



POSITIVE NEWS

THE AIDS PROJECT OF CENTRAL IOWA

DAY ON THE HILL

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The Community HIV & Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network (CHAIN) will be hosting their annual Day on the Hill on February 7th. This date was chosen to coincide with National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in an effort to highlight the disproportionate number of African Americans infected with HIV and the need for prevention and testing funding to address this fact.

Three years ago, a waiting list for the AIDS Drug Assistance program served as the catalyst for the first statewide HIV Day on the Hill. This successful advocacy event resulted in \$575,000 allocated to the program and an end to the waiting list.

This year, CHAIN is focusing on needed HIV and Hepatitis prevention, testing, and surveillance funding. Your attendance and personal experience stories are necessary to help this effort succeed!

Please plan to join CHAIN for an advocacy training at Elim Christian Fellowship Church, located 525 E 9th Street, from 9 am to 11 am. The advocacy training will be followed by a legislative luncheon at the State Capitol, Room 116, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm where you will have the chance to meet legislators with a group of constituents. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP to Caitlin McSweeney at 515/401-9243 or caitbrady@yahoo.com.



CONDOM WEEK

National Condom Week is just around the corner, and prevention staff will be out in the community handing out Valentines Day inspired goodies!

We will have boxes full of Chocolate, Banana, Strawberry, and Mint flavored condoms, and candy to give out at the clubs and various outreach sites.

So, when you see us out and about, be sure to say "Hello" and get a free goodie box for you and yours to enjoy a hot, safe Holiday!



MEET ELIZABETH!

Hello! Hello! My name is Elizabeth Van Laere, I am the new Intern here at the Project. I am a senior at Iowa State University and I will graduate in May with a BS in Kinesiology and Health with an emphasis in Community and Public Health.

I have spent my last 3 years in Ames going to school and waitress on the side. Its been an awesome time and experience, but I am ready for the real world! After graduation I am not sure what I am going to do, I'm pretty much up for anything.

I am from Dewitt, which is a small town in eastern Iowa. My parents and siblings are still there and I love to go home and visit with everyone.

In my spare time I love to spend time with my friends, read, ride bikes, rollerblade, pretty much anything to get up and be active.

I am really excited to be here and to get to know everyone and to have an introduction into the real world here at the Project.



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THE VOLUNTEER CORNER



Hello to all Volunteers! As you know, we have openings for volunteers at The Project. Here are just a couple of opportunities available to you!

Reception

We are always looking for back-up volunteers who can fill a vacant reception shift as needed with little notice. We currently have all shifts filled, but you might be needed at a moment's notice at some point. The Reception Volunteer shift schedule is Monday through Friday 2:30pm to 4:30pm. You can start as soon as office training is completed.

Transportation

The need for volunteers to provide transportation for clients to and from appointments is great. If you are interested, there is a special training you are required to attend. We can then place you on the "Driver List".

Food Pantry

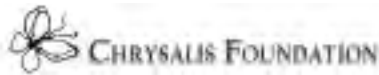
Food pantry volunteers are needed for approximately 6 hours per week to stock the food pantry. We are also in need of volunteers to help unload the trucks we use for picking up the Food Bank order every other week. If you have a truck or van and would like to volunteer as a "Food Bank pick-up person" we can sure use the help!

Other Volunteers

Have some extra time on your hands and tired of watching TV, or the snow falling or the grass grow? Come on down to The Project and help us prepare prevention supplies or work on bulk mailings.

If you are interested in any of these Volunteer positions, please contact Brett Ward 284-0245 at The Project for further information. Hope to hear from you soon!

Grant Funding Received to Enhance Services for Women & African Americans



The AIDS Project of Central Iowa received two grants for 2008 to increase our prevention and testing services among African Americans and women. A first time recipient of Chrysalis Foundation funding, our agency was awarded a grant to identify and support female leaders to role model and influence peers at risk for HIV infection. With added support for our prevention services for women, our agency will work to reduce the nearly one quarter of HIV infections that occur among females in Iowa.

The Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, a long-time supporter of our agency's services has granted funding to expand our rapid HIV testing program to better serve African Americans. In 2006, the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation provided funding to identify best practices, establish policies and procedures, and investigate the feasibility of implementing rapid HIV testing. One of the first rapid testing programs in the state, this funding allowed our agency to offer this client-centered service so that individuals receive their results in single 20-30 minute sessions in comparison to conventional tests that require return visits up to two weeks later. This year, the agency was funded to expand our rapid testing services to more African Americans who continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV.



MEET AMY SCOTT!



Hi! My name is Amy Scott and I am the bilingual case manager/prevention specialist for The Project. I am a graduate of Central College in Pella, Iowa. I grew up in Des Moines, although I have lived briefly in Merida, Mexico and Chicago, Illinois.

I came to The Project from Planned Parenthood where I was a team leader and caucus organizer for a project called Healthy Families. Prior to that I worked at Orchard Place in residential treatment and Easter Seals as a Supported Community Living Specialist.

I currently live on the south side of Des Moines with my cat Molly, that I've grown up with (she's getting old). When I am not working I like to spend time with my niece and nephew, Reanna and Keegan. I like to read, go to different cultural and political events and spend time outdoors. However, I do not like the cold so I cannot wait for the temperature to rise so I can shake off the winter blues!

I am really excited about my job here at The Project. I have met a lot of fun people so far and look forward to meeting more. So please stop in and introduce yourself!