

AIDS/HIV SERVICES GROUP  
FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

# 2011 CHARLOTTESVILLE AIDS WALK





# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The year 2011 marks 30 years of HIV in our communities and our families. For many of us, we never expected to be here still helping people live well with the virus. When a group of volunteers came together 25 years ago to form the local response to a national crisis, the need was dire. Like many AIDS Service Organizations that can trace their roots back to the very beginning of the epidemic, we started with a grassroots movement—the passing of a hat to help a friend who could not pay his rent; the sharing of our meals with those too sick to leave their homes; the phone calls to offer support; and the rides to the doctors' offices. While ASG has grown to be a professional organization with federal training opportunities like CLEAR, we are still a grassroots organization that depends on dynamic locals like Anne (p. 6) to continue to respond to the epidemic. No matter how far we have come, events like the AIDS Walk turn back the pages of the ASG story to our history of passing the hat and lending a hand and remind us that the need is still dire, and our neighbors and families remain committed to building community for people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS.

*—Peter DeMartino, Executive Director*





# CLEAR TRAINING

ASG is pleased to announce our newest evidenced-based HIV prevention intervention, CLEAR! CLEAR stands for Choosing Life! Empowerment! Action! Results! and is approved and distributed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). CLEAR is entirely client-driven and focuses on goal-setting, problem-solving techniques, and emotional self-awareness. ASG hosted CLEAR training in Charlottesville in August, drawing participants from all over the country. We are now offering CLEAR to anyone in the community interested in improving their life around the areas of health care, substance abuse, HIV stigma, medication adherence, disclosure, or sexual risk.



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**ASGVA.ORG**

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## COMING UP:

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20:**  
Project Thrive 6:30 pm at ASG

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27:**  
Project Thrive 6:30 pm at ASG

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3:**  
Project Thrive 6:30 pm at ASG

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10:**  
Project Thrive 6:30 p.m. at ASG

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11:**  
Free HIV Testing Event with  
United Sisters at UVA

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15:**  
Writers Workshop 2:00 p.m.  
at Writer's House

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1:**  
World AIDS Day Open House  
5:00 p.m. at ASG

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8:**  
Project Thrive 6:30 p.m. at ASG



# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago, community members came together to provide volunteer-driven support to people who were often abandoned by families and friends. We did all we could to help individuals live and die in dignity. Over the past decade and a half, we have seen many changes both in the locus of the epidemic and in the available treatments. ASG began to provide professionally-staffed programs including medical case management, social services and mental health. ASG also founded three other AIDS Service Organizations in Virginia that are still in operation today. In our history we even ran a cooperative living house for those who had nowhere else to go. As we enter our 25th year we now have a mission more aligned to addressing the community impact of HIV and AIDS to include people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS.

# SERVICES

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

## Care Coordination

● Our Care Coordinators link individuals living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS to internal and external resources that provide them with the support and skills they need to accomplish their goals.

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

● The CHARLI program offers free education about HIV and free, confidential HIV testing for people who are incarcerated. ASG also provides support for HIV-positive individuals who are transitioning from prison or jail back to the community.

## CLEAR (Choosing Life! Empowerment! Action! Results!)

● CLEAR is a client-centered, one-on-one intervention that builds emotional awareness and provides direction on making and achieving wellness goals.

## Education

● ASG educators are available by appointment to speak with individuals or with groups about HIV/AIDS, STDs, teen pregnancy, healthy relationships, and condom use and negotiation.

## Free, Confidential, Rapid HIV Testing

● See back cover for details.

## Hope for Healing—Substance Abuse & HIV Support Group

● This confidential support group is open to individuals living with HIV/AIDS who also have a substance abuse disorder.

## Mental Health Services

● ASG offers mental health services regardless of ability to pay for anyone living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV or AIDS. Please contact Alan Cohn for more information about our mental health services or to make an appointment.

## Nutrition Assistance

● ASG offers many group level and individual nutrition education sessions through Project Thrive, CLEAR!, and the Care Coordination Program.

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

● Project Thrive is a dinner series for gay or bisexual men living with or at risk for HIV. Each week a local professional leads discussion on various wellness topics, such as exercise and stress management.



Anne face painting at the AIDS Walk

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT:

# ANNE CLEVELAND

### **ASG: Anne, what is your role at ASG? How did you get involved?**

In 1990, I worked on the AIDS Walk committee under Candy Goodyear. Candy and I had become friends when ASG brought its printing to my local company, Kaminer & Thomson. In 2000, my dad came to Charlottesville to live with my husband Sam and me. Candy had the bright idea of using my 100 year old father as the Grand Marshall for the AIDS Walk. Dad agreed to play this role and ASG got a lot of Walk publicity in the Daily Progress. Dad loved all the attention and it was a great time for all of us. Over the next 10 years while making frequent visits to the ASG office to bring proofs and take new orders, I became friends with some of the staff members. Eventually I was asked by Kathy Baker to join the board in 2009.

### **ASG: Tell us about what you do outside of ASG.**

I'm an account representative for McClung Companies, a commercial printing company in Waynesboro.

### **ASG: What are you most looking forward to during our 25th anniversary year?**

I'm looking forward to seeing the organization come out of the closet, so to speak.

I would love the ASG office to be located on the Downtown Mall with a storefront window to increase our visibility to the community. I would love to break down the stigma around HIV/AIDS so that our clients can come and go without fear of being seen.

# DOMINION DAY SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that through a new partnership with Dominion Day Services we can now echo back to our founding and offer the type of in-home support services that many in our community living with HIV still require. Our federal funding has moved more and more to only paying for medical services, despite the need for social and behavioral support. Mental Health Support Services, provided in partnership with Dominion Day Services, may be a new service for ASG but it highlights the values our organization has held dear for two and a half decades.

Dominion Day Services is a statewide, licensed, private human services provider that has been strengthening children, youth, individuals and families where they live, work and learn since 1999. Now through a collaborative partnership with ASG, Dominion Day Services offers in-home and community-based support services for individuals currently being served by ASG in Charlottesville and the surrounding localities. Dominion Day's services are designed to meet the needs of individuals experiencing difficulties in their lives due to emotional, behavioral, medical and mental health issues. Our goal is to provide each person with individualized services and training so they can function as successfully and independently as possible.

Individualized services, assistance and training are tailored to each person's needs so that they can more effectively manage life's daily challenges and be better equipped to face future challenges. Connections with community resources and therapeutic services are provided to assist individuals in developing the support system necessary to overcome barriers and more successfully manage mental and physical health-related issues.

## PROGRAM FEATURES:

- Diagnostic assessments
- Individualized service and transitional living planning
- Appropriate and prompt services are provided and coordinated to each client to meet their housing, mental and physical health, financial, educational, employment, transportation, daily living, social and recreational needs
- Comprehensive case management and discharge planning
- Experiential training in personal daily living skills
- Educational, vocational and employment assistance, support and monitoring
- Linking clients to additional supportive community resources
- Community connections and involvement in social and recreational activities
- 24 hour on-call assistance
- Individual transportation
- DMHMRSAS Licensed
- Medicaid Approved Provider

To make a referral or to obtain Mental Health Support Services please contact the Dominion Day Services Charlottesville office at (434) 249-2621 or e-mail at [jellis@dominiondayservices.com](mailto:jellis@dominiondayservices.com)

CHARLOTTEVILLE CHALLENGES AIDS

# AIDS WALK

AIDS/HIV SERVICES GROUP





Thank you to everyone who joined us on October 1, 2011 for the AIDS Walk! Over **250** people walked and we raised over **\$27,000**. Thank you for helping us kick-start our 25th anniversary year and we look forward to seeing you at all of our events. Thank you to Harris Teeter, Escafé, Bodo's Bagels, Starbucks, Whole Foods, Kevin Zhan Photography, The Fire Troupe, and all of the Health and Wellness Fair participants.



# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2011 AIDS

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Open House**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**AIDS/HIV  
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