

POSITIVE REACTION

JANUARY 2007

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HIV/AIDS: FACT OR FICTION

It is possible for HIV to reproduce outside the body.

FICTION: HIV is unable to reproduce outside its living host, except in labs, therefore, it does not spread or maintain infectiousness outside the body. This makes the possibility of environmental transmission-essentially zero.

In October, companies such as the Gap, Converse, Motorola, Armani Exchange, and Apple began selling items of the Product Red campaign. The companies must donate a portion of their profits from the campaign to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and must also sell the brand for at least five years. Product Red was created by musician Bono and Californian politician Bobby Shriver, both of whom are advocates for the Global Fund.

Product Red differs from other cause-related marketing by creating a sustainable and profitable fund raising model for retailers. In other words, the brand aims to make it

worthwhile for both the companies involved and the Global Fund. Yet for Product Red to be truly successful, consumers must ultimately enjoy buying the products not just because their dollars help people, but also because the products are high-quality, stylish, and popular. Therefore, unlike other fund raising and awareness campaigns, Product Red is not just a special line but rather a core and integral part of participating companies' collections.

The money raised through the campaign will go toward the Global Fund's efforts in Africa and so many of the products involved are linked to the continent in some way. Many of Gap's Product Red

items are produced at its factory in Lesotho, Motorola is manufacturing some of its Red phones in Nigeria, and Converse has created a shoe made from Mali mud cloth.

When the US campaign was launched, the British campaign was only 9 months old and had already raised \$10 million. Only time will tell how successful Product Red will be in the US, but by December, the campaign here had raised enough money to provide more than 40,000 people with ARV treatment for a year. Hopefully Product Red can maintain momentum and put consumers' dollars to work.

WOMBATS: WOMEN OF MAINE BATTLING AIDS TOGETHER SUCCESSFULLY

Would you like to be a part of WOMBATS? If you are a woman that is HIV+ and/or raising a child that is HIV+ , you are qualified and welcomed to join the WOMBATS for our retreats that are held 3 times a year. This is a chance for women that are dealing with HIV to come together in a welcoming, infor-

mal, supportive setting, and find the positive love and encouragement that each of us need, without the fear of stigma. At each WOMBATS retreat, a group of approximately 20 women from all over the State, get together for a weekend of rest, relaxation, food, and fun. There is no costs for our retreats.

The next retreat will be held Jan. 26th-28th, 2007, at the Days Inn in Augusta.

If you are interested in registering for the retreat or have any questions please email, wombatsme@aol.com or call Kristin Espey at 774-6877 x130 for more information.

Note from the Director

Warmest Greetings for the New Year!!

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We here at FPC are excited about the coming year and the opportunities for engaging and serving our community. We also look forward to you, our clients, becoming involved with our agency over the course of 2007. We offer a variety of different avenues for people to become connected with the agency ranging from the internet list serve to time limited support groups to our monthly client community nights. Also, we encourage those who are interested to consider attending the speakers' bureau training at the end of the month. There will be several occasions throughout the year for members of the speakers' bureau to advocate for clients' and to continue educating our local communities. The more active participation we have, the stronger our presence in Southern Maine. As always, we appreciate your feedback and ideas. Please continue to speak with your case manager or contact our support services manager. We look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Thanks for your continued support and involvement,

Patti Capouch
Executive Director

DIRECT CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS (DCAF)

The Frannie Peabody Center has made slight changes to the existing Direct Client Assistance Fund program (DCAF).

The state of Maine (HIV) has prioritized the client emergency funds to be used for medical and dental accessibility. Currently, our DCAF program reimburses for these needs as well as eye care. We are expanding this reimbursement program to also cover "over the counter" products related to HIV/AIDS, subject to a medical provider approval.

The Ryan White Title II funding that covers the DCAF program is designated as the payer of last resort. That means other resources should be looked into if available. For example, the AIDS Drug Assis-

tance Program (ADAP) has expanded its coverage to pay for medication co-pays and insurance premiums, we will require that the ADAP program is used for co-pay and premium payments/reimbursement, rather than DCAF. We must also set a cost limit to eyeglass frames. We will reimburse for frames up to \$100.00. This does not include lenses.

We will continue to pay/reimburse for other co-pays or co-pays not eligible for ADAP. We will also continue to pay/reimburse for nutritional supplements.

Our budget inhibits us from increasing the \$500.00 cap per year. As a result of client input and requests, we are

pursuing other resources and funds to accommodate additional dental needs and alternative therapies.

It is important to remind folks that the DCAF program is available to individuals that meet the income criteria, which is 300% of the Federal Poverty Level or below. We set the categories and \$500.00 limit to be fair to all clients accessing the program and to maximize the amount of funding given to us by the state. It is not a guarantee that \$500.00 is available to all, it is merely a cap. We have run out of DCAF money in the past, and therefore not able to fulfill requests. We recommend submitting requests as you acquire them to avoid possible denial due to funding.

**STAFF SPOT LIGHT
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE, JACOB ROBBERSON**

Jacob Roberson is originally from Western Kentucky, which he described as "that untouched kind of natural beauty." He received his bachelors degree in social work from the University of Kentucky. During college, Jacob became very interested in social policy and sustainable ways to create a more equitable society. Because of his interest he took a job in Lexington, Kentucky with Community Action Council, a pov-

erty fighting organization.

Jacob said he was originally attracted to FPC because of its mission and size.

"I also wanted to work in a more intimate nonprofit setting and be more personally and professionally aligned with mission of the organization. FPC appeared to offer those things and has really lived up to that expectation so far."

Jacob started with FPC on December 4, 2006, and is still

working on establishing himself in the workplace as well as his daily routine. He admits that establishing himself in this new community has been interesting.

Jacob's favorite adventure in Maine has been packing his bags and coming here. He, his girlfriend and two dogs are happy and excited to be here and call Maine home. We at FPC, also are excited to have him as part of the team!

MOVIE NIGHT

By client request, this month's Community Night, **January 16th from 6-8 pm**, will be a movie night. We will be serving popcorn, soft drinks and goodies. Please feel free to bring anything you wish to contribute. The movie we will be showing is **The Devil Wears**

Prada. A film starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway, which is based on Laura Wiesberger's novel. The plot deals with a naive young woman who comes to New York and scores a job as the assistant to a ruthless and cynical magazine editor. The Running

time is 109 minutes so we will be starting right at six- come a little early to get a good seat.

In the future if you have any thoughts for a client community night please share your ideas with Mary Martha @774-6877 x116 or mmgantt@peabodycenter.org.

INFO BITS

Interested in joining a list serve that is set up to provide mutual support for those living with HIV in York and Cumberland Counties. If so please contact Mary Martha to be added at 774-6877 x116 or mmgantt@peabodycenter.org

Community Night goes Hollywood: For this month's community night, Tuesday, January 16th 6-8pm, we will be watching the movie, "The Devil Wears Prada" Popcorn, soft drinks and goodies will be provided. For more information see article on page 2.

Mark Your Calendar: For a Speakers' Bureau training, Thursday, January 25th at 1pm. This training is for those who are interested in joining the speakers bureau and did not go through a training last year. This group will be made up of clients, other HIV positive folks, or those who have been significantly affected by HIV; who want to play a role in education and prevention. Members of this group will be asked to go to different speaking engagements and share their first hand account of the reality of living with HIV. We realize that this level of sharing takes tremendous

thought and preparation. If this interest you please contact Mary Martha @ 774-6877 x116 to sign up for the training.

Enjoy Sporting Events? If you are interested in going to the Portland Pirates hockey games this season please let Gretchen know so that she can assist you in getting free tickets. Gretchen can be reached at 774-6877 x111 or gjohnson@peabodycenter.org.

Please join us in celebrating the following employment anniversaries this month:

Tara Thomas, as of January 7th, has been employed with FPC **5 years** in a variety of positions.

Greg Hofmann, as of January 11th, has been working at Peabody House **1 year**.

Cynthia Chiang, as of January 23rd, has been working as a case manager at Positive Health for **1 year**.

JANUARY 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Happy New Year!!	1 Office Closed	2 Computer Time 9-11am	3	4	5 Computer Time 2-4pm	6
7	8	9 Computer Time 9-11am	10	11	12 Computer Time 2-4pm	13
14	15	16 Computer Time 9-11am Community Night 6-8pm	17 HIV Heart Circle 6-7:30pm	18	19 Computer Time 2-4pm	20
21	22	23 Computer Time 9-11am	24 HIV Heart Circle 6-7:30pm	25 Speaker Training 1pm	26 Computer Time 2-4pm WOMBATS	27 RETREAT
28 WOMBATS RETREAT	29	30 Computer Time 9-11am	31 HIV Heart Circle 6-7:30pm			

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

****HIV Heart Circle is a closed group that meets on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining the next session please contact Manny @774-6877 x121..**

- **January 16th**– Client Community Night at FPC Valley St office from 6-8pm. For more details see page 2.
- **January 17th**– HIV Heart Circle will start its second session. See above for more details.
- **January 25th**– Speakers' Bureau training at FPC Valley St. office at 1pm. RSVP to Mary Martha @774-6877 x116
- **January 26-28**– WOMBATS retreat in Augusta. See front page article for more details.



FRANNIE PEABODY CENTER

comprehensive HIV & AIDS services

Check us out on the web

www.peabodycenter.org

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Congratulations !!

Alice Caswell, York County Case Manager, for winning the holiday door decorating contest. Her door had the Winter Solstice theme and was adorned with many natural elements. Also, many thanks to everyone who participated in decorating and voting.

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 for the New Year!

Well, it's behind us, and I trust everyone had a good holiday, with lots of family and friends around. And lots of good food, that's one of the most important parts of the season for me (as noticed in my waistline)! I wonder what food it is that makes, or made, the holiday special for you. For me, it was my mother's homemade mince-meat pie that made it a really festive time. And the blackberry jam, made with berries from the field behind the house, on toast for breakfast the day after. Does anyone besides me like 'ambrosia', made from fruit salad, marshmallows, and whipped cream? Most of my family wouldn't touch it, but....

A person, who shall remain nameless in her own lovely (brunette) way, had a slip of the tongue the other day, and started talking about 'sexually

traumatic diseases'. Wow, what thoughts that brought up! Not only is it traumatic for us in the day-to-day living, it can linger in our minds and cause that 'damaged goods' syndrome that makes us uncomfortable being in an intimate relationship, even if our partner knows our situation. This can be a tough thing to overcome, but we need to be constantly reminding ourselves that everyone has something about themselves they are uncomfortable with. Ours may be a bit more serious, but we're all in this together, so get out there and savor each moment of being with people, and in this beautiful world.

I don't generally make new year's resolutions, but a friend gave me another take on the 'improvement' thought; wouldn't it be great if we could get to

January 1 and push a personal 'refresh' button, the way we can on our computers? Taking it further, how would your hard drive or toolbar be different? Would you have a new screen saver, that picture you hold in your mind when it's not busy with other things? Would all the un-wanted and un-needed files be gone? A chance to start again would be a nice beginning to the new year. This is always a special time of year for me because I got my diagnosis in December; each January marks another year of life that I didn't expect to enjoy. And I do, even with the challenges and obstacles. I hope that your life in the coming year will be a joy for you, and that you will find something special and wonderful in each day that you have.

Wishing you health, laughter, and love, Charlie

Spicy Corn Casserole

2 Cans of Creamed Corn

1 Cup of Bisquick

1/3 cup of vegetable oil

3/4 cup of milk

2 eggs beaten

8oz. Pepper Jack Cheese sliced

Mix all ingredients except cheese. Pour half the mixture into a greased casserole dish topped with a layer of pepper jack cheese, then the other half of the mixture. Cover with foil, bake at 375 for 45 minutes. Take off the foil and bake another 15 minutes (or until slightly browned on top).