

VOICES

THE VOICE OF DELAWARE'S HIV COMMUNITY

DELAWARE HIV CONSORTIUM

SPRING 2018

A WOW! to Remember!

The 15th annual WOW! Awards Gala & Auction was held on Friday April 26, 2019, at Hockessin Memorial Hall. More than 300 guests filled the room, transformed into a Hawaiian luau, for a fun night of food, entertainment, and honoring community members who have helped improve the lives of people living with HIV in Delaware.

The event raised more than \$45,000 in support of the Consortium's services to Delawareans living with HIV, in addition to supporting our HIV testing, outreach and prevention efforts.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, so here are some of our favorites from the night. The rest can be seen at our Facebook page. Our thanks to volunteer Andrew Zeltt for the great pics!



And of course thanks to our sponsors of this year's WOW! Awards Gala

Walgreens AT THE CORNER OF **HAPPY & HEALTHY**[®]





From the Executive Director

Welcome Summer!

After all the rain and cool weather this Spring, I hope you are enjoying the sun and warmth as much as I do! I wanted to give you an update on the latest with the Consortium:

As we strive to make client services more accessible, the medical case management team and the directors have decided to relocate the Kent County and Sussex County medical case managers into one centralized office in Milford. This singular office will provide the two case managers with support for one another on a daily basis and when one of them is on vacation, doing a home visit or out sick, there will always be someone in the office for the clients. The new office in Milford is conveniently located to the two medical clinics that the clients access in both counties. The Consortium takes possession of the office on June 1, 2019, and will gradually relocate the two medical case managers over the next four months as their current leases expire.

I am also excited to report that Audrey Nwokocha, the housing case manager for the past year, has been internally promoted to the Housing Supervisor. Prior to becoming the Housing case manager, Audrey was a medical case manager for a year at the Consortium. Congratulations, Audrey.

Congratulations to our staff, all our volunteers, and to the board of trustees for their enormous contributions to this year's WOW Awards Gala held on April 26. Many attendees shared with me that this was their most favorite WOW! It was a magical night with many deserving awardees. Attendance appeared to be slightly more than previous years. Financially, the event came in slightly under the projected budget amount, primarily from less corporate support which continues to be an ongoing challenge. But with that said...it was an awesome event. Thanks you to everyone who supported the event, sponsored table, donated auction items, helped with catering, designed the invitations volunteered and attended this popular annual fundraiser!

And with never a break, we have already stated to focus on the 2019 AIDS Walk. This year's Walk will be held in Wilmington and Rehoboth on September 21, 2019. It's a week earlier than usual. I hope

you'll all save the date and participate as a member of the Delaware HIV Consortium's two Walk teams in Wilmington or at the beach. We are proud to be consistently be the team that raises the most funds. This year's goal for the Consortium teams is \$15,000. Please join us!

Until there's a Cure,

Peter F. Houle, MBA, Executive Director

A Triple Treat from Iron Hill!

A tasty way to treat yourself and support the Delaware HIV Consortium! When you buy a Triple Chocolate Hill Brownie at Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant at Riverfront Wilmington, a portion of your purchase is donated to the Consortium! A portion of the donation also supports the battle against childhood cancer. Talk about a TRIPLE WIN!



#IHBRiverfront

HIV Testing & Linkage to Care

The Consortium's Testing & Linkage to Care program, in collaboration with Walgreens and Orasure Technologies, is now entering its sixth year. In an effort to be more accessible, we are now concentrating our testing efforts in two Walgreens locations on three days:

- Monday, 12:30 – 4 pm, 9th & Market
- Tuesdays, 12:30 – 4 pm, Elsmere (Kirkwood)
- Fridays, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm, 9th & Market

With the support of private foundation grants and your donations, we have been able to offer free HIV testing as well as the addition of Hepatitis C testing last year. In the past year, we tested more than 200 people and linked two positive individuals to HIV treatment. We also tested 158 people for Hepatitis C exposure and referred three positive individuals to their primary care physicians for follow-up.



National HIV Testing Day is Saturday, June 27! Watch out for more info!

Consortium Moves to Digital



Thanks to a grant from the Chichester DuPont Foundation, the Consortium has begun digitally storing some of its archived files. The goal is to ensure the safety and confidentiality of these records, while also saving the space normally required for "paper files."

Although the requirements for each of our programs is different, the Consortium must maintain most of its files – housing, accounting, case management – for seven years, AFTER a client leaves our service. This new system allows staff to "scan" the documents and archive them on a secure file server, stored digitally as a PDF. If needed in the future, the file can be retrieved and printed.

Once all archived files are digitally stored, the paper files will be destroyed. This system is completely HIPAA compliant and is not connected to the Internet. In addition, the digital files are encrypted and can only be opened on the computer from which they are being scanned.

We are grateful to the Chichester DuPont Foundation for supporting the Consortium's growing technology needs.

In-house Counseling

In collaboration with PHMC, the Consortium now offers behavioral health counseling for clients receiving case management services. Thanks to this new initiative, clients can arrange appointments with a therapist to discuss challenges they may be facing with family issues, stigma, drug and alcohol use, depression, anxiety, self-esteem, grief, and more.

These services are being supported by increased access dollars from the Consortium's 340B pharmacy program, which is intended to help Ryan White clients gain access to more services. This program is also supported by a generous grant from the Welfare Foundation.



2019 AIDS Walk Delaware

AIDS Walk Delaware, "#OneDayTwoWalks," will be held on September 21, 2019, at Dravo Plaza, Riverfront Wilmington, and at Grove Park in Rehoboth Beach.

The Walk is a collaboration between AIDS Delaware, the Delaware HIV Consortium, and all Delaware HIV/AIDS service organizations. The website for the Walk will be up and running in mid-June. Please go to:

www.aidswalkdelaware.org

to register or to make a donation.



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GUEST BARTENDER Fundraiser to Benefit the Delaware HIV Consortium THURSDAY JUNE 6, 2019 6-9 PM



The Delaware HIV Consortium and BBC Tavern and Grill invite you to a Guest Bartender Night at BBC, on **Thursday, June 6, 6-9 p.m.**

Join the BBC and Guest Bartenders to raise money for the Delaware HIV Consortium's programs in support of Delawareans living with HIV/AIDS.

100% of your tips will go directly to the Delaware HIV Consortium, and 10% of your tab will be donated to DHC so stick around for dinner! (write Consortium on your bill) Please come out to support DHC and your favorite bartender!

Guest Bartenders:

6-620: Scot & Doris Kerr

620-640: Dave DeBussy, Jose Mariani
& Imelda Thode Smith

640-700: Peter Houle &
Jordan DeMaio

700-720: Greg Pappas &
Kevin Barni

720-740: Mike Snyder &
Neil Barger

740-800: Jim Arcidiacono &
Heather Wagner

8-820: Joanna Migliore and
Luis Angel Juarez

820-840: Mike Durstein &
Megan Hamilton

840-900: Chris Podsiad & Siana Sharp

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HOURS: MON-SUN 11:30A TO 1A WWW.BBCTAVERNANDGRILL.COM
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