

# Circle of HOPE

by Billy Russo

Linda Hoppe died on January 13, 2003 after a long illness. Even though severely disabled, she worked one shift a week at our front desk in the months prior to her death.

I remember the day we took possession of the first Ruby House in Winston. It was May 1, 1988. Linda was by my side. While I wandered though the six bedroom facility wondering what to do next, she took charge. With her partner, Deb Sarratore, she started at one end of the house, cleaned and organized all day. She set the tone for the new project through her hard work. She worked two days a week for almost ten years, performing the daily household tasks from breakfast through dinner. She was a Godsend.

During the ten years we ran Ruby House, she worked with most of the 180 people who transitioned through. She cared for the dying and those adjusting to chronic conditions and recovering from acute illnesses. She gave hope and sustenance to the many lives she touched.

In 1999 she was recognized as "First Volunteer" at our first annual awards dinner.

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## State of the Project

by Billy Russo

Through routine billing of grants and donations we brought in \$47,630 during the last quarter. Donations totaled \$1,889 or four percent of the total. We held no fundraisers during this period.

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation awarded us \$2,000 to offset the costs of our internal assessment. We hired an Ashland consultant, Roi Crouch & Associates, to guide us through an initial board assessment. Ms. Crouch has met twice with a liaison committee comprised of board members and staff. After reviewing our by-laws, Articles of Incorporation, policies, procedures and financial audit, she traveled to Roseburg where she interviewed liaison committee members. A meeting with the full board is scheduled in early March to strategize about fund and board development.



Billy Russo

As the State run pilot project, Women-At-Risk Program, comes to an end this spring we are busy writing grants to continue and expand this important outreach to women and teens. The Shakespeare Festival Daedalus Project awarded \$5,000 to fund this outreach. We have applications pending with Douglas Community Fund and M.A.C. AIDS, a Canadian foundation that funds HIV outreach programs in the USA. We also submitted a pre-application letter to Ford Family Foundation. The budget for this program next fiscal year is \$48,000. This includes expanded outreach to Reedsport, Drain, and South Douglas County, and Bandon in Coos County.

We've had problems finding adequate funding for our Needle Exchange. A recent grant request to North American Syringe Exchange Network was denied. Due to limited resources they are only funding start-up programs. While very successful, our

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

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E-mail: [dcac@hivroseburg.org](mailto:dcac@hivroseburg.org)

The web address is [HTTP://www.hivroseburg.org](http://www.hivroseburg.org)

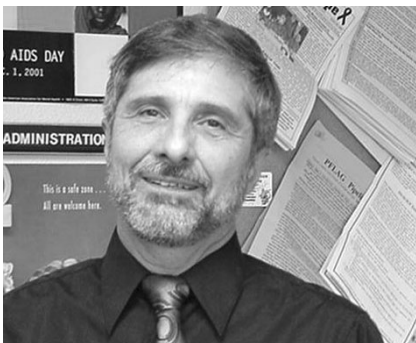
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Chair: Penny Anderson  
Compiling Editor: Neil Westen

Staff:  
Billy Russo, Mary Murphy,  
Mike Bunyard,  
Lynn Sterchi MSW

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Billy Russo

## Circle of Hope

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After her death last year, the volunteer of the year award was renamed the "Linda Hoppe First Volunteer Award" in her memory. Though she's been gone more than a year now, her spirit lives on in the work we do.

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## State of the Project

*(Continued from page 1)*

established program just didn't qualify. We're constantly looking for new funding streams to support this important work. Needle exchange is the only strategy that works for injection drug users who are not in treatment.

Besides getting dirty needles off the street—164 pounds last quarter—the program gives us access to a difficult to serve population where we can teach safer methods of use and provide counseling and testing.

Last Summer, we contracted with Al Walker to assist with grant writing. He has taken the lead in this important process and has done an excellent job of guiding us, as well as identifying and developing important resources. Though behind the scenes, his contribution is important to the success of our work.

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## Fifth Annual Awards Dinner

by Lynn Sterchi & Billy Russo

**M**ark your calendars for the upcoming Awards Dinner, formerly known as "The Spaghetti Dinner." This year's event will be April 23rd at St. Joseph's School at 630 West Stanton Street from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Entertainment will be provided by Jude & Friends, featuring soft blues and mellow guitar music. There will be door prizes and two motor bikes will be raffled off. This year's menu will feature salad, baked potato with all the trimmings and dessert. The cost is same as last year: \$6.00 in advance; \$7.00 at the door. Accompanied children, ten and under, are free.

When Ruby House closed in 1998, and we reorganized as the HIV Resource Center (HIVRC), the DCAC Board wanted to recognize the many volunteers who gave their time during that ten-year project. That first dinner was held at the Umpqua Valley Arts Center. There were about eighty of us there to recognize Linda Hoppe, the first Ruby House volunteer. Linda continued to volunteer until her death last year. The award is now in her memory. This year's recipient of the Linda Hoppe First Volunteer Award will be announced at the dinner.

# Chaos

by Lynn Sterchi

## One of the subjects that we talked about in graduate school was theories.

Developmental, human ecology, and on and on. I, for one, was less than adept at remembering theories and then applying them. Amazingly, by the end of two years, all this talk and practice seemed to sink in and I can now actually remember many theories (pretty much) and apply them.

One professor's particular pet theory was Chaos Theory. It has become a favorite of mine. Basically, the theory states that every event is affected by every other event. The favorite illustration is that if a butterfly flaps its wings in Japan the weather around the world is affected. That takes the cake for esoteric illustrations if I ever heard one.

So I would like to use an example much nearer and dearer to our hearts, the AIDS epidemic. Back in the 1980s when this disease began to surface in this

country, the first community affected was the gay community, you remember gay plague, gay cancer, etc.

So the good ol' boys in power were nearly jubilant. Here was their chance to get rid of a bunch of fags that no one cared about. Here comes Chaos Theory in action. The disease spread to the "general population" very quickly. It became a major health issue. We lost family and friends. We lost a group of queers whose wings will not flap, and whose love, talent, and contributions are lost to humanity. Chaos Theory can be harsh.

Now we see this epidemic settling into our lives. Another generation of gay youth appears to be casual about the changes a positive diagnosis will have on their lives. Positive mothers and fathers are raising children with the cloud of illness over their heads. Young people appear to be thinking that the drugs will "save" their lives. And the ripple keeps going.



Lynn Sterchi

And how does Chaos Theory apply to the drug companies. If they develop a vaccine, who will spend millions on their HIV drugs and side effect drugs. Their Chaos Theory looks very similar to the good ol' boys in the 1980s.

You can apply Chaos Theory everywhere in your life. The next time you say oh well some one else will do it or jump in where your influence is not appropriate - listen to see if you can hear that butterfly in Japan.



**GAY MEN'S POTLUCK  
LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**

*The following is excerpted from a guide to understanding Hepatitis C*

*By Alan Franciscus and Liz Highleyman*

*Hepatitis C Support Project*

*www.hcvadvocate.org*

*Version 2.0 August 2003 (used with permission)*

## HCV

**H**CV is a blood-borne virus that was previously referred to as non-A/non-B hepatitis. HCV has six major genotypes (subtypes): 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Genotypes 1a and 1b, which are the most common in the U. S., are the most difficult to treat. HCV enters the body through direct blood exposure.

The virus attacks cells in the liver, where it multiplies (replicates). HCV causes liver inflammation and kills liver cells. Up to 80% of the people initially infected with HCV may become chronically infected—that is, the infection does not clear up within six months. Most people with chronic HCV do not have symptoms and lead normal lives.

However, in 10-25% of people with chronic HCV, the disease progresses over a period of 10-40 years, and may lead to serious liver damage, cirrhosis (scarring), and liver cancer.

Today, HCV is the leading reason for liver transplants in the U.S. There is currently no vaccine or cure for HCV, but various treatments can eradicate the virus and/or help slow or stop disease progression for some people.

## Your Liver and Hepatitis

**T**he liver is the largest internal organ, located behind the ribcage on the right side of the abdomen. It weighs approximately three pounds and is about the size of a football. The liver is responsible for some 500 vital functions. It processes virtually everything you eat, breathe, or absorb through the skin. The liver converts substances you eat and drink into energy and the building blocks for muscles, hormones, clotting factors, and immune factors. It stores many vitamins, minerals, and sugars for later use. Liver cells produce bile, which helps

the body digest food and absorb nutrients. The liver detoxifies substances that are harmful to the body. It can regenerate its own tissue—as much as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the liver can regenerate within a few weeks.

Hepatitis simply means inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by viruses, toxic chemicals, drugs, or other factors. The most common forms of viral hepatitis include hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and HCV. These three viruses are related only in that they affect the liver.



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Beginning Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and the second Tuesday of the month thereafter, the Dragon Slayers, a HCV support group, will meet at the HIV Resource Center at 6p.m.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in hepatitis C. The HIV Resource Center is located at 832 NW Highland in Roseburg. We are just south of the Wagon Wheel restaurant near Gaddis Park. For information call Mike Bunyard at 440-2761 Mon-Fri, 9a.m. to 3p.m.

# IDU Narrative

by Mike Bunyard

The second quarter (OCT-DEC) has been educational for me to say the least. Beginning in March of 2003 I began developing my network of secondaries. At the same time I expanded the time that I was available via pager. If I got a call here at the Resource Center or on my pager for an exchange I almost always went.

Being new to IDU outreach and unfamiliar with managing this kind of program I was astonished and pleased with the growth I experienced.

As participants became familiar with me and I gained their trust the program experienced explosive growth. We went from less than 1,000 syringes a month (sometimes substantially less) to almost 8,000 syringes a month. I saw an equal rise in the amount of injection and safe sex supplies I gave out along with syringes.

Needless to say, demand outstripped my ability to supply injection equipment and in October our Executive Director told me there was no more money in the budget for travel. He also informed me we were close to being out of money for supplies.

About the same time, the spend down previously avail-

able to purchase personal sharps, water and alcohol got cut. While not a lot, every NEX program had \$1,000 available for these (and other) supplies.

Next, around the end of November we received word that our NASEN grant request was unsuccessful. In an effort to make supplies last as long as possible I've begun limiting the number of syringes to 50 per participant and stressing one-for-one exchange.

The unforeseen consequence of this has been a lot of buzz out in the IDU community that our program is going to be cut. I've been doing as much as I can to assure participants that that isn't going to happen. Hard lessons to learn but nothing fatal so far. I began soliciting contributions around November, and asking participants to contribute when and what they can. I'm encouraged by my efforts so far. I'm planning a mail-out to the local pharmacies. I wanted to alert them to the fact that they may see an increase of folks wanting to purchase syringes and at the same time solicit contributions to my program.

The day after Christmas I went to Grants Pass, a town about 75 miles to the south of us, to meet Stacy Garibay, coordinator of the ASAP NEX program in



Mike Bunyard

Josephine County. I'd talked to her about the predicament my program was in and asked if she could help out. She invited me to come down and shop in her supply closet. She had an excess of supplies and was more than willing to help out.

I left with about 3,500 syringes that I could use and an offer to check in with her the following month and she would order more of the 1cc rigs I use the most. Needless to say I am overwhelmed by her generosity.

So I'm starting the year off with a resolve to try and plan a little better, manage a lot better, and encouraged that we will find a way to weather this storm and continue to grow. I continue to be thankful for your support, without it life would be much harder than it is for us.



# THE CORNER

## Hatred is not Normal

by Billy Russo

According to Basic Rights Oregon ([www.basicrights.org/](http://www.basicrights.org/)), anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps will NOT be visiting Oregon with his message of hatred and bigotry, in a surprising, welcome turn of events. Instead, Phelps will be off somewhere picketing Billy Graham!

Rev. Fred Phelps, an anti-gay Kansas minister, had planned to bring a group to protest a photograph exhibit sponsored by the Beaverton School District and displaying family diversity, the Oregonian reported. Phelps, pastor of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., said nearly two dozen members of his church plan to travel to Oregon and picket where the exhibit is being housed, the newspaper reported.

Phelps gained notoriety for picketing the funeral of Matthew Sheppard, a gay college student murdered in Laramie, Wyoming in the late 1990s. To commemorate the fifth anniversary of Matthew Sheppard's murder, Phelps proposed to erect a monument in Sheppard's hometown, Casper City. The monument would bear a brass plaque reading: "Matthew Shepard entered Hell October 12, 1998, at age 21 in defiance of God's solemn warning: 'Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind; it is abomination.' Leviticus 18:22."

"He's a bad cold that won't go away," Casper City Manager Tom Forslund said of Phelps. "He just is a very strange person. He sends faxes to us. I got three of them this morning."

Phelps and his followers have protested in nine states, often targeting the funerals of people who died of AIDS. Displaying placards like "God Hates Fags," he would torment family members grieving the loss of a loved one.

On a lighter note, Phelps threatened to picket Bob Hope's memorial, calling the late comedian a "fag-enabler" because Hope made a television public-service announcement on behalf of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, in which Hope stated that anti-gay bigotry "has no place in this great nation."

## Donations

play an important part in sustaining the work of the HIV Resource Center.

Please make your donation to:

**HIV Resource Center  
832 NW Highland Street  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

# HIV RESOURCE CENTER

832 NW Highland St.

Roseburg, OR. 97470

Phone: 541-440-2761

Fax: 541-440-9665

Web: [www.hivroseburg.org](http://www.hivroseburg.org)

Email: [mary@hivroseburg.org](mailto:mary@hivroseburg.org)

## Women at Risk Program

by Mary Murphy

Hello again! Last newsletter I shared with you the story of an HIV positive woman. I did get quite a lot of feed back about "Jane's Story". I was told that it did have an impact for many of our readers. One person told me he was so touched by it that he was going to pass it around to his counseling colleagues. As I shared this information with Jane, she was surprised that I had so many comments regarding her story. She is sharing her story in several women's groups. Jane's story was a success because telling it has not only given Jane more confidence but it has made women realize that they may be at risk. Thank you Jane for sharing your story with us, you are not silent anymore!

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is taking an increasing toll on women in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, women represent a growing share of annual new AIDS cases. The statistics in this population has tripled between 1986 and 2001.

Young people between the ages of 13 and 24 are the fastest growing group of individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States.

As we look at these statistics we realize that we have to continue our fight against HIV/AIDS through education, prevention, support and direct services for those affected by and at risk of HIV.

One of the services we offer is the Ora-Sure test for the HIV antibodies. We have testing sites throughout three counties, Coos, Curry and Douglas. The sites are located in Roseburg, Reedsport,

Coos Bay, Bandon, Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings. We are working with Douglas County Health Department with the hope of establishing sites in Drain and Canyonville. It is also our goal to expand to Glendale and Glide in the coming months. If you want information on the location and time of these testing sites give us a call at 541-440-2761 or toll free 877-440-2761.



Mary Murphy

If you think you may have taken part in behaviors that have put you at risk, you should consider taking the test. Since you can be infected and look well and feel healthy for years, the only way to know for sure if you are infected is to take the test. It is free, anonymous and no needles. Take the Test and Take Control.

Our office hours at the HIV Resource Center are 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday. Our address is 832 NW Highland, Roseburg.

Please stop in to visit. We would love to show you around and tell you about our programs. We are also here for you; maybe you just have a concern or question about HIV and do not know where to go to talk to someone. The HIV Resource Center is the place for you to come and get your questions answered.



# AROUND THE CORNER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Douglas County AIDS Counsel Board Meeting:** April 15th at 11:00 a.m.

**Gay Men's HIV Support Group:**  
every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

**Gay Men's Potluck:** last Friday of each month,  
5–8 p.m.

**Gay- Movie Night:**  
Second Friday of each month, 6:30–9 p.m.

**HIV TESTING** is always available at the HIV  
Resource Center Monday through Friday,  
9a.m. to 3 p.m.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

IF YOU WISH YOUR COPY  
OF THE NOVEMBER  
NEWSLETTER TO COME  
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SEND YOUR E-MAIL  
ADDRESS TO:

Mike Bunyard  
[mike@hivroseburg.org](mailto:mike@hivroseburg.org)

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