

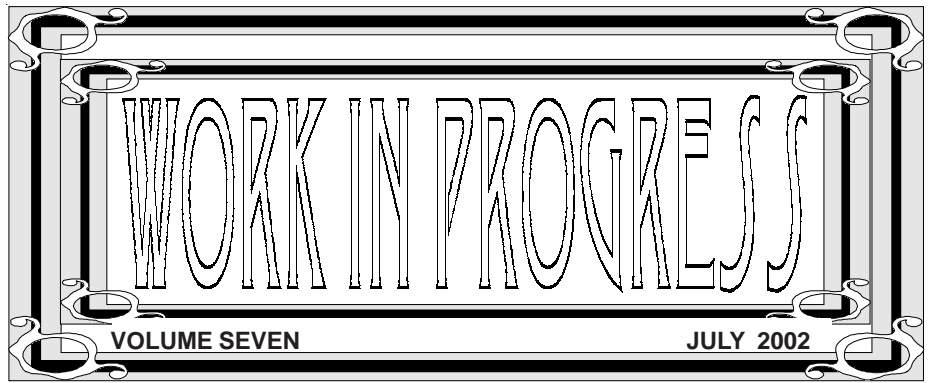
Circle of HOPE

Ron is a person who is living with HIV/AIDS. I have known Ron for about 3 years, and during that time I have come to know and respect him. Ron and Billy have known each other even longer; 10 years. He has been on the state planning board of the Oregon Health Department for HIV prevention for 3 years. Ron will be a positive speaker for the Douglas County Aids Council and he will be assisting Mary Murphy with her presentations in the Women At Risk program.

Ron was diagnosed in 1992 with HIV, around 1995 the disease progressed to AIDS. Though in 1997 Ron dealt with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, he has made a phenomenal recovery and is active and healthy most days.

Ron is on a very personal journey. He understands the behaviors that contributed to his becoming HIV+, and he is willing to reach out to others so that they don't make the same mistakes. When I asked him why he is willing to put himself out there, he said "I want to be of service; hopefully impact somebody to not put themselves at risk for HIV".

I am thrilled that he will be working more closely with the center. I look forward to seeing him around more often. Thank you Ron.



Taking the Bang Out of the Buck

By Billy Russo

We're in the mist of the worst healthcare crisis of our lifetime: a deadly pathogen transmitted by blood, semen, and at birth has spread worldwide. It's killing people. And it's crippling our healthcare system.

Over the past decade, congress has made funds available to prevent the spread of HIV nationally and insure that services are provided to people living with HIV/AIDS.

A portion of these federal dollars are available to communities like ours to address HIV issues. Over the past few years our State Health Division has been diverting these funds away from client services and into personal and professional contracts. While they may be acting within the law, they are not acting in the best interests of rural communities.

The Ryan White CARE Act, Title II makes federal dollars available to provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS. This article is about money awarded to the State of Oregon. According to Congress these funds must be used to enhance medical services to people living with HIV/AIDS outside the Portland Metropolitan Area.

This fiscal year (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003) the State of Oregon reduced Douglas County's award by about ten percent. Other counties were more severely affected. Since the State actually received a modest increase, I have to ask where is this money going?

I encountered the usual bureaucratic gobbly-gook when I posed this question to the Ryan White Title II manager. What little information I did obtain raised more questions than it provided answers.

Using the Oregon version of the Freedom of Information Act, I recently obtained copies of personal/professional services contracts awarded by the State of Oregon to enhance medical services to people living with HIV/AIDS outside the Portland metropolitan area. Over the last two fiscal years the State awarded personal/professional services contracts totaling about \$500,000, or 17 percent of funds available. This article doesn't address contracts awarded to individuals "to provide consultation and expertise as a 'Person Living With HIV.'" Seventeen such contracts were awarded during the previous year at \$5,000 a shot. (Cont. on Page2)

WORK IN PROGRESS

This newsletter of the HIV Resource Center, is a project of the Douglas County AIDS Council and is published quarterly at 832 N W Highland Street Roseburg, OR 97470

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

For subscription questions call (541) 440-2761 (Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. PST); FAX (541) 440-9665

WORK IN PROGRESS is distributed free of charge

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Billy Russo

(Cont. from Page 1)

Most of the contracts are for technical assistance, consulting services, and development of standards. One \$75,000 contract is to a former Multnomah County administrator to "obtain consulting services related to HIV grant applications...." Another on-going contract (\$75,000 a year) is to "obtain a comprehensive array of consulting services...." Though contract language often includes phrases like "throughout Oregon" and "statewide."

Most are awarded to Portland firms and individuals!

Portland has it's own Ryan White CARE Act money under Title I. Those Title I funds should be used to pay for services that benefit Portland.

For more than a decade I have portrayed Portland as a huge economic sponge that sucks the life out of the rest of the state. This is a perfect example of how the so-called statewide leadership misuses money earmarked for rural areas for Portland's benefit.

Who's minding the shop? Cabinet level bureaucrats, those appointed by the governor, are responsible. It was barely a year ago these leaders imposed expensive, intrusive Name-Based Reporting over the objections of many. They assured us that this law would enhance services to people living with HIV. Now they are ruthlessly gutting those service programs. They are not providing adequate oversight and program review of the Title II Program. Low level bureaucrats, like the Ryan White Title II manager, are recklessly misusing their power.

Bobby S. Mink, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, and Deputy Director, Donnie Griffin, are mainly responsible. They are not conducting proper program reviews. Recipients of the Ryan White Title II Program are not getting entitled services. They have failed the governor, and they have failed our rural communities.

This is not an employment opportunity for Portland's professionals. We're in the middle of the worst healthcare crisis of our lifetime and our resources are being squandered.

HELPLINE TRAINING COMMENCES

By Billy Russo

During September six gay men begin a six week switchboard training. Once certified, they will start taking calls from men who call Douglas County's 24 hour Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

The Switchboard has operated since 1981, guiding isolated gays and lesbians to local services and providing peer counseling and referrals.

For the past four years only one man has been available to take calls, and service has been sporadic. Sometimes a person has to call three or four times before he connects with the lone peer counselor.

Participants will receive training in HIV prevention and education as well as traditional peer counseling.

2002 United Way Campaign-Give Where You Live

Flo Shively

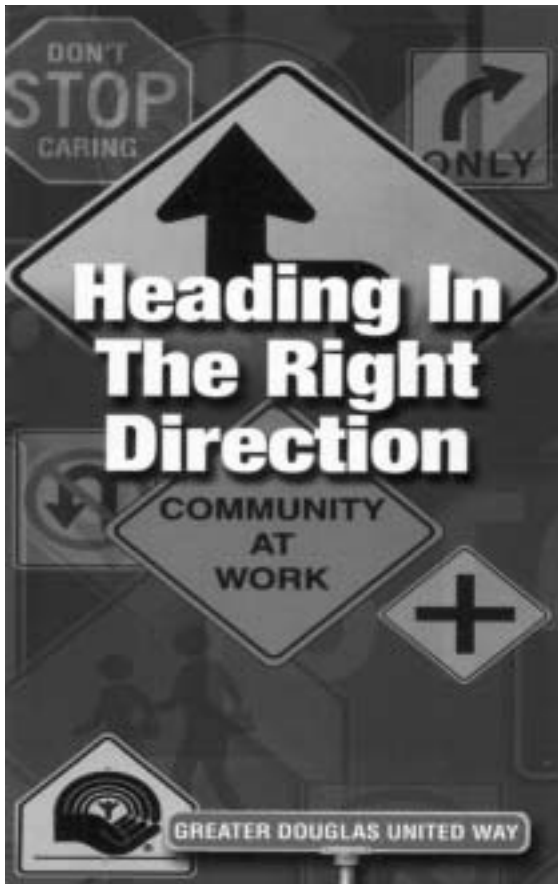
On September 5th DCAC staff and board members attended the annual Greater Douglas United Way campaign kick-off breakfast in the Timber Room at UCC. Staff and volunteers decorated a beautiful table. The event and presentations were very impressive and inspiring. United Way agencies do so much to help in our community.

During the new few months the Greater Douglas United Way will be actively soliciting contributions. The goal this year is \$743,000. Some special events are also scheduled for your entertainment-the Second Annual Haunted Hitchcock Halloween will be held at Wildlife Safari on October 24,2002 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the Bon Marche' Celebration of Caring is slated for November 25, 2002 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

In March 2002, the DCAC learned our allocation from the Greater Douglas United Way for this year was projected to be \$8,881.00 in unrestricted funding. Our board and staff urge you to support this year's campaign and the theme "Give Where You Live". As always, you can designate the agency of your choice receive your contribution.



Flo Shively



There's more to being a Greater Douglas United Way (GDUW) agency than meets the eye. It's not all about raising money. GDUW also expands the capabilities of programs providing assistance and services to the public.

Last year as we began our search for an executive director, it was GDUW that we turned to for guidance. Creating the best possible job description for the position was an important early step in the process. GDUW was quick to provide technical assistance.

Throughout the year GDUW coordinates workshops, seminars and trainings to assist many local agencies with fundraising, grant writing, office management, etc....

While the annual campaign is the immediate focus, GDUW continues to provide support to small non-profits serving the community.

Greater Douglas United Way works to make our community stronger though out the year. Our donations during the campaign is a good way to express our appreciation for the benefits that we all receive.

GDUW expands the capabilities of programs providing assistance and services to the public.

Grant Update

Flo Shively

Time flies. It is hard to believe I have been working here nine months. A lot has changed since I first walked through DCAC's front door last January.

The first grant submission after my hire was for technical assistance from Net Corp's Project Impact. A multiple page needs assessment was completed for them and they conducted a site review and an in-person staff interview. We started the ball rolling with updating to a multi-line phone system and locating a DSL (direct, high speed) internet connection provider at a competitive cost, installing the necessary telephone lines, software and hardware and getting it up and running.

A Women at Risk, WAR, of HIV Intervention and Prevention Project Proposal was hand delivered to the contracts officer at State Health and Human Services, HHS, in February 2002. Within the month, notification was received stating we were one of two programs in the state to be awarded \$41,282 per year, for two years to startup a Women at Risk Project for Douglas, Coos and Curry Counties. In March, we advertised and interviewed for a WAR Program Coordinator and in April after actual receipt of the funding, Mary Murphy was hired. Mary has almost 30 years experience working with women and she is a real dynamo. Mary went right to work developing this new program component and is actually ahead of the goals and objectives in the grant. Thanks for the success of this project is also due to the excellent assistance of Russ Whaley from the Douglas County Health Department and our topnotch advisory counsel.

The Women at Risk Project is an ambitious undertaking and the coordinator is required to travel many square miles in three counties. It became apparent early on that an additional staff person stationed in Coos County could facilitate coordination of services in the coastal regions. Last month, a grant request was submitted to the Cow Creek Indian Foundation to fund a VISTA position in Coos County for the WAR Project. We will learn if we were successful in November.

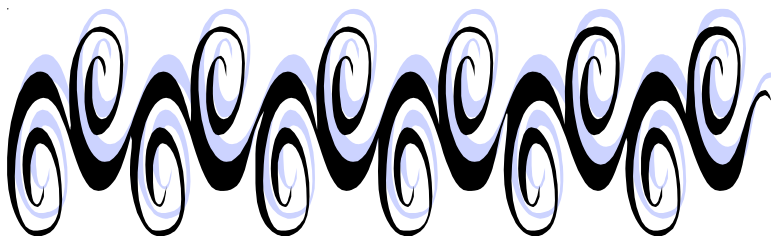
A grant in the amount of \$15,000 was received from the Fohs Foundation, in June, to provide funding program support. In addition, \$5,000 was requested and received from the Douglas Community Foundation to support the Positive Speakers Program. A companion grant was sent to the Oregon Shakespearean Festival's Daedalus Foundation for \$10,000 to support the Positive Speakers.

Also last month, a grant was hand delivered to the contracts officer at State HHS for Rural Outreach to Men having Sex with Men, MSM, for Intervention and Prevention. If funded the grant would provide \$41,282 per year for two years to offer outreach to MSM in Douglas, Coos and Curry counties. We have been awaiting this RFP for 7 months. A support grant for \$5,000 was sent to the Pride Foundation to augment the MSM state grant. Hopefully, we will hear about the success of these two grant requests in the next month or so.

Needless to say, we don't receive every grant we request, but we have been quite successful to date. Thanks for your input and support.



Flo Shively



Women at Risk

The Women at Risk Program (WAR) has been very busy during the month of August. We have been providing HIV testing (ORA-SURE) in Douglas and Coos Counties, we have given several presentations for various groups, we have been doing outreach from Brookings, Curry County to Idlwyld, Douglas County, from Empire, Coos County and back to Glendale, Douglas County. We are getting the word out about WAR. Women are working with women for healthy life choices.

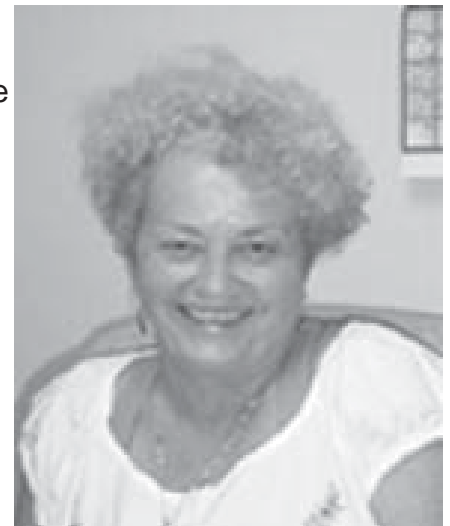
Women are now the fastest growing group of people diagnosed with HIV. If you know of or belong to a women's organization or group and are interested in having a presentation by WAR contact Mary Murphy at 541-440-2761, toll free 1-877-440-2761.

Talking With Your Teen

As a parent, you probably know that it's important to talk to your teen about HIV. But, for many reasons this may be hard for you to do. Here are some talking tips that may be of help.

- Stay calm.
- Keep your tone simple and direct.
- Use specific, clear tones. Ask questions to make sure your teen understands what you are saying.
- If you feel uncomfortable, say so. Let your teen know that HIV is too important not to talk about, even if talking isn't easy or comfortable.
- Talk about HIV as a disease we all need to know about. Make sure you don't sound like you're accusing your teen.
- Listen carefully to any questions your teen might ask. These may be a clue to specific fears or areas of misinformation that you can clear up. Understanding HIV makes it less frightening.
- If you don't know the answer, find out together. The facts about HIV can be confusing, but working with each other can bring you closer.
- Use your child's age and development and your own feelings as a guide about how much information to present. You're 13 year old who has shown little interest in sex may not need as much information as a 16 year old that has a steady boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Be careful not to preach. Your conversation will be more successful if you simply explain your concerns and listen to what your teen has to say.
- Be clear about the values you want to present.
 1. Will you emphasize no drug use or no injection use?
 2. Will you focus on no sex until marriage or no sex until its part of a mature, loving relationship?
 3. Will you tell your teen about safer sex and emphasize the importance of following safer sex guidelines?
- Make sure you talk more than once. You'll do a better job if you continue to talk about HIV often, as the topic comes up.

Mary Murphy
Coordinator/WAR



Mary Murphy

THE CORNER

THE ALLEY

by Neil-Jay Westen

Hey! Where did they all come from? Don't ask me man, I was just standing here, minding my own business, try to keep warm here by the fire drum; when this old, old lady comes up to me, looks in my face, says "uh huh", takes the bottle out of my hand, takes one swig, hands the bottle back, and walks down the alley just as sweet as you please. Well, don't complain, the more crowded it is in The Alley, the closer we'll be together and the more body heat there'll be. Body heat, you know, keeps away that hypothermia. Right I

But, where did they all come from ?
Everywhere I
Well then, where are they all going ?
Nowhere I

Hey, did you hear? That nice Puerto Rican lady; you know, the one with the two cute kids. Yea, Maria, that's her. She had her baby last night; right here in the alley. No trouble, no trouble at all. Yea, but, she's so thin, she ain't got no milk. So, all the bag ladies been collecting bottles and nipples and formula and stuff like that at every drug store in town. And, you know what, those bums at the foot of the alley gave her their Sterno cans to warm up the milk. Boy, you just never know whose gonna come through. It's too bad that her old man got killed by those muggers last month.

Right after he got that job washing dishes too I
But, where did they all come from ?
Everywhere I
Well then, where are they all going ?
Nowhere I

I can't give blood no more. They say that the alcohol content being high was bad enough, but I turned up HIV Positive. Too bad, it was a good score, steady, like every month. I'm too old for the shape up, you know. They're afraid to pick me. They're scared that I might die on them or something. I sent some of the new kids that just got here last week and they gave me a few bucks for the "find". Nice huh?

But, where did they all come from ?
Everywhere I
Well then, where are they all going ?
Nowhere I

Hey com'on, let's go, we got to hurry! What do you mean? What's the big rush? We got to get over to Harmon's Hardware and Appliance Store They just got a new shipment of appliances, and there are some real big refrigerator boxes. I mean, the kind for double door refers. We gotta get there before they throw them away. And if they still got the plastic, they could be made waterproof. That's like a luxury apartment here in the alley. Hurry! Before someone else gets them.

But, where did they all come from ?
Everywhere I
Well then, where are they all going ?
Nowhere I

Just like the rest of us! (There are alleys in Roseburg too !

PLEASE HELP THE HOMELESS

CASE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Billy Russo has been very busy teaching me the ins-and-outs of case management. Case Management is one of the major programs of the HIV Resource Center. I am one of the links between the clients and other agencies.

Case Management helps clients navigate through the numerous agencies. Sometimes clients need help with getting food stamps, or housing, or SSDI/SSI. When a client comes and asks us about different programs that are available; we can advise them as to which program (s) suit their particular needs. The paperwork that clients need to fill out for various agencies can be time consuming and confusing. The government runs most of these agencies, and anyone who has filled out a tax return can relate to the hassle of paperwork.

A major problem for clients and case managers alike is dealing with insurance issues and bureaucracy. There are different programs for different ages, different socio-economic status and different life-styles. For most of our clients accessing programs available is not a major hassle. Occasionally a program is incredibly difficult and they need us to advocate for them. This is a valuable asset to PLWA/HIV.

Billy Russo has been showing us how to contact insurance agencies, hospitals, social workers and housing inspectors. I am so excited to be using my skills to help support people in the community. I did not know when I completed my studies where they were going to lead me. I believe I have found my niche. My hope is that I can make a difference in someone's life. I know that sounds like a cliché, but this is my truth today .



Training and Stuff

I had the opportunity to attend case management training this week up in Salem. I learned a great deal of information, and am excited to apply this to our clients. In a discussion with Tony Kempner, (she was one of the inspectors for our site visit in August) she informed me that our site was definitely in the top 5 and probably the best site that they looked at. This is wonderful news for the center, kudos to all of us.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**IF YOU WISH YOUR COPY
OF THE JANUARY
NEWSLETTER TO COME
TO YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**

**SEND YOUR E-MAIL
ADDRESS TO:**

**Mike Bunyard
dcac2@hivroseburg.org**

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**

A ROUND THE CORNER

Greater Douglas United Way Campaign is off and running. As a member agency we benefit from this annual fundraising drive that helps many local agencies with funding, training and technical support.

World AIDS Day is just around the corner. This year the Remembrance will be held at the Open Door Christian Fellowship (2545 West Harvard). This year the National AIDS Trust is running a campaign against HIV prejudice - the discrimination people with HIV can face on a daily basis. World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on 1st December with news and events to highlight progress made in the battle against the epidemic - but at the same time reminding people how much still needs to be done.

Annual Awards Dinner has been postponed. Normally held on the Saturday following World AIDS Day, this year's event has been postponed until March. Watch for more information in the January newsletter.

HIV TESTING is always available at the HIV Resource Center Monday through Friday, 9 to 3

DCAC

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