



Iowa Center for AIDS
Resources & Education
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ICARE

News from the Iowa Center for
AIDS Resources and Education

Winter 2008

Beauty with a Mission: Until There's a Cure® Foundation

Most of us have seen The Bracelet, either in shops or around the wrists of friends. There is a vague notion that they are a symbol to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, but few of us know the whole story.



The Bracelets are made in Italy for a national organization called Until There's A Cure®. In its mission statement, Until There's A Cure® declares:

"The dream is that no one else will become infected with HIV. For those who are HIV positive we are dedicated on their behalf to educating all people about the virus and the overwhelming need for love and compassion in fighting this pandemic."

The goal is to fund prevention education, care services and vaccine development using The Bracelet as a tool. The Bracelet will serve not only as a bridge to unite people to fight HIV/AIDS, but to help people to recognize that anyone—man, woman or child—can be infected and that everyone should be compassionate, understanding and responsible."

The goals of Until There's A Cure® and ICARE's mission to enrich the quality of life of persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS are strikingly similar. Through the distribution of information and services, both organizations foster the self empowerment necessary to live productively and positively with HIV/AIDS.

Until There's A Cure® Foundation directs its grants to education/awareness programs and a full range of programs to ensure the health of HIV/AIDS patients and their families. These potential awareness programs may be directed to large or small audiences, may be focused on local, national

or global aspects of the pandemic, and may use diverse and inventive methods of communications. Until There's A Cure® Foundation has granted nearly nine million dollars to organizations, large and small, in every geographic area of the United States.

In September 2007, **ICARE was awarded \$7,000** from the foundation to assist in providing case management services. By purchasing a bracelet today, you're not only helping the Until There's A Cure® Foundation, you're helping ICARE.

The Bracelet is only one of the foundation's sources of funding, and is reminiscent of the MIA/POW bracelets of the 60's and 70's. It is a quarter inch band with a raised AIDS ribbon on the side. Inside are two small plaques, one inscribed with "Until There's A Cure®" and the other left blank, allowing individuals to personalize it. It comes in several different metals and is a beautiful symbol of awareness and remembrance. For those seeking a different look, Until There's A Cure® also offers a new African art bracelet, and jelly bracelets in a variety of colors.

The Bracelet sells for \$25, with proceeds going not only toward funding of AIDS awareness and prevention education, but also providing financial support for care and services for those living with AIDS and supporting AIDS vaccine development.

The Until There's A Cure® Foundation derives funds from a variety of other sources as well as bracelet sales, including sporting events, fundraising events, private donations and partnerships with HIV/AIDS organizations.



For more information about Until There's A Cure® Foundation, visit www.until.org.

ICARE PROVIDES COMPASSION, EDUCATION AND RESOURCES: THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST HIV/AIDS

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Save the date: ICARE Pancake Breakfast June 8, 2008

Mark your calendars for the 21st Annual New Pioneer and ICARE Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 8, 2008. Stop by while you stroll through the Iowa Arts Festival.

Volunteers and staff will be serving breakfast from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City. The same great menu of pancakes, fresh fruit, sausage, juice and coffee will be served, so plan to come out and support a worthy cause.



Congressman Dave Loebsack lends a helping hand at last year's pancake breakfast.

Tickets will be available for \$10 on the ICARE Web site starting May 1. Visit www.icareiowa.org to purchase your tickets using PayPal or credit card. (Day of event: \$13.00). Children 7 and under eat free with purchase of adult tickets. A list of local ticket outlets will also be available online. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Hogan at 319-248-3914 or e-mail whogan@meccaia.com.

If you are interested in volunteering at the breakfast please contact Ericka Pullen, event/volunteer coordinator at epullen@meccaia.com.



Visit us on the Web:

www.icareiowa.org

Hypersensitivity and HIV

by David Pieribone

Allergies or sensitivities to things like pollen, strawberries, shellfish and latex are quite common. Some people are allergic or sensitive to certain drugs or medications. In rare cases allergies can be quite serious and sometimes fatal. When someone reacts to a drug in an exaggerated or abnormal way, they are said to be hypersensitive.

Certain anti-HIV medications can cause allergic reactions that are very serious and possibly life-threatening. These drugs include Ziagen, Viramune and (to a lesser extent) Rescriptor and Sustiva. Bactrim, a drug used to treat and prevent pneumonia in people with AIDS, can also cause a serious allergic reaction. A severe hypersensitivity reaction can happen when first starting a medication or many days or weeks after the medication is in use.

If you are taking one of the medications mentioned above and you experience a rash, especially with nausea, fever and other flu-like symptoms that may include abdominal pain, vomiting and muscle/joint pain, you should contact your healthcare provider immediately or go to the nearest emergency room. You should not re-start these medications unless your healthcare provider tells you that you can. Ziagen should never be re-started once it is stopped since this can cause serious complications that can be fatal.

While only a handful of people experience a hypersensitivity reaction, it is important to report any symptoms to your healthcare provider— just in case.

David Pieribone is the Associate Director of Education at AIDS Project Los Angeles. Reprinted courtesy of www.PositiveWords.com. © 2001 by Dallabrida & Associates

What's new at www.icareiowa.org?

Have you visited www.icareiowa.org lately? There you will find a wealth of information and resources right at your finger tips. New to the site this month is a mail-able donation form and for those interested in sending a donation electronically, ICARE now offers a quick and easy PayPal method.

Be sure to check out our News/Events page from time to time for ICARE updates. Our scheduled events this year include the 2008 Pancake Breakfast on June 8, National HIV Testing Day on June 27 and World AIDS Day on December 1. The list detailing the services we offer has also been updated and don't forget to check out the Resources page for a full list of HIV/AIDS related Web sites and fact sheets.

Many of you know, ICARE provides HIV/AIDS services to a number of counties throughout Eastern Iowa. But do you know which ones? New visitors to the ICARE Web site can read about the funding we receive through the Ryan White Act and HOPWA, which allow us to offer more services in an extended area. The following information can be viewed on our homepage:

Funding through the Ryan White Act allows ICARE to collaborate with local health departments and community-based organizations to provide HIV/AIDS medications and essential health and support services to low income individuals and their families. ICARE removes barriers to ensure that our clients attend medical appointments and adhere to their medication regimen. And, with help from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, underserved and uninsured individuals can gain access to life-saving HIV/AIDS medications. ICARE provides case management services in the following counties: Johnson, Louisa, Henry, Des Moines and Lee.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) is a federal housing assistance program which enables ICARE to serve those who need help in maintaining a safe and stable environment for themselves and their families. HOPWA evaluates individual circumstances and can offer assistance in paying rent and other personal bills. Under HOPWA, ICARE serves individuals in the following counties: Delaware, Jones, Linn, Benton, Tama, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa, Poweshiek, Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, Louisa, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Wapello, Monroe, Appanoose, Davis, Van Buren and Lee.

Visit ICARE on the Web today and stay connected.

Eye on ICARE Iowa



ICARE in the news for World AIDS Day

On November 30, ICARE staff and volunteers hit the pedestrian mall in downtown Iowa City, passing out over 500 safe sex kits in one hour. The kits contained condoms as well as general and statistical information about safe sex. Two local television news stations caught them in action. The event was aimed at raising awareness about World AIDS Day (December 1) and to promote safe behaviors.

HIV Prevention through SISTA

In 2007, ICARE began offering SISTA, an intervention support group designed to help prevent HIV infection in heterosexual African American women. Prior to coming to ICARE, SISTA members gathered at a local recreation center. Today, the ICARE program serves 22 women.

The Center for Disease Control's 'Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions' (DEBI) program has identified SISTA as one of the best evidence-based behavioral interventions available. SISTA is comprised of five two-hour sessions, delivered by facilitators in a community-based setting. Sessions are gender specific, culturally relevant and include behavioral skills practice, group discussions, lectures, role playing, prevention video viewing and take-home exercises. For information on how to join SISTA please contact William Batten at 319-325-0401.



Participants at a SISTA group session

*"There should be more programs of this nature."
—SISTA participant*

*"There are some things I wasn't 100% sure of, such as a female condom. This group provided much needed insight."
—SISTA participant*

—SISTA participant



ICARE immunization update

ICARE has been very effective recruiting participants and delivering counseling and testing services. In 2007, staff successfully completed 155 HIV counseling and testing sessions and 12 Hepatitis C counseling and testing sessions. We also immunized 26 individuals for Hepatitis A and B.

ICARE continues to offer HIV and Hepatitis C testing and Hepatitis A and B immunizations for clients who attend MECCA treatment services. For more information on immunizations please call ICARE at 319-338-2135.