



ICARE

News from the Iowa Center for
AIDS Resources and Education

Winter 2009

ICARE Provides Free HIV Testing on World AIDS Day



William Batten, Prevention Specialist, demonstrates a Rapid HIV test.

World AIDS Day was Dec. 1, 2008. ICARE and Johnson County Public Health teamed up to provide Free Rapid HIV Testing from Noon - 4 p.m. at the Iowa City Public Library. Rapid oral testing takes approximately 20-30 minutes per person, so we were pleased to be able to provide 18 tests that day. We utilized both confidential testing rooms we had available and nearing 4 p.m. we started referring folks to the Free Medical Clinic, which was providing additional testing that evening. It was a great turnout and a wonderful way to raise awareness around the importance of HIV prevention and testing. Thanks to all who made this event possible.

In addition, we received some great media coverage around World AIDS Day in the *Iowa City Press Citizen*, *Cedar Rapids Gazette* and *Daily Iowan* as well as on several local radio and television stations. Thanks to Kurt Pierick and Heidi Cuda for participating in the interviews.



Heidi Cuda, Regional Manager at MECCA, interviews with the Daily Iowan.

Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act

The Ryan White Care Act was named in honor of Ryan White, an Indiana teenager who contracted AIDS through a tainted hemophilia treatment in 1984, and was expelled from school because of the disease. White became a well-known advocate for AIDS research and awareness until his death on April 8, 1990.

The Act is the United States' largest federally-funded program for people living with HIV/AIDS. It provides funding to improve availability of care for low-income, uninsured and under-insured victims of AIDS and their families. In December 2006 the Ryan White Care Act became the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act with four parts, part A, B, C, D.

Iowa recognizes two of these parts, which include:

- Part B - Allows AIDS service organizations to provide case management services in addition to offering individuals the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
- Part C - Allows for those affected with HIV/AIDS to apply for assistance with medical bills

The latest reauthorization of the Act contains a "sunset" provision that ends the program if it is not reauthorized by September 30, 2009. We are uncertain what this "sunset" means. We are thinking that the Congress will either: A) Extend the current reauthorization to allow time for them to make changes to better serve those who have HIV/AIDS or B) Have the reauthorization completed before the "sunset" date with the changes. Keep reading future ICARE newsletters for updates.

ICARE Wish List

Client Needs

- Gift Cards
(Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, Mall)
- Gas Cards

Please call 319-338-2135 to find out how to donate one of the above items. To make a cash donation, please visit:

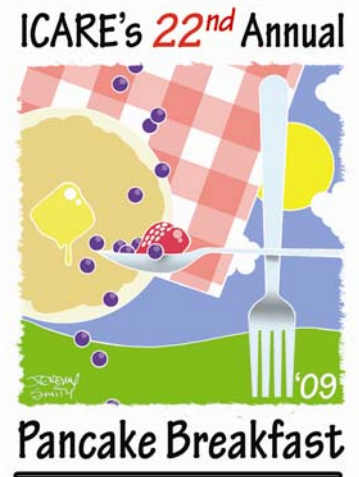
www.icareiowa.org/donate

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars! The 22nd Annual ICARE Pancake Breakfast will be held June 7, 2009 on the Pedestrian Mall in downtown Iowa City. Pancakes, fresh fruit, sausage, juice and coffee will be served from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All proceeds go to ICARE in support of HIV/AIDS education and prevention programming as well as case management services—connecting individuals with the resources they need to live a better life. More event details will follow in the Spring edition of the ICARE newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering for the breakfast this year, please contact Ericka Pullen at epullen@meccaia.com or 319-351-4357.



Eye on ICARE Iowa

Educating Area Businesses about **HIV/AIDS**

In November 2008, ICARE was contacted by a local business with some questions regarding how to treat a worker who was infected with HIV. ICARE provided the manager with general information about HIV, but took it one step further. Kurt Pierick, ICARE program manager, offered to do a site visit and make a presentation to the employees.

Kurt spoke about universal precautions as well as vaccinations. Since the organization's clientele is so large, it was appropriate for them to also learn about the risk of contracting Hepatitis and TB. Kurt wrapped up by answering a number of great questions. The manager asked if it was okay that she pass ICARE's information along to others in the area and talk about the importance of having ICARE address their staff. Here is a brief excerpt from the e-mail she sent out to these local businesses:

The information Kurt gave us was informative and potentially life saving. Kurt touched on many things. He informed the staff of the importance of using Universal Precautions in the workplace. The information is meant to not only keep our staff safe, but their families as well, along with our customers/clients/guests we meet every day.

We found the presentation to be invaluable. If for no other reason than to be certain your businesses have everything in place before a situation arises, having Kurt speak to your staff is a great idea.

If you would like ICARE to present to employees at your place of work, or if you know of local business that would be interested in having ICARE speak to their staff, please contact Kurt Pierick at (319) 338-2135.

Don't Let it Weigh on Your Mind... **Talk About It!**

ICARE has been providing support groups on a monthly basis in Iowa City and a bi-monthly basis in Burlington. The support groups in Iowa City are held at the ICARE office and groups in Burlington are held at the Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa.

The groups discuss current issues, changes that are going on and anything that clients need help with. They are designed to encourage open and candid discussion around the things that are weighing on people's minds. We have found that as individuals share their concerns, or ask for information on certain topics, others learn and become more aware of the resources available to them.

Transportation to and from group is offered, free of charge and snacks are provided as well. The support groups in Iowa City have been going well, with an average of four people at each meeting.

Groups in Burlington have had a tough time getting off the ground and running but we are continuously evaluating the program to meet the needs of individuals living in that particular area.

ICARE would like to thank the Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa for letting us use their office space at no cost.

ICARE's Involvement in the Community Planning Group



ICARE currently has representation on a state committee called the Community Planning Group (CPG). CPG is a group that meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss things that are going on at both the state and federal levels. The group is comprised of HIV/AIDS service providers, individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, concerned persons and members of the state health department.

The state looks to CPG for approval on care and prevention. Specifically, the group discusses consumer need and facilitates a survey, which evaluates data to see if the needs are being met. From there they decide where improvements should be made. Members also plan the annual HIV/AIDS conference and frequently discuss:

- The HIV/AIDS epidemic and how things change
- Case management standards and paperwork
- Current and new interventions that prevention staff can be utilizing

Currently, the CPG is working on priority settings in regard to prevention. In other words, they decide where funding should be made available for prevention projects during the next grant cycle. There are guidelines as well as voting procedures they adhere to in making these decisions.

The CPG gives ICARE representative, Kurt Pierick an opportunity to network with other providers. He has also met new people from all over the state and engaged in great discussion around best practices. Kurt has been a member of the CPG for a little over a year and has greatly enjoyed the work that he has participated in.

Let us know...

If you would prefer to receive an e-mail version of the ICARE newsletter in the future, or be omitted from our distribution list for any reason, please contact Wendy Hogan at whogan@meccaia.com or call: 319-351-4357.

Barack Obama: Fighting HIV/AIDS

There are more than 1 million people in the U.S. with HIV/AIDS and nearly 8,000 people dying every day because of AIDS. Barack Obama believes that we must do more to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Here are the key points from his plan to combat HIV/AIDS in the United States:

- **Develop a National HIV/AIDS Strategy:** Obama has pledged that, in the first year of his presidency, he will develop and begin to implement a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy that includes all federal agencies.
- **Fix the Nation's Health Care System:** Barack Obama is committed to signing universal health care legislation by the end of his first term in office that offers all Americans high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage. His health plan will ensure that people living with HIV have access to lifesaving treatment and care.
- **Fight Disparities:** Obama will tackle the root causes of health disparities by addressing differences in access to health coverage and promoting prevention and public health, both of which play a major role in addressing disparities.
- **Improve Quality of Life for Those Living with HIV/AIDS:** Obama is a strong supporter of the Ryan White Care Act (RWCA), which provides critical access to life-saving treatment and care for low income Americans with HIV/AIDS. Throughout the reauthorization process of the RWCA, he worked to find ways to improve the program for Illinois and for the nation. Obama will continue to protect the multifaceted care upon which RWCA beneficiaries depend.
- **Assure Adequate and Safe Housing for Those Living With HIV:** Obama supports increased funding for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), which assures that adequate and safe housing is available for disabled and low-income people with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.
- **Expand Funding for Research:** Barack Obama will expand funding for research, especially for prevention options including a vaccine and microbicides. Microbicides are a class of products currently under development that women apply topically to prevent transmission of HIV and other infections.
- **Promote AIDS Prevention:** Obama believes we need to increase the focus on preventing new infections. He supports: comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate; increasing federal appropriations for science-based HIV prevention programs; the JUSTICE Act, which would prevent transmission of HIV within the incarcerated population. He also supports legislation that would lift the ban on federal funding for needle exchange as a strategy to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users and their partners and children.
- **Bring Medicaid Coverage to Low-Income, HIV-Positive Americans:** Obama is a co-sponsor of the Early Treatment of HIV Act, which would provide Medicaid coverage to more low-income, HIV-positive Americans.

*Source: barackobama.com
(HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet)*



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

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438 Southgate Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52240
Phone: 319-338-2135 (Local)
1-888-338-2135 (Toll-Free)
Fax: 319-341-9828
Web site: www.icareiowa.org
E-mail: icare@icareiowa.org

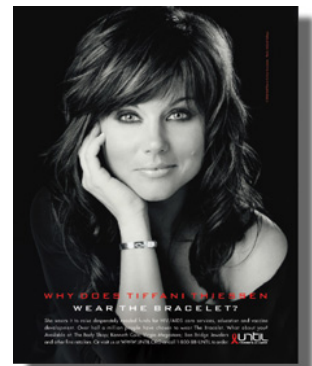
Heidi Cuda, Program Manager
Kurt Pierick, Program Coordinator
William Batten, Program Coordinator
Wendy Hogan, Development Coordinator
Erin Kelly & Sarah Karlen, Newsletter Editors



**Visit us on the Web:
www.icareiowa.org**

Giving Back has Never been so Easy!

Hands Jewelers is proudly selling “The Bracelet” in their Iowa City store. The bracelets are made in Italy for a national organization called Until There’s A Cure®. Proceeds from the sale of the bracelets fund prevention education, care services and vaccine development. The Bracelets were designed to help people recognize that anyone can be infected and that everyone should be compassionate, understanding and responsible.



To learn more, call Hands Jewelers at **(319) 351-0333** and stop by the store **(109 E Washington St., Iowa City)** to view a variety of bracelet styles. If you wish to purchase a bracelet online, visit www.icareiowa.org and click on the Until There’s A Cure® logo.

When you purchase a bracelet, a portion of the proceeds will go directly to ICARE’s programs, which help people in our local community. Thanks for your support!