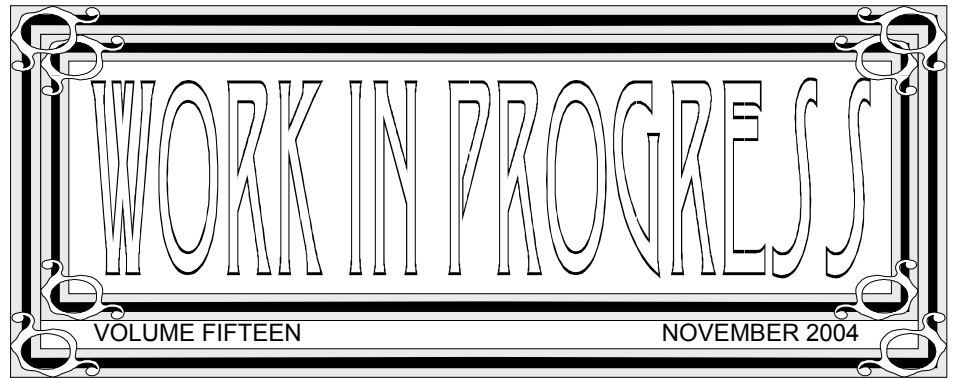


Circle of HOPE

by Mary Murphy

Susan Simmons is a very special woman, an example of what one person can contribute to the community simply by telling her story. We recognize Susan because she is, herself, a Circle of Hope. In November of 2003 Susan shared her story about living with HIV (see Work in Progress: November 2003) in the hope that what has happened to her will help other women realize that they also may be at risk. Susan had lost her home and was living at the Samaritan Inn (the mission for women). Recently divorced, her health was poor and she was all alone. She was enrolled in case management services at the HIV Resource Center. Accessing housing and transportation were her immediate needs. Once accomplished, her situation improved. Still depressed, she enrolled as a peer leader in the Women and Teen Outreach Program. Sharing her story at presentations to women's groups really helped her deal with her loss. She stated that all her life she had been a silent victim and that she was not going to be silent anymore! Making presentations to groups of high-risk women was intimidating at first. Soon it became rewarding. Since that time she has shared her story with many women's groups and even a few mixed groups. She has had a tremendous impact on the people she has shared her story with. She helps others examine and assess behaviors that put them at risk of contracting HIV. Susan donates her time and energy to speak at these presentations and the HIV Resource Center and the people she shares her story with are forever grateful. Thank you Susan for sharing your story and yourself with us! You are silent no more!!



Public Health Genius Award

Press Release

The top honor in the 3rd Annual Public Health Genius Awards, sponsored by Community Health Partnership, went to our own Billy Russo. He was nominated by Robert Furlow, Director of Douglas County Health and Social Services and supported by other community leaders. Russo, the Executive Director of the HIV Resource Center in Roseburg, OR, has been an advocate and tireless architect of outreach, prevention and comprehensive case management programs for individuals at-risk or affected by HIV since 1986. In the words of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, "When others saw the 'situation', Billy saw the need and stepped forward to affect a positive change."

Community Health Partnership (CHP) sought nominees from throughout Oregon whose work has resulted in significant and lasting change in the field of public health. The Genius Award is intended to recognize and acknowledge those who demonstrate responsiveness to Oregon residents in need, and whose work is distinguished by creativity, risk taking, and boldness toward forging permanent improvements in the health of the public.

Besides a beautiful engraved cut glass plaque, the honor comes with a \$3,000 award which Russo has designated to the Women And Teen Outreach Program to continue HIV counseling and testing in Douglas, Coos and Curry Counties.



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 NW Highland Street Roseburg, OR 97470

E-mail: dcac@hivroseburg.org

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

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Mike Bunyard,
Lynn Sterchi MSW

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Billy Russo

State of the Project

by Billy Russo

As reported last quarter, we are working to expand our mailing list and donor base to include Coos and Curry Counties. As we put this issue of Work in Progress to bed, a mass mailing to Coos and Curry Counties is being completed. The last of the 11,000 letters are on their way to the post office.

This appeal letter focuses on our work in Coos and Curry Counties. Our Women And Teen Outreach Program (WATO) offers HIV counseling and testing in every city between Reedsport and Brookings on a regular basis. Our outreach worker, Mary Murphy, presents to groups of high-risk individuals in treatment centers, juvenile detention, jails and teen programs, promoting our counseling and testing sites.

We also completed a separate mailing to Coos County businesses. We enclosed a flyer listing test sites and times, asking people to post the flyers in their businesses. We intend to follow-up with a phone call in the coming weeks to establish working relationships with these businesses. A similar mailing will go to Curry County.

Our goal with these mailings is to expand our donor base and increase awareness of our program. Our hope is that by creating a partnership with residents and businesses throughout our counties, we can bring more awareness to this critical issue facing our communities and find better methods of prevention and education.

Volunteers are the Backbone

by Billy Russo

Volunteers are a large, vital part of our services. During the quarter 31 volunteers contributed 435 hours of service to our community. Regularly scheduled volunteers (13) contributed 340 hours staffing the reception desk at the HIV Resource Center. Volunteers greet visitors, field telephone calls and help keep the center neat and orderly. Two high school students on summer break and three board members volunteered in this capacity.

Volunteers write articles, layout and prepare for mailing, 1,700 newsletters each quarter. Eight volunteers, including two board members contributed 30 hours. Over 70 percent of our newsletters go to Douglas County addresses.

Board (12) and community (2) members participated in the three development committee meetings and support groups spanning July, August and September, logging 38 volunteer hours. Board (13) and community (1) participation in the quarterly meeting of the Board totaled 22 hours. One peer advocate for the Women And Teen Outreach Program participated in presentations and one board member helped form a support group for gay/bi youth. They contributed five hours of community service.

A Visit to the University of Nevada

by Lynn Sterchi, MSW

I recently spent a day at the University of Nevada, Reno speaking to two classes of Master level social work students. The purpose of my presentation was to recruit at least one student to do their comprehensive project (similar to a thesis) on the Resource Center. Many of us have had conversations in the last two years about our interest in documenting the progression of the center from its beginnings with the AIDS task force in 1986. There is also opportunity for research for the student.

Starting a comprehensive project is a daunting task and causes many students an untold level of stress. Basically, my approach was; here is a great opportunity to take the progression of this agency, discover where your interest lies, and develop your project. In the process of the presentation, we explored several directions that a student could go and discussed the many possibilities. They came up with several avenues that I had not even considered. It was

exciting to be back in a classroom, and I have positive feelings about students pursuing this project.

RAPID TESTING

The Department of Human Services spent 3 days at the HIV Resource Center conducting a HIV testing and counseling training. The first 2 days were spent on the Ora-Sure test that we give. The participants learn how to give the test and receive training on counseling techniques. Participants were from Benton, Josephine, Jackson, Lane, and Douglas County. The Ora-Sure test is an oral swab similar to a toothbrush that is used to test for the presence of HIV antibody in the system. The actual test time is 3 minutes but a client receives counseling so the length of a session depends on the needs of the client. The results of the OraSure test come back to the office in 7-10 days. The OraQuik test is a blood test done with a lancet similar to a diabetes testing device. After a skin



Lynn Sterchi

prick, a drop of blood is put on a loop, which is stirred into a solution. This test takes about 20-40 minutes from start to getting results. Any positive result is then retested with a different method and sent to a lab for a western blot test.

We are in the process of discussing the application of this method of testing to determine how we want to proceed. There are financial, as well as practical, concerns that are being discussed before a policy is hammered out.



WORLD AIDS DAY

(A day of remembrance)

Open Door Christian Fellowship

2545 W. Harvard Blvd., Roseburg, OR

December 1st, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

HIV RESOURCE CENTER

832 NW Highland St.

Roseburg, OR. 97470

Phone: 541-440-2761

Fax: 541-440-9665

Web: www.hivroseburg.org

Email: mary@hivroseburg.org

Women & Teen Outreach Program

by Mary Murphy

I want to share with you information about what we have accomplished recently. We are now providing testing and counseling both at the Roseburg Rescue Mission and at the Samaritan Inn (The Women's Mission). We tested twenty three men and thirteen women in September at these sites. I was glad to be able to set up ongoing test sites at these two places as there are many high risk people staying at both missions. While talking to people at the sites I was informed by several folks that if we had not come to them they would not have come to our office to get tested. For many of these men and women every day is an experience in survival and though they know they have put themselves at risk they just do not have the energy to find out how to get tested or even who they can talk to about their fears of infection. They were pleased and grateful that someone is taking the time to offer free testing and will be there for them to answer their questions. I want to say thank you to the Mission staff for all their support in helping us make this project a success.

Louise Whitehead, with the Curry County Health Department, has been a big help in getting us hooked up with the Coos County Jail. We have been working with the jails in Curry and Douglas Counties but had not been

working with the Coos County jail. Because of her efforts I was referred to Deputy Thaxton and now have two presentations scheduled for this month. The jail is also going to give each inmate a schedule of our testing sites when they are released. I am averaging about five tests a month at the Douglas county jail and anywhere from fifteen to twenty five tests every four months at the Curry County jail. We also are doing two presentations a month at the Job Corps and one a month at Juvenile Detention.

Last month we gave eighteen HIV presentations reaching eighty eight women and fifty one teens. The presentations were given at eleven drug and alcohol groups, two missions, two at Job Corps, Juvenile Detention, Serenity Lane, and Deer Creek Youth Program. Sixty four women were provided HIV testing and counseling. They were from drug and alcohol programs, Deer Creek, the mission, needle exchange and our various testing sites.

Yes, folks, the word about our program is getting to the populations that need to hear it. Thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, and the health departments in three counties and by word of mouth. I also want to thank all you caring people that have donated to Women and Teen Outreach. Because of all of you we are able to continue our



Mary Murphy

fight against AIDS through education, prevention, support and direct services to the communities of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

We need our constituents' assistance for

1. A personal computer established specifically for this program.
2. Gas Mileage: Mary travels over 1,000 miles a month covering Coos & Curry Counties.
3. Promotional materials and advertising to bring awareness to the program as well as supplementing a fundraising campaign in those areas to help sustain the program there— estimate \$3,500 – \$5,000 (this can include PSAs for radio, TV and newspaper ads).

Notes from the Douglas County HCV Task Force September 16, 2004

(Note: Thank you to Lynnette Shaffer of Pharmacy Express in Green for these excellent notes)

Ann Shindo attended to provide an update on the Oregon State Plan being presented to the Legislature in January 2005. The State task force has 47 members and is working on this strategic plan. The state plan is to serve as an infrastructure for the public health system to deal with HCV.

The primary issue is that there are no state program funds at this time unless a Governor's Budget Note can be attained for Oregon state funding. A suggestion was made to contact private Corporations and Health Care Organizations to obtain possible local program funding.

Ann says that she will continue to give support and education to those counties that need it. However, in place Harm Reduction Programs will be strengthened with increased outreach via community workers. Also there is attempted Federal legislation in place with the Kennedy-Feinstein Senate Bill # 1139.

Ann also stated that she is working on stakeholder partnership building of coalitions around the state to deal with this silent epidemic. Other communities around the state have asked Ann

about education for public health staff and community workers along with assistance with the following issues:

- Hepatitis C 101
- Coalition Building
- Incidence Groups – Screening
- Needle Exchange/ Harm Reduction Programs (only 9 / 35 counties have IDU programs already in place)
- Safe Needle Disposal / Needle Sweeps
- Treatment Management
- Reduced Police Exposure during needle exchange times
- Building Social Support Networks based on hierarchy of needs
- Outreach in the school systems for HCV parents and their children
- Obtaining Funds for Screening Tests (which is only \$14 / test)

Questions were asked regarding the number of chronic (and acute cases as reported by law) in Douglas County. The Health Dept is continuing to populate their database with chronic and

acute cases as lab results are reported to the Health Dept Communicable Disease Reporting phone and/or fax. Approximately 11% of patients at A.M.O.P. are positive for HCV along with 8-10% of the 200-300 V.A. patients tested per month. The Health Department has also asked the Oregon Health Division to be a possible Oregon pilot county for enhanced Hepatitis C reporting. A suggestion was also made to look into possible insurance billing for HCV education to be done through physician's offices using ICD and CPT coding.

The next steps for the Douglas County HCV Task Force is to focus upon the education component, and using intake screening to identify possible HCV cases at Serenity Lane and Adapt along with other public health providers. There are currently social support groups in place at the HIV Resource Center, the V.A Hospital and at A.M.O.P. Information for support services is being compiled to post at various places throughout the county, along with providers' areas of expertise.



THE CORNER

A Heartfelt Thank You to our Legacy of Hope Supporters

Major Underwriter

\$5,000 Plus
Mercy Medical Center

Diamond Member

\$1,000 Plus
First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg
In Memory of Alex Steven Alexander
Scott Rickard Memorial Fund

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Lillian L. Stevenson
Sister Jacquetta Taylor
David G. Terry, P.C.
Unity of Roseburg
Neal Walker
Neal & Gail Walker
Neil & Beth Westen

Circle of Friends

Also, thanks to the many other supporters who are far too numerous to list in this space.

Wish List

Last month Murray Electrical Contractors, Inc. donated a Xerox 5034 Copier in excellent condition. This machine meets all of our copying needs. If you can help with any of the following items, it would be greatly appreciated.

- Personal Computer (Women & Teen Outreach Program)
- Personal Computer (computer lab)
- Laptop Computer (for the road)
- Projection Television
- Proxima for PowerPoint Presentations
- DVD Player
- Conference Room Chairs (30)
- Computer Chairs (2)
- Front Door Notifier (bells?)
- Volunteers to do data entry



Mike Bunyard

July – September 2004 IDU Program Narrative

by Mike Bunyard

This quarter marked the beginning of our fiscal year and a return to full time for me. I've had to institute tighter controls on the exchange rate and while I'm not strictly one for one I try to stay pretty close. It is a fact of life here at the Resource Center that we aren't able to give out rigs in an unrestricted manner.

I've been able to spend more time with participants as they come in for exchange and this has helped tremendously in getting the prevention message delivered and reinforced. I'm trying to devise some form of measurable outcomes that I can use to make a case for the prevention services we provide. I know that what I do makes a difference in peoples lives. I'd like to be able to back it up with some hard facts.

When I started doing this work 2 years ago I had no formal training (not necessarily a hand-icap) and I've had to kind of figure things out on my own. My life experiences have helped me some but there are times when I wish I had a little more formal training in public health. I think it might make selling the program a little easier, I know that it would make putting together presentations for adults who are not themselves IDU's easier. In spite of these uncertainties the program moves forward and that in itself validates the work.

In my last report to you I mentioned the work we've been doing here in Oregon and in Douglas County around HCV education and prevention. I'm

happy to tell you that the State Viral Hepatitis Plan is complete and is now making its way through the review process on its way to the legislature. It is our hope that in an era of meager prevention funding we can draw on the existing HIV/STD funding streams and integrate HCV prevention and education into existing programs. Members of the Douglas County HCV Task Force are putting the finishing touches on our educational presentation and I hope that we can wrap up the work of the Task Force with some recommendations by year's end.

During this past quarter we had 717 exchange contacts. We've added about 20 new program participants and they in turn add participants through the IDU's they exchange with. Our active secondaries are staying stable at about 20. I've made fewer presentations than in past quarters but that is partially because Mary (the Women And Teen Outreach worker) is fielding many of the requests for prevention presentations. We gave out approximately 10,000 syringes and received about 8,400 in return. Safe sex kits are down a bit (400) but individual condoms given out are up slightly.

During the quarter we administered 208 HIV tests to at risk individuals in the 3 counties we serve (Douglas, Coos and Curry) and had about 1/2 of those tested return to get their results. I'm happy to report that we did not have a single positive, I think that is due in part to the great prevention work we do.

ACTIVITIES

AT THE
HIV RESOURCE CENTER
832 N.W. HIGHLAND ST.
(541) 440-2761

**Douglas County AIDS
Council Board Meeting:**
January 21st
at 11:00 a.m.

**Gay Men's HIV
Support Group:**
2nd & 4th Thursdays,
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Gay Men's Potluck:
December 12th
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

HCV Support Group:
2nd Tuesday
of each month,
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Gay Movie Night:
Jan. 14th
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Feb. 11th
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Club Queer
"a safe place for youth"
First Friday of each month

HIV Testing
is always available at
the HIV Resource Center
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

AROUND THE CORNER

Help Us Support The Campaign

Greater Douglas United Way celebrates its 50th Anniversary. It was in 1954 that Greater Douglas United Way (GDUW) began its long run helping raise funds for local non-profit organizations dedicated to helping people in need. It was a modest beginning-in its first year GDUW was composed of only 5 agencies. But in 2003, 33 agencies were receiving a portion of their funding through United Way. Since 1954 the community has donated nearly \$14 million dollars, which has been invested in agencies helping local people. This year's goal is \$705,050. Thousands of people in the community give to United Way, because it's the best way to ensure a network of services is provided for our friends and neighbors in need. Contributions raised by local volunteers are used to assist the people of our community, right here at home.

Please support the annual campaign!
For more information call 672-1734 or visit the website:
www.douglasunitedway.org.

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