



ICARE

News from the Iowa Center for
AIDS Resources and Education

Summer 2009

ADAP Heavily Impacted

By Kurt Pierick



On July 14, 2009 the Iowa Department of Public Health closed the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to new enrollees. The demand for the program is outpacing the ability of the state and federal resources to sustain the program. Those currently on the ADAP program, will continue to receive medication and prospective enrollees will be placed on a waiting list until costs can be contained or more funding becomes available.

As of June 2009, ADAP was providing 441 people with medication. On average, the program spends \$9,000 a year per enrollee. In the past year, there has been a 24% increase in program utilization overall. Within the first three months of 2009, there was a 153% increase compared to the first three months of 2008. The state of Iowa has experienced this before in 2004 and 2005 and at that time, the Iowa legislation allocated \$375,000 to eliminate a 14 month waiting list. The state then allocated \$555,000 for the next three years. In the fiscal year 2009 the ADAP program has seen a decrease in funding of \$2,500 even after the federal stimulus money was received, causing the ADAP program to be closed. It is projected that approximately 120 people will be placed on the waiting list over the course of the year.

ADAP does more than just give medication to those who need it; it also helps with insurance premiums such as COBRA, MEPD and HIP Iowa. Outside of Iowa, five other states have waiting lists, including: Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming. In addition, five more states are anticipating implementing a waiting list before March 31, 2010, including: Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho and Tennessee.

There has been a 32% increase in diagnosis of HIV or AIDS in Iowa since 2004, causing the need to increase funding and continue ADAP. Having access to the medication is allowing people with HIV to live longer and have healthier lives. With the availability of effective treatment the number of hospital visits are reduced, the onset of disabilities are delayed, and patients viral loads are lowered, which may reduce the risk of the HIV transmission to their partners.

The news of the decrease in funding/freeze on enrollees comes to us as a shock, but we have been able to get through this before and we have grown and learned a lot since 2005. ICARE will continue to work with clients to find alternative sources for medication assistance. If you are interested in supporting the need for medication assistance for ICARE's clients, please visit www.icareiowa.org to make a donation online or call toll free: 1-888-338-2135. Thank you for your support.

Visitors from Africa

On June 13, 2009 ICARE presented information to five individuals from Africa and three individuals from the United States about the services that ICARE provides as well as how we reach out to rural communities.

Our African guests were looking for guidance on how to reach Africans in rural settings who have been affected by HIV. This was a great opportunity to help those in need and at the same time, showcase the great work ICARE does. We are hoping that we can continue to do this each year.

Interested in helping ICARE? Visit www.icareiowa.org to learn more about how to give.

Still Want to Receive ICARE News? Let Us Know Today!

As you all know, in 2004 ICARE became part of MECCA Services. This July we were very excited to bring you MECCA's first ever all-encompassing Annual Report highlighting all of our programs, including ICARE.

In an effort to conserve resources and streamline information, starting this fall, we will begin including ICARE information within MECCA's new electronic newsletter, which will be sent out on a bi-monthly basis.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about all that MECCA is involved with in addition to focusing on ICARE. If you would like to continue receiving news and information from ICARE, please send your name and preferred e-mail address to Sarah Karlen at skarlen@meccaia.com, with the subject line: **ICARE Newsletter**.

If you have any questions about the newsletter transition, please contact Sarah Karlen at the email address above or call 319-351-4357. Thank you!





438 Southgate Ave. Iowa City, IA 52240
Local Phone: 319-338-2135 Toll Free: 1-888-338-2135
E-mail: icare@icareiowa.org
www.icareiowa.org

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage

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Permit No. 229
Iowa City, IA 52240

New Pioneer/ ICARE Pancake Breakfast Serves 1,000!

The Chauncey Swan Parking Ramp, just a block off the pedestrian mall in downtown Iowa City, was the locale for the 22nd Annual New Pioneer/ ICARE Pancake Breakfast, held June 7, 2009. Despite the rain and early morning location change, about 1,000 people showed up to support ICARE during the Iowa Arts Festival. ICARE was pleased to see over 80 very dedicated volunteers rolling up their sleeves to make the best breakfast in town!

We were honored to have Senator Joe Bolkcom, Representative Mary Masher, Mayor Regenia Bailey, Congressman Dave Loebsack and several Johnson County Supervisors, along with many more local dignitaries, helping out the day of the event.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors who made the breakfast a success, and to those who showed their support by stopping by for a bite to eat! The mood just wouldn't have been right without our entertainers! We graciously thank all of our talented musicians: Deb Tiemens, Bill Hook, Patricia Willestoff, Jeffrey Morgan, and Mary Pat Reasoner & Friends.

The fundraiser brought in approximately \$9,000 in support of ICARE's case management, prevention and education services. We look forward to another successful event next year!! To view the gallery of pictures from the event, as well as a complete list of sponsors, please visit: www.icareiowa.org.



The Comedy "The Little Dog Laughed" Benefits ICARE's Mission

On June 19 and 20, City Circle Acting Company of Coralville and ICARE collaborated on a production of the play, "The Little Dog Laughed" as a benefit for ICARE and the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts. This is the first time these two groups have collaborated and the first time this play, a comedy about closeted gay actors in Hollywood, has been performed in the area.

"We thought this project would be a great time for our organizations to come together," said Chris Okiishi, Chair of City Circle Acting Company of Coralville. "Quickly Riverside Theatre came on board and lent us their Gilbert Street theater space free of charge."

The play, directed by veteran community stage director John Harper, was well received by dozens of enthusiastic audience members. In total, over \$800 was raised over the two-night event with many audience members donating additional money beyond the ticket price at the door.

Response to the collaboration has been so great that City Circle hopes to remount the show later this fall in collaboration once again with ICARE. Further details are pending. Watch for more information at www.icareiowa.org and www.CityCircle.Org.