

AIDS Walk is approaching

Everyone is invited to participate in the 2016 AIDS Walk Colorado. This year's event is moving to the south end of Cheesman Park. The annual event serves as a day to remember those we have lost to the disease and serves as a reminder that the fight against HIV/AIDS is not over.

A touching Celebration of Life Festival will take place in the Cheesman Park pavilion with hand sewn quilts on display commemorating those who lost their battles with HIV/AIDS. In addition to the 5k run or walk and the Celebration of Life Festival, AIDS Walk Colorado will have an array of enter-

tainment options for individuals of all ages including a beer garden for those 21 years of age or older, a volleyball tournament, fantastic food options and much more.

The annual event raises money to support programs and services provided by Colorado AIDS Project and Howard Dental Center. You can learn more and sign up on the new walk website at www.aidswalkcolorado.org. Please contact the Walk office if you would like more information on teams and volunteer opportunities. Walk staff can be reached by calling (303) 861-9255 or emailing info@aidswalkcolorado.org.



We've moved... temporarily

CHN staff load boxes prior to DCAP temporarily moving buildings. The new location is under construction and will be ready to move in this fall. Our mailing address will remain the same until the move, however.



CHNews from the CEO

Dear CHN clients, donors, volunteers and friends:



There's a lot going on in our organization! With the renovation of our new location

on East Colfax Avenue well underway (see photo below), we've had to plan for temporary locations for our offices and dental clinic (please see the details in this newsletter for additional information about the temporary locations). Our new location is scheduled to be completed in the fall of this year.

As we work toward the completion of this renovated "one-stop-shop" for clients and patients, I'm reminded of why the work that our staff do continues to be so important.

According to a July 2016 HIV Treatment Bulletin (<http://base.info/htb/30108>), a study of gay and straight couples found that after having sex a total of 58,000 times among the study group participants, there was

not a single linked incidence of HIV transmission to a partner with the HIV + partner on effective ART (anti-retroviral treatment) between September 2010 and May 2014! This is very important as the work we do helps our clients reduce their viral loads to undetectable levels, just as the participants had achieved in the study! This model of treatment as prevention is truly working! Although there is not a cure for HIV/AIDS, we can effectively prevent the transmission of HIV to others by continuing to provide the services we provide to clients!

Last year, Colorado Health Network staff provided services to 4,157 clients living with HIV. With your continued support, we can continue to provide these services and work toward effectively eliminating the transmission of HIV in Colorado! Thank you for all you do, we truly appreciate it!

Sincerely,

Darrell J Vigil, MBA
Chief Executive Officer



Prevention team excels

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day this past June 27, we would like to recognize the outstanding prevention staff throughout our state. Their efforts help make our communities healthier.

In 2015, the prevention team administered 5,358 HIV tests and 494 Hepatitis C tests. Other key programs supported by prevention staff include syringe access program and PrEP outreach.

The prevention team was recently awarded funding to

support an interactive social media campaign within the Latino community, which is disproportionately impacted by HIV, HCV and other STIs.

Please call a Regional Office or HeyDenver for more information on testing opportunities.

DCAP (Denver)
(303) 837-1501
NCAP (Northern)
(970) 484-4469
SCAP (Southern)
(719) 578-9092
WCAP (Western)
(970) 243-2437
HeyDenver
(303) 962-2880

Bar Wars benefits DCAP's Food Bank clients

CHN's highly touted event, Bar Wars, brought together some of Denver's best bartenders and helped raise nearly \$6,000 for DCAP's food bank—equating to more than 3,300 meals.

The DCAP Food Bank supplements clients' grocery budgets by providing a minimum of seven meals per week or one nutritionally balanced meal each day. The food bank is open to clients who are HIV-positive from any AIDS service organization in the area and serves over 1,500 clients annually.

This year's competition took place on Saturday, May 21, at the Denver Wrangler and brought in nearly 150 attendees who tasted cocktails made by bartenders from Tracks, Broadways, X BAR, Boyztown, M Uptown, Blush & Blu and the Denver Wrangler—some of Denver's most popular gay-friendly bars.

The winner of this year's event was X BAR, which is slated to host the competition next year. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success!

Hepatitis C testing

Our NCAP, SCAP and WCAP offices (serving Colorado's rural counties) launched an initiative to get people in to be tested for Hepatitis C (HCV) and other sexually transmitted infections in conjunction with National Hepatitis Testing Day on May 18. Fifteen HCV tests were administered with three of the tests coming back positive, underscoring the importance of HCV testing.

The report noted that there were a significant number of cases reported in rural and frontier counties.

HCV is a slow-progressing disease, with symptoms that may not appear for years, if at all. Fortunately medical assistance is available. Currently, about 3.5 million people in the US are affected by HCV—most of whom are baby boomers, born between 1945 and 1965.

The number of HCV cases in Colorado rose by 9-percent from 2009 to 2015, with 4,066 cases reported in 2015, according to the Colorado Department of



Tracks bartenders Tyler (left) and Brad (right) take a break from mixing drinks to pose for a photo at Bar Wars. Photo Courtesy of OUTFRONT Colorado.

July	23	NCAP Pride in the Park
August	6	25 Years of Classics
August	20	AIDS Walk Colorado
September	24	SCAP Walk in the Garden
October	1	Scotch Tasting



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