



## News from the DCHIVHSPC:

Every year, World AIDS Day is recognized on December 1<sup>st</sup>. There are many events in our area in honor and recognition of World AIDS Day. The following is a list of events scheduled for the week of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. If you have any questions regarding the events please feel free to contact the Planning Council office.


### December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

 ARCS and Family Practice of Hyde Park are hosting a candle light vigil in Poughkeepsie to commemorate World AIDS Day. The vigil will begin at the corner of Market St. and Main St. at 5:30pm and proceed to the Family Partnership Center at 29 North Hamilton St.


### December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

 Hudson River Health Care is hosting an event 1037 Main St. in Poughkeepsie. The program begins at 11:00am with a few special guest speakers and is followed by lunch at 12:30pm. Also, there will be a candlelight vigil at night, from 5:00-7:00pm at Pugsley Park in Peekskill, NY.

### December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

 The Dutchess County HIV Planning Council and the Dutchess County Department of Health are hosting our 10<sup>th</sup> annual World AIDS Day event at the FDR Henry A. Wallace Center in Hyde Park. The event begins at 9:00am.

### December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

 Dutchess County Community College is hosting a World AIDS Day event beginning at 12:00pm with a guest speaker from the Foundation for AIDS Research, Vice President Rowena Johnston.



The face of HIV knows no race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or politics. It only knows SUFFERING, HARDSHIP, and DEATH. It continues after 25 years because we haven't stopped it.

**TIME TO OWN IT  
TIME TO END IT**

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

The Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council is pleased to invite you to our 10<sup>th</sup> annual World AIDS Day event. This year the theme of our event is "*Lead, Empower, and Improve: Planning for Quality Health Care*". How well this fits! The event is being held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at the FDR Henry A. Wallace Center in Hyde Park, NY from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

At the event, guest speakers will be presenting information on navigating Medicaid, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), and Medicare, throughout the morning session. Those who attend will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch while networking with other community members. Additionally, we be displaying a panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt from the Names Project and a panel created with the help of PLWH/A Committee to memorialize those from Dutchess County who have passed away from the disease will be unveiled. Finally, the Planning Council will be honoring individuals and agencies that have contributed greatly to the health and quality of life for Dutchess County residents who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

In the afternoon, the Planning Council will be hosting a community forum to discuss and plan for HIV/AIDS services in Dutchess County. By holding an open community discussion we plan to get a better understanding of the communities needs while at the same time portraying possible outcomes for the future of HIV/AIDS services in Dutchess County. The goal of continuing and improving the current quality health care services available for those in our area infected and affected with HIV/AIDS is very important and the input from the community is an essential part of that planning process.

**SAVE THE DATE: DUTCHESS COUNTY WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT  
DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> FDR WALLACE CENTER 9:00AM-3:00PM**

Sincerely,  
Ben Barile  
Planning Council Chair

## World AIDS DAY 2008 Message

Within the 2008 World AIDS Day theme, “*Lead, Empower, and Improve*”, a new opportunity exists to enhance the Hudson Valley’s ongoing battle against the spread of HIV/AIDS and meet care needs for those living with the disease. Whether caregiver agencies, health professionals, or persons living with compromised immune systems, the success of this year’s theme hinges on a heightened sense of self and public awareness. A working partnership of local communities, political leaders, and building new multi-generational involvements is essential if we are to close the untenable gap between the newly revised CDC numbers of people needing HIV prevention and treatment, and meet the burgeoning numbers and expanding care gaps for those with life-limiting AIDS or HIV-driven bio-psychosocial needs.

We are living at a moment in time of this pandemic that affords us hard won scientific tools for enhanced care and knowledge based prevention. History will judge us harshly if we do not act well and deliver quality care beyond any manmade limitations. These powerful life sustaining tools for some have evolved with a tremendous history and human toll. It is measured not only in lives lost, or seen in those managing well, but also in those suffering open scars and ravages this disease still delivers for too many. Those living the isolated, disabled lives of HIV/AIDS are sometimes in the shadow of now commonly held discussions of cures. Wrongfully presumed truths occur in part because we now speak far too easily of HIV as a chronic condition and minimize the dire realities for those newly invisible individuals struggling daily within the grip of advanced AIDS.

As citizens of this 21<sup>st</sup> century global society, no matter our health status, we need to merge perspectives to *Improve* the future. How can we best tie this year’s mandate to local care and prevention goals? How can we best collectively move forward to create and *Lead* a meaningful, long-term, sustained health response capable of meeting the explosive demands of the future? We should build on the best innovations of successful crisis management efforts from the past 28 year history of this pandemic. We can formulate a future that draws from professional expertise and is ever inclusive of lessons from personal and learned experiences. We can recreate needed targeted efforts and charge new ones with an added mission: use educational and preventative outreach to raise awareness, and address ongoing issues of access to care, support, and specialized treatment needs.

Any comprehensive approach to the epidemic must *Improve* response needed to confront the factors that feed its spread: poverty, classism, racism, sexism, bias, discrimination, stigma and ignorance, amongst others. This is not a task of public health alone. To reach each new generation successfully and insure that HIV is not a ‘rite of passage’ for at-risk generations and individuals, from tomorrow’s youth to today’s seniors, the need for learned societal skills and sexual health knowledge and strategies to keep all well deserve frequent discussion. In tandem, we must *Empower* vulnerable groups with essential information regarding access to care, support, and treatment where it is needed, as the lack has been shown to allow HIV/AIDS to spread more rapidly and undermines prevention efforts.

By enforcing the highest standard of physical and mental health for those ill and those at risk we can bolster effective healthcare models that strengthen the basic human rights of *Empowering* those who seek help, and *Improving* the system that works on their behalf. We must properly distinguish the in-depth service delivery needed by those symptomatic and ill, from those ambulatory to those at risk across the spectrum of HIV and AIDS, we also acknowledge the clear need for enhanced ongoing research and outcomes. The reality is that AIDS still has no cure, that new treatments and ultimately a vaccine are critical beyond what we strive to address today.

In the face of an expanding domestic epidemic and from realities faced within this state, which has the highest infections per capita (as it has since the beginnings of the pandemic), we need to affirm a commitment for *Empowering* community improvements.

In these times of new economic upheaval, the risks and realities of decreasing funding will strain ever limited services, which poses serious problems that risk growing worse. Answers are needed from all as we attempt to do the best possible now and clearly for generations in need yet to come.

*Michael Reynolds, Executive Director ~  
NETWORTH/Positive Action*

*All rights in whole or part reserved - copyright 2008 Positive Action International 518.339.2437(AIDS). NETWORTH is a Hudson Valley health education organization dedicated to the Care and supportive needs of families living with AIDS and HIV. M.Reynolds has lived with AIDS related Complex Syndrome (ARCS) since 1982, HIV since 1984 & multiple complications of ‘full-blown’ AIDS diagnosed on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1986.*

## Upcoming Meetings

### December 2008

#### December 10th

- ◆ Planning/Allocation Committee  
9:30am

#### December 15<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Evaluation Committee  
3:30pm

### January 2009

#### January 7<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Membership Committee  
3:00pm
- ◆ Executive Committee  
3:30pm
- ◆ Full Planning Council  
5:00pm

#### January 14th

- ◆ Planning/Allocation Committee  
9:30am

#### January 19th

- ◆ Evaluation Committee  
3:30pm

#### January Date TBD

- ◆ PLWH/A Committee  
5:30pm

### February 2009

#### February 4th

- ◆ Membership Committee  
3:00pm
- ◆ Executive Committee  
3:30pm
- ◆ Full Planning Council  
5:00pm

#### February 11th

- ◆ Planning/Allocation Committee  
9:30am

#### February TBD

- ◆ Evaluation Committee  
3:30pm

#### February Date TBD

- ◆ PLWH/A Committee  
5:30pm

- ❖ The Evaluation, Planning & Allocations, and the PLWH/A Committee meetings are held at the Planning Council office
- ❖ The Membership Committee, Executive Committee, and the Full Planning Council meetings are held at Catharine Street Community Center
- ❖ All meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change



**We Invite You to Join Us!**  
**Dutchess County HIV Health Services Planning Council**  
Family Partnership Center  
29 North Hamilton St., Suite 221 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Tel: 845.452.8805 • Fax: 845.452.8828  
Email: [info@hivplanningdutchess.org](mailto:info@hivplanningdutchess.org)  
[www.hivplanningdutchess.org](http://www.hivplanningdutchess.org)

