

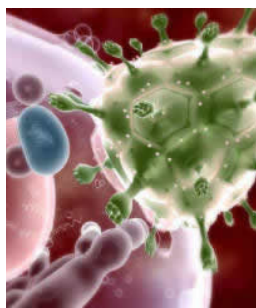
FALL/WINTER 2011

Compassion. Hope. Future.

**CENTRAL
COAST
HIV/AIDS
SERVICES**

www.cchas.org

OUR MISSION is to serve individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Monterey and San Benito Counties by providing safety-net and vital services that assist in maintaining the best possible quality of life while also preventing the continued spread of HIV through education, prevention, and testing programs.



HIV/AIDS – 30 YEARS LATER

While the **history of AIDS began with the words illness, fear and death, great hope exists today**, 30 years after the first cases of the disease were discovered in the United States. In the first decade,

the number of people newly diagnosed with AIDS went from 318 in 1981 to 75,457 in 1992. Death was most often a certainty. But after 1995, new AIDS diagnoses declined to 38,279 and remained stable until today, according to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC). Improved medications to slow the progression of HIV were largely responsible. Hope finally had a foothold.

Today, 1.2 million people are living with HIV in the U.S. — 20% of whom are undiagnosed. After 30 years of advances with HIV/AIDS, the hard work of preventing

it's spread is needed because people living with HIV continues to increase. Through HIV Education, Prevention and Testing programs, **Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services (CCHAS) continues to work steadfast** in Monterey and San Benito Counties to stop the spread of HIV. CCHAS also compassionately assists those living with HIV/AIDS through our many Client Service programs to help them to live with health, dignity and hope.

After 30 years, we continue our resolve to help stop this pandemic. In 2011, the CDC made the public aware of **"the importance of people everywhere knowing their HIV status** and being linked to services for HIV prevention, care and treatment". **CCHAS is here to make that happen and we continue to rely on your support and good will.**

TIMELINE of HIV/AIDS HISTORY **1981:** First Cases Recognized (CDC report published) ➔ **1983:** First discovery of AIDS virus (later called HIV) ➔ **1985:** Rock Hudson dies of AIDS – hysteria builds / First HIV Test licensed ➔ **1986:** First panel of AIDS Memorial Quilt created ➔ **1987:** FDA approves first antiretroviral drug for treating AIDS (AZT) / AIDS Memorial Quilt displayed in Washington with 1,920 panels ➔ **1991:** Magic Johnson announces he has HIV and retires from the NBA ➔ **1992:** Red Ribbon Campaign Begins (Symbol of AIDS Awareness) ➔ **1996-97:** Medical breakthrough - AIDS drug "cocktail" / Deaths decline by more than 40% ➔ **2001-02:** AIDS treatment goes global / FDA releases new rapid HIV test ➔ **2004:** U.S. launches emergency plan to combat AIDS worldwide ➔ **2006-09:** HIV treatment shown to extend life and prolong onset of AIDS ➔ **2010:** Over 40,000 panels on AIDS Memorial Quilt **2011:** New advances continue with an emphasis on HIV prevention ♥

COMPASSION AND SUPPORT Last year, CCHAS' Education, Prevention and Testing programs:

• performed 506 HIV Tests

• conducted 104,476 syringe exchanges

• distributed 83,000 condoms

• reached over 8,116 local residents about preventing HIV/AIDS infection

From the Executive Director

Our Journey Continues

Three decades ago in 1981, a new unknown illness started to sweep across the nation and **no community was spared, including our own here in Monterey County**. From its first discovery until the mid-1990s, an HIV diagnosis carried with it the devastating reality that the odds of surviving were not good. Not good at all. When someone contracted the disease, their existence changed dramatically, and a new life-journey with HIV took them in a different direction than planned. The same can be said of any one of us who has ever known or loved someone with HIV/AIDS – **our life-journey changed forever** too. Few were, or have been, left untouched. Looking back to the beginning, the first 15 years of this journey were the worst. So much loss, time and time again – it was relentless. Grief became a daily companion, and suddenly time became very precious, and with it priorities changed quickly. Nationally, resources and science mobilized and sought ways to combat HIV/AIDS. At home, **we came together in the face of fear and ignorance to support the ones we loved, and each other**. Thankfully, the last 15 years have seen increasing hope starting with new and effective HIV medications in the 1990's. The last ten years in particular have seen medical advances that now greatly stabilize the health of someone living with HIV/AIDS. Though this is certainly something to celebrate and appreciate, we cannot forget the fact that **until there's a cure, HIV/AIDS remains a deadly disease**. Continuing the dedicated work of those who've gone before us, CCHAS helps hundreds of local people living with HIV/AIDS every year, and reaches thousands more through education, prevention and early testing to help stop the spread of the disease. **On this, the 30th commemoration of HIV/AIDS, we invite you to continue the journey with us** – to honor loved ones now gone but never forgotten, to embrace those who still need our help now, and to maintain hope for the day when a cure is found – it's just a matter of time. **For all your support – past, present and future – thank you.**

—Tom Melville

AGING WITH AIDS

As advances in treatment continue, people older than 50 have become the fastest growing segment of the HIV/AIDS population in the U.S. In 2009, this group accounted for 17% of all new diagnoses! CCHAS' programs are responsive and designed to meet the needs of baby boomers and seniors living HIV positive.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JeriAnn Shapiro – *Chair*

Karen Rolin – *Vice-Chair*

Geoff Norris – *Secretary*

Errol Chambless – *Treasurer*



CCHAS staff at San Francisco Giants Game

Baseball Supports HIV/AIDS Efforts!

The **Until There's a Cure Foundation**, in collaboration with the San Francisco Giants, awarded \$15,000 to CCHAS at their annual baseball game in July, 2011. This was the 18th consecutive year that the Giants have hosted this game to raise money and increase awareness for HIV/AIDS. CCHAS representatives, for the second year, were in attendance and honored at a home plate ceremony before the game at this exciting event!

Calling All Holiday Angels

It's the most wonderful time of the year—the holiday season. It's a time when friends and family come together to celebrate and give thanks. It's also a time to remember those less fortunate. Again this year, CCHAS needs your help to provide holiday gifts to more than 100 children living in families affected by HIV/AIDS.

You can help make the holidays a brighter season by providing an unwrapped gift for children of all ages. Contact Carol at 384-3388 to give a gift of the season—a toy for a child in need.



December 1st is **WORLD AIDS DAY!**

Established on December 1, 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising awareness, increasing resources, fighting prejudice and improving education. World AIDS Day is important for reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to do.



According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33.3 million people living with HIV, including 2.5 million children. During 2009, approximately 2.6 million people became newly infected with the virus and an estimated 1.8 million people died from AIDS. In California, the CA Office of AIDS anticipates 5-7,000 new HIV infections in the state this year alone.

The vast majority of people with HIV/AIDS live in lower and middle-income households. HIV today is a threat to men, women and children on all continents around the world. **Think globally. Act locally.** Let's do our part here in Monterey County to help those living with HIV/AIDS and prevent its spread through prevention, education and testing – your support of CCHAS makes that happen!

Housing = Healthcare

Housing is a critical issue in America. Stable housing for someone with HIV is literally a matter of life or death. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 50% of people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. are at risk of becoming homeless. Homelessness or unstable housing severely impacts someone's ability to comply with daily medication routines to keep their HIV in check and maintain their health.



CCHAS offers a wide option of housing programs that are designed to help low-income people living with HIV. One program, Calm Waters, is a tenant based rental assistance program that is scattered throughout Monterey County. Coupled with case management, Calm Waters assists clients with up to 70% of their monthly rent, which ultimately leads to improved health, enhanced well-being and a reduced reliance on public benefits. **A winning combination — and that's why, Housing = Healthcare.**

CELEBRATE SUCCESS!

*After many years of homelessness and a heroin and crack addiction, "Marylyn" was tested positive for Hepatitis C (HEP C) by CCHAS staff. Through CCHAS' outreach and education from caring, compassionate staff, "Marylyn" has made a tremendous change in her life. She is clean from drugs, off the streets, and is currently receiving treatment for her HEP C. **Education and testing make a difference, one life at a time!***

BEYOND THE NUMBERS – Medication Assistance

It is not a secret...the many medications required with HIV/AIDS treatment can be very costly. So, how do people who need medications actually get them? The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a federal program designed for those with no other options. In California, any person who cannot financially pay for HIV medication has access to the ADAP program which is administered by the State Office of AIDS.

As the designated ADAP Coordinator for Monterey and San Benito Counties, CCHAS oversees any agency or entity that enrolls people into the program. All CCHAS Client Service Coordinators are trained and certified as ADAP Enrollment Workers as well as providing services in local HIV clinics.

In 2010, CCHAS enrolled approximately 120 clients in ADAP. If you, or anyone you know, need help with the cost of HIV medication, **CCHAS is ready to help – just let us know!**

We Remember...

**William C.
Philip K.
John H.**

The special people mentioned above completed their journey with HIV/AIDS between May– September, 2011. They will always remain in our hearts for the many lives they touched.



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A NOTE OF THANKS!

While the tough realities of having HIV/AIDS continue, Central Coast HIV/AIDS Services provide comprehensive services to those who live daily with HIV, and we work diligently to prevent its spread.

We can't do it without you—our loyal, dedicated and committed volunteers, funders and donors!

People Helping People – Touching One Life at a Time

THANK YOU!



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Wish List

WHAT WE NEED... CAN YOU HELP?

Monetary Donations Online

www.cchas.org

Volunteer Time

We welcome individuals and groups.

Donate In-Kind Gifts

A sample of needed items for our many clients and programs include:

Individual Hygiene Items

(razors, toothpaste, shampoo, soap)

Winter scarfs, caps and gloves for children and adults

Supermarket gift cards

Copy paper (white and colored)

1st class postage stamps

Are You Positive You're Negative?

Two young Americans become infected with HIV Every Hour!