant are met through quality assurance and program accountability.

**ASG:** Tell us about some of your goals for our testing program.

**Chris:** My goal for the testing program is to increase HIV knowledge in our community by testing individuals and providing counseling about their HIV status. I want to increase the number of HIV-positive individuals who know their status and are connected to care. When we identify HIV-positive individuals we can help them access the health care and education programs they need to live with HIV.

**ASG:** What is the most rewarding part of your job?

**Chris:** In the past the most rewarding part of my job was meeting with clients. Now that I have taken on a more administrative role as the coordinator of the HIV-testing program at ASG, I find myself filled with a great sense of pride after growing our program to the best that it has ever been.

A PAWSITIVE  
PARTNERSHIP

AIDS/HIV Services Group is partnering with the Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA to match cats living with FIV to people living with HIV or AIDS. The Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a lentivirus or “slow virus” that affects a cat’s immune system over a period of years. FIV is very similar to HIV however FIV is not transmissible to species other than felines. In the United States, approximately 1.5 – 3 percent of healthy cats are infected with FIV. The virus is spread through blood, often from serious bite wounds which are common among unneutered males. We are fostering two FIV positive cats at the office named Parise and Madea. If you have not been by to give them a belly rub we strongly encourage you to come by! Parise is a very friendly orange tiger and is constantly out and about in the office looking for treats. His partner in crime Madea is very sweet and is often found curled up with Parise on a couch. Health professionals and researchers have found that living with a cat can dramatically improve your health. People living with HIV or AIDS can adopt a FIV positive cat at no cost!

*Please contact Penny Goldman at [Penny.Goldman@asgva.org](mailto:Penny.Goldman@asgva.org) if you are interested in adopting Parise, Madea, or any other FIV positive cat at the SPCA!*

CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE SPCA  
[caspc.org](http://caspc.org)

## COMING UP:

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 22:**  
Project Thrive (2) meets at 6:30 at Club 216

**MONDAY JUNE 27:**  
National HIV Testing Day  
Hope for Healing meets at 6:30 at ASG

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 29:**  
Project Thrive (2) meets at 6:30 at Club 216

**MONDAY JULY 4:** ASG Closed

**MONDAY JULY 11:**  
Hope for Healing meets at 6:30 at ASG

**MONDAY JULY 18:**  
Hope for Healing meets at 6:30 at ASG

**TUESDAY JULY 12:**  
Project Thrive (2) meets at 6:30 at Club 216

**THURSDAY JULY 21:**  
Project Thrive (2) meets at ASG

**MONDAY JULY 25:**  
Hope for Healing meets at 6:30 at ASG

**WEDNESDAY JULY 27:**  
Project Thrive (2) meets at Club 216



PARISE &  
MADEA



**ASG OFFERS FREE,  
CONFIDENTIAL HIV  
TESTING MONDAY – FRIDAY,  
12 P.M. – 4 P.M. AT OUR  
OFFICE, 953 2ND ST SE.**

**We also offer free testing at  
the Charlottesville free clinic  
on the first and third Monday  
of every month from 5 p.m. – 8  
p.m. Testing events in Staunton,  
Harrisonburg, and the  
University of Virginia.**

## **THE ASG STAFF**

**PETER DEMARTINO, PHD** • *Executive Director*  
**CHRISTINA DELZINGARO** • *Director of Programs*  
**FRAN LAVIN, MPHS, MBA** • *Program Accountability Manager*  
**PENNY GOLDMAN** • *Operations and HR Manager*  
**ALAN COHN, LCSW, BCD** • *Mental Health Clinician*  
**KAREN INGERSOLL, PHD** • *Program Evaluator*  
**HANNAH GREEN, MPP** • *Public Relations Coordinator*  
**CHRISTOPHER BARNETT** • *Testing Coordinator*  
**NICOLE FIELDS** • *Health Educator*  
**DEKEACE MORTON** • *Outreach Specialist*  
**EMILY JOHNSON, BSW** • *Lead Care Coordinator*  
**JORIE BARNA** • *Care Coordinator*  
**MEGHAN CHAPMAN** • *Care Coordinator*  
**ROB RODNEY** • *Care Coordinator*

**ASGVA.ORG**

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