

# POSITIVE REACTION

APRIL 2007

## HIV PATIENT NAMES TO BE TRACKED IN ALL 50 STATES BY YEAR'S END

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| <b>BY: CHARLIE<br/>GRINDLE</b>             |          |

## QUILT FACTS

- The Quilt was founded in San Francisco in 1987.
- Number of individual panels is over 46,000.
- If each panel was laid end to end the quilt would extend for over 52 miles.
- The total weight of the quilt is over 54 tons
- Over 15 million people have viewed blocks of the quilt since its inception.

Associated Press (04.01.07)::Carla K. Johnson

By the end of 2007, all 50 states will use a name-based reporting system for HIV surveillance. This fiscal year marked the first time federal Ryan White funding has been tied to name-based reporting: More than \$1.4 billion in federal money for patient medications and health services will be distributed based on new formulas that include the numbers of HIV cases counted by states using names. For some states, millions of dollars are at stake.

The last states not using name-based reporting - Vermont, Maryland, and Hawaii - are quickly moving in that direction. Eight other states and the District of Columbia started collecting the names of HIV patients

last year, and Massachusetts began in January.

The shift marks a victory for federal health officials. In 1999, CDC announced its support of name-based reporting. CDC said code-based systems burdened health care providers and, in some cases, led to double-counting. "After many evaluations of code-based systems, it became clear that those systems do not meet CDC standards for HIV data," said Dr. Timothy Mastro, deputy director of the agency's Division for HIV/AIDS Prevention. In 2005, CDC strengthened its support to a recommendation.

Some AIDS advocates maintain that code-based systems offer more confidentiality for patients. "I've not so much changed my opinion as surren-

dered," said Ron Johnson, deputy executive director of AIDS Action in Washington. "I still believe code-based reporting is valid and is preferable for HIV reporting."

Public health officials are working to reassure people who test HIV-positive that strong security measures protect the databases. Participating states strip names and other identifying information from their HIV reports before sending them in an encrypted format to CDC, health officials said.

It is unknown, however, how many doctors and patients are managing to keep names out of state databases, and whether HIV case numbers will show declines due to name-based reporting.

## STITCHING THE FABRIC OF COMMUNITY

On Saturday, April 14th from 10am -2pm the Frannie Peabody Center will be sponsoring the first of two work days for those who are interested in creating panels for the AIDS Memorial quilt. This work day will take place at Portland High School in their Home Economics Depart-

ment and lunch will be provided.

For those who are interested you will be able to enter the school through the doors on "Freshman Alley" which is located off Chestnut St. Once in the school there will be signs directing you the

Home Ec. Department. If you have any further questions or need additional information about this event or making a panel for the quilt on your own please contact Mary Martha at 774-6877 x116 or [mmgantt@peabodycenter.org](mailto:mmgantt@peabodycenter.org)

**APRIL EVENTS**

Cumberland County Events:

Friday April 6th:  
 First Friday Artwalk  
 Take a self-guided tour of various museums and studios. Free admission, goes from 5-8pm, [www.firstfridayartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridayartwalk.com) for more information

Tuesday April 10th:  
 Falmouth Memorial Library's Lunch Box Friends 12pm, Featured guest poet Annie Finch will read her poetry. Bring your lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided!

Thursday April 12th:  
 Romeo and Juliet at the Merrill Auditorium 7:30pm, Performed by the Aquila Theater Company. **FPC has 8 pairs of free tickets!**

Saturday April 21st:  
 Earth Day Festival 11am-2pm, Congress Square

York County:  
 Thursday April 5th and 12th:  
 Free Tax Help at the Kennebunk Free Library 9:30am-12:30pm, Free. Bring last year's tax return.

Saturday and Sunday April 14th & 15th:  
 Ogunquit's 17th Annual Patriot's Day Celebration Under tents on Ogunquit Main Beach--bazaar/craft show, restaurant tastings, entertainment, casino night, and much more.

**SILENT EPIDEMIC; HEPATITIS C HAS US TAKING NOTICE**

Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.) (04.01.07)::Sam Kennedy

OraSure Technologies is developing an oral hepatitis C virus test that would deliver results in about 20 minutes, the Bethlehem-based firm recently announced. This would help diagnose people with HCV earlier and link them to treatment.

HCV is mostly transmitted through intravenous drug use (IDU), and, less often, through unprotected sex, and occupa-

tional exposure. People who received blood transfusions before July 1992 may also be at risk. New annual HCV diagnoses in the nation have declined from 240,000 in the 1980s to 26,000 in 2004, according to CDC.

However, of the estimated 4.1 million US residents believed to have HCV, fewer than half know they are infected, since most are asymptomatic. It can take decades before HCV infection manifests symp-

toms and people become chronically ill. Most of those infected are Baby Boomers, and epidemiologists are bracing for an upsurge in diagnoses. Treatment success varies according to HCV type.

OraSure plans to test its HCV diagnostic this summer, and it will seek US regulatory approval by year's end, said CEO Douglas Michels. If approved, the test could be available by the second half of 2008, OraSure said.

**INTERESTED IN MEDITATION**

Do you want less stress and to feel more comfortable in your own skin? Have you always wanted to try meditation but never thought you could do it? I want to start a meditation group for beginning and experienced meditators. This will be an informal group that will

explore and practice mindfulness based meditation as laid out by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Mindfulness has been shown to, among other things, reduce stress, improve health and well being, and to help you gain a calmer outlook on life. The group would include read-

ing, practicing, and discussing. I have had some, but not a lot of experience, so we would all be learning as we go along. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Ken at [beephonk@excite.com](mailto:beephonk@excite.com)

**STAFF SPOT LIGHT  
 PATTI CAPOUCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Patti Capouch grew up on a farm in Indiana with 7 brothers and sisters. She received an undergraduate degree from St. Joseph's College in Indiana and a Masters degree from Louisiana State University. Patti moved to Maine in November of 2004 after living for 16 years in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Patti has worked in the HIV field since 1996 and was attracted to FPC because of the progressive ideas of the agency and the City of Portland. As Executive Director, Patti is responsible for everything that happens at the agency from client needs, staff needs, working with the com-

munity, funders, and board of directors.

When asked about her expectations for the agency, Patti replied, "I expect us to care for our clients in the most ethical way we can. I expect us to be good stewards with money we are given and to provide excellent direct client services. I also expect us to be a leader in the area of HIV prevention and to model quality care."

Patti noted that ensuring funding for services was the biggest challenge for her position. "As funding on a state, local and federal level decreases or remains the same every year and the number of new clients we serve contin-

ues to grow, it gets harder to maintain the level of services to clients. It is also hard to keep the community informed and aware of the needs of our client population when there is no funding for community education."

On a more personal note, Patti revealed that her favorite ice cream is Ben & Jerry's Vanilla Heath Bar Crunch, her favorite book is the [Interpreter of Maladies](#), and that Madeleine Albright is her role model because she is an amazing woman who is funny, intelligent, thoughtful and well informed.

Thank you Patti for all that you do!!

INFO BITS

**York County Events Continued:** Saturday April 21st: Laudholm Trust Earth Day Celebration at the Wells Reserve

Free! Seven miles of trails to reconnect with the earth and welcome spring. Activities and demonstrations about making our planet a healthier place. Live music, food, and more.

**Romeo and Juliet:** FPC has 8 pairs of free tickets to see Romeo and Juliet performed Thursday April

12th at the Merrill Auditorium 7:30pm. This production will be performed by the Aquila Theater Company. If you are interested in tickets please contact Gretchen at 774-6877 x111/ gjohnson@peabodycenter.org

**Eating Right?:** At this month's community night, Tues., April 17th from 6-8pm, Nutritionist, Brenda Bracy will be joining the group to share some of her expertise. Brenda has worked for the Cumber-

land County Extension office for 10 years as an Nutrition Associate where she teaches basic nutrition to adults, families, and youth with limited incomes. Along with Brenda's presentation we will be sharing a healthy meal. So come ready to learn and enjoy healthy eating!

**Free Tax Preparation:** Dial 211 to see if you are eligible and to schedule an appointment.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Please join us in welcoming the following new employees to the Frannie Peabody Center:

**Isabel Keppner**, our new administrative assistant

&

**Dorn McMahon**, a new full-time case manager

\*\*Next time you are in the Portland Valley Street office, if you get the chance, say hello to these new faces!!

APRIL 2007

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

\*\*Every Tuesday from 9-11 and Friday from 2-4, FPC has open sessions for client computer use.

| SUN                  | MON                       | TUE   | WED                       | THU | FRI                    | SAT                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1                    | 2 Men's Discussion Group  | 3 York County Healthy Discussion 6:30pm           | 4                         | 5   | 6 Computer Time 2-4pm  | 7                       |
| 8                    | 9                         | 10 Computer Time 9-11am                           | 11 Women's Group 3:30-5pm | 12  | 13 Computer Time 2-4pm | 14 Quilt Panel work day |
| 15 Taxes Due         | 16 Men's Discussion Group | 17 Computer Time 9-11am<br><b>Community Night</b> | 18                        | 19  | 20 Computer Time 2-4pm | 21                      |
| 22 GetOut volleyball | 23                        | 24  | 25 Women's Group 3:30-5pm | 26  | 27 Computer Time 2-4pm | 28                      |
| 29 GetOut volleyball | 30 Men's Discussion Group |   |                           |     |                        |                         |

- **April 11th**-Women's group at FPC's Valley St. office 3:30 to 5pm
- **April 14**- Quilt Panel Work day 10am-2pm at Portland High (see pg1)
- **April 16th**- Get "Out" Men's Discussion Group 6-8pm 49 Oak Street
- **April 17th**- Community Night with nutritionist (see info bits)
- **April 22nd**-GetOut volleyball from 5:45 pm to 8:00 pm at UNE on Stevens Avenue.
- **April 25th**-Women's group at FPC's Valley St. office 3:30 to 5pm
- **April 29th**-GetOut volleyball from 5:45 pm to 8:00 pm at UNE on Stevens Avenue.
- **April 30**- Get "Out" Men's Discussion Group 6-8pm 49 Oak Street



# FRANNIE PEABODY CENTER

comprehensive HIV & AIDS services

Check us out on the web

[www.peabodycenter.org](http://www.peabodycenter.org)

## Frannie Peabody Center

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Email: [info@peabodycenter.org](mailto:info@peabodycenter.org)

### MONEY FOR DENTAL CARE

The Maine AIDS Alliance needs your HELP!!!!

The MAA is requesting additional funding from the state to go towards DENTAL CARE! If Dental Care is important to you, please consider testifying or writing a letter in support of the additional funding. For more information, please contact the Maine AIDS Alliance at 621-2924

The Frannie Peabody Center is committed to compassionate care for the community infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS in Maine. The Peabody Center helps the community face and fight the realities of the disease by providing prevention education and direct services, including housing, information, education, advocacy, and counseling services. The Peabody Center treats the whole person with dignity, care and compassion.

## POSITIVE THOUGHTS

BY: CHARLIE GRINDLE

**Greetings!** This has been a tiring month- I moved to a new apartment, I had a temporary 40 hour a week job (very foreign to this musician) and went to New York twice for classes. The good thing about moving is how great it feels to get rid of stuff; working a regular week gave me a new appreciation for how little free time there is when you want to have a life outside of your job. Not having a partner to help get things done reminded me of how easy is it for details to go by the board. But going to the city twice was not a bad thing, although exhausting. I like the energy of New York these days, and wouldn't mind spending more time there. Driving home alone

Saturday night gave me time to ponder my life and where it's going nowadays. Even though I'm not sure what the future holds, I know I'm not 'stuck' anymore; I have a new life waiting for me. There are other folk at FPC who are changing their lives, or taking on new challenges. This is such a marvelous switch from the early days of the epidemic, when a few months, or years at best were all you could hope for. Just getting through a day with some success, and perhaps a little pleasure was a marvelous surprise. Thanks to advances in drugs, there are many people now who have now survived for fifteen or even twenty years. This 'extra

time' is what is so precious about my life, and the reason I want to give something back to the world. Whatever we want to do with our lives, and I hope everybody has some goal, it seems that there is never enough time. A friend from Canada, a minister who died back in the 80s, said just that: "No matter how much time I have, it isn't enough." I hope you'll take some time this spring to seriously think about what you are doing, or want to do, with your "one wild and precious life".

Wishing you health, laughter, and love, Charlie

### Cindi's EASY Quick DESSERT

Ingredients:

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- ½ cup Bisquick mix
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup quick oats
- ¼ cup butter
- ½ cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350'

Spread pie filling in ungreased 8" square pan or 2 quart glass dish.

Mix Bisquick mix, brown sugar and oats. Cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in chocolate chips. Spoon over pie filling. Bake for 30-35 minutes. Serve warm.