



The Volunteer Newsletter

for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Fall 2008

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- www.sfaf.org
- www.aidshotline.org
- www.aidsmarathon.com
- www.sfaf.org/prevention/needleexchange/index.html

Mexico City AIDS Conference

The XVII International AIDS Conference (IAC) took place in Mexico City August 3 through August 8. With nearly 25,000 people in attendance, it is the largest gathering of HIV/AIDS experts and activists in the world. Conference attendees meet to exchange information about HIV prevention, care, and policy. Moreover, the conference is less about science than about activism; the human rights of the millions of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS globally are a particular focus.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is committed to providing leadership to prevent new HIV infections locally, nationally, and globally. IAC is a great opportunity to let people around the world know what HIV prevention solutions work in San Francisco and how what we know can help in their communities. The Foundation sent more than a dozen participants, led workshops, and gave numerous presentations—in short we were one of the best represented organizations in the world.

Mark Cloutier, CEO, participated in “The United States HIV Crisis: Why



Tony Bradford and Micah Lubensky of SFAF's Community Program.

the Global Community Should Care.” In it, he outlined the lessons learned by San Franciscans and Americans who have fought HIV and how those experiences can be translated into HIV prevention solutions globally.

Judy Auerbach, Deputy Executive Director for Science and Public Policy, chaired and moderated “Confronting the ‘Evidence’ in Evidence-Based Prevention.” The panel covered current controversies and challenges in defining and evaluating evidence to know what really works in HIV prevention. A long-time advocate for renewed vigor in examining HIV prevention-

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AIDS/LifeCycle Raises a Record \$11.6 Million to Fight HIV/AIDS



Kyle and Lyn feeding the cyclists.

More than 2,500 bicyclists rode into Los Angeles on Saturday June 7th, wrapping up a seven-day, 545-mile (886-km) trip that began in San Francisco to raise funds for HIV/AIDS research and services.

As the bicyclists arrived at the Veterans' Administration complex in West Los Angeles, thousands of friends and supporters were on hand to greet them and take part in a closing ceremony. The seventh annual AIDS/LifeCycle ride, which

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President Signs Bill Repealing Discriminatory HIV Travel and Immigration Law



WASHINGTON – The Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, called on the Department of Health and Human Services to update its regulations following the President’s signing of legislation to reauthorize PEPFAR, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Included in this measure was a provision to repeal our nation’s discriminatory law barring HIV-positive visitors and immigrants. The PEPFAR bill passed the Senate on July 16 and the U.S. House passed the bill.

“We appreciate the President signing the repeal of this unjust and sweeping policy that deems HIV-positive individuals inadmissible to the United States,” said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. “The HIV travel and immigration ban performs no public health service, is unnecessary and ineffective. We thank our allies on the Hill who fought to end this injustice and now call on Secretary of Health and Human Services Leavitt to remove the remaining regulatory barriers to HIV-positive visitors and immigrants.”

CDC Releases New HIV Data

Since 1994, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year in the United States. This figure is known as incidence, while the overall number of people living with HIV is known as prevalence.

The AIDS community has been waiting for an updated incidence estimate, knowing that it is unlikely that incidence has remained the same for 14 years. As you may know, the CDC recently released the new data:

- The report reflects a new method for estimating the number of new HIV infections per year in the United States.

- Although the estimated number of new HIV infections in 2006 is 56,000, it is not clear whether this fig-

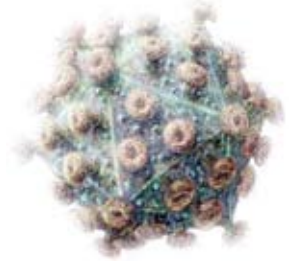
ure represents an increase from previous years in the number of people becoming infected or better methods of counting new HIV infections in the population.

- The report does not mean there is suddenly a surge of new HIV cases.

- Only after a period of three-to-four years using this new estimation method, will we have a clear sense of trends occurring in HIV infection rates in the U.S.

- The report also does not tell us whether infection rates are going up or down in different population groups – data the San Francisco AIDS Foundation would use to determine the ideal strategies for working with the community to eliminate HIV. These trends, too, will become apparent only after a few years of using the new methodology.

Continued Decrease in Vertical Transmission



The following is news from a large study in the UK and Ireland. While we know the basics behind this already, what is very interesting and new is that these low (.08%) rate of vertical (mother to child) transmission is without performing cesarean sections...

Providing appropriate treatment methods to HIV-positive women during pregnancy can prevent nearly all risk of mother-to-child transmission of the virus, according to a study published online in the journal AIDS.

For the study, Claire Townsend, research fellow at the University College London Institute of Child Health, and colleagues analyzed 5,151 pregnancies among HIV-positive women in the United Kingdom and Ireland between 2000 and 2006. The study found that the rate of MTCT decreased to 1.2% from 20% in the mid-1990s.

According to the researchers, the primary reason for the decline was the increase in prenatal HIV testing following the implementation of routine screening policies in the countries. Routine screening increased diagnosis rates before delivery from about 70% in 2000 to about 95% in 2005, data showed. Routine screening policies were introduced in Ireland in 1999 and between 2000 and 2003 in the United Kingdom. Expanded access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV-positive pregnant women also was a factor, researchers said. The HIV transmission rate for women taking antiretroviral therapy for a minimum of two weeks prior to delivery was 0.8%, according to the study. The rate was found regardless of the type of antiretrovirals the women received or whether they had vaginal births or cesarean sections.



Volunteers at Magnet have been busy this summer and are getting ready for the fall. Here are some highlights of what's going on with volunteers at Magnet:

New Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Charfauros, Hired

Steve Charfauros was hired as Magnet's volunteer coordinator and has been busy working with Magnet and other SFAF staff to streamline our volunteer activities at Magnet and throughout the Foundation.

Castro Street Fair

Magnet hosted a booth outside of our storefront during the Castro Street Fair. Our theme was "Connect" and we helped guys connect with us by giving out balloons that said "Online", "Offline", or "Ask Me". We also recruited new volunteers, telling people about Magnet and letting them know about our new Facebook page.

New Clinical Training Modules Developed

Steve has been working with Magnet's clinical staff and Associate Director to develop training modules for Magnet volunteers. Thus far, two training modules have been developed and launched. The first is to introduce volunteers who want to work at the Concierge station about the roles and responsibilities of greeting customers and informing them of Magnet's clinical services.

The second module has been developed with Magnet's Clinical Supervisor to educate licensed and lay volunteers on the scope of Magnet's Sexually Transmitted Infection services including diagnosis and treatment. Currently, Magnet prefers licensed volunteers or people with previous experience in STI management.

The next monthly orientation

If you would like to attend any trainings, please contact Steve Charfauros at 415.581.1608 or SteveC@magnetsf.org.

Steve Charfauros
Magnet Volunteer Coordinator
SteveC@magnetsf.org
415.581.1608

MEXICO CITY-continued from page 1

related evidence, the Foundation has been integral in addressing this crucial piece of HIV prevention policy at conferences around the world.

Ernest Hopkins, Director of Federal Affairs, led a panel entitled "Homelessness and Poverty's Role in HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention." In communities around the world, homelessness and poverty frustrate progress against HIV and AIDS. Given the role of homelessness and poverty in HIV transmission in San Francisco, the Foundation has committed to finding workable solutions to address the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Representing Black Brothers Esteem (BBE), our community-building program for same-gender loving men of African descent, Tony Bradford and Micah Lubensky conducted a poster presentation about BBE's spiritual health initiative. For our Latino Programs, Jorge Zepeda talked about challenges in wellness programs for immigrants who are men who have sex with men (MSM).

Steve Gibson, Director of Magnet, gave the final presentation. Magnet has been a part of the Foundation family for little more than a year. Its model of integrating HIV prevention for gay men into individual and community health and wellness has already drawn worldwide acclaim. Throughout the week, conference attendees approached Steve Gibson to thank him for the work being done at Magnet. Most wanted information on adapting Magnet for their home countries. He spoke to people from diverse global communities: Russia, Namibia, Togo, Ukraine, Mexico, Thailand, Spain, Brazil, Australia, Peru, Canada, and France—truly a San Francisco success story.

Beyond panel discussions and poster presentations, the Foundation was visible through our treatment publication, *Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS*, the sfaf.org podcast, and an event sponsored by the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation. The entire conference proved a success for the Foundation. The knowledge we gained and imparted will further our goal of eradicating HIV. But without our volunteers, all the conference attendance in the world would be fruitless because—without you—we could never complete our work and realize a day without HIV and AIDS. Your dedication makes our work possible, inspires us, helps us stay on our target of innovation, and drives our successes.

New Needle Exchange Site at Cesar Chavez

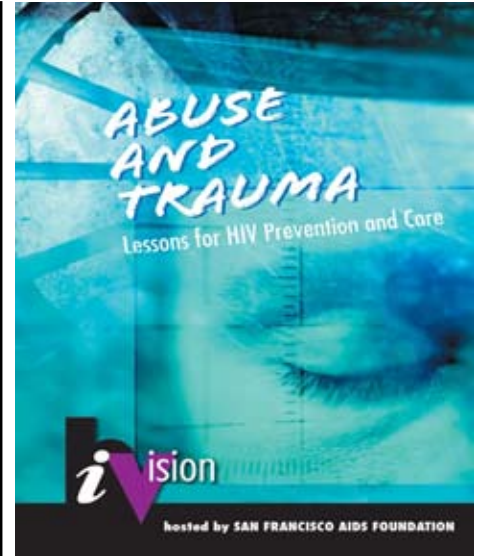
A new HPP site has been added in the Mission district. The Cesar Chavez site is located at the corner of Potrero and Cesar Chavez Streets, under the overpass, and is open on Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. The site has only been operating for about 3 months but below are some of the stats.

- We are currently serving between 20-30 people per week; this was a previously underserved population that was not accessing our other exchange sites.
- At least half of the clients served are Latino. We see more Latino clients at this site than any of our other locations.
- We provide Spanish literature on STD/HIV, testing locations, and other topics.
- We collaborated with Jeff Nalle, Senior Environmental Health Inspector from SFPDH, who conducted his own syringe



clean-up of the area during the first month of our site operation. We really appreciated his support and assistance in this effort.

- HPP staff has participated in an extensive syringe clean-up of the area and has another date planned before the end of September. The area is dramatically cleaner than it was prior to us providing exchange there.
- We are distributing a variety of sharps containers to clients. We are receiving used syringes in increasing amounts; many of which are returned in sharps containers.
- We provide Ensure and snack items to participants, which is significant to this population which is pretty disenfranchised.
- We are collaborating with PoD (Points of Distribution) to deliver HIV/ HCV testing results for testing which PoD conducts on Saturdays.
- We collaborated with researchers from UCSF/ San Francisco General who were using our site to interview minority IDU's for a study concerning barriers to HIV/HCV screening and treatment.
- During the first month, our staff administered naloxone to one of the participants and waited with him until paramedics arrived.



HIVision: Abuse and Trauma: Lessons for HIV Prevention and Care
 Abuse and trauma can create lifelong challenges to physical well-being and emotional health. Among people living with HIV, childhood sexual abuse, violence, rape, and psychological abuse are more common than in the broader population. This forum will examine the links between trauma, HIV risk behaviors such as substance use and unprotected sex, and HIV disease progression—and how these links can be broken.

When: Wednesday October 22nd, 5:30 – 7:30pm – reception immediately following
Where: The Women's Building, 3543 18th St # 8, San Francisco, CA 94110

Moderator:
 Michael Siever, Director of Behavioral Health Sciences, Stonewall/San Francisco AIDS Foundation

- Featuring:**
- Ann Brennan, NP, Medical Advisor, Trauma Recovery and Rape Center
 - Cheryl Gore-Felton, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Stanford School of Medicine
 - Tim Ryan, NP, Magnet
 - John K. Williams, MD, Assistant Professor, Associate Director, UCLA Sexual Health Program, UCLA-Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior.

LIFE CYCLE-continued from page 1

began Sunday June 1, raised a record 11.6 million dollars for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. According to organizers, the annual event has raised more than 40 million dollars since its inception. AIDS/LifeCycle 7 set a new record for participation and money raised, attracting cyclists from 12 countries and 42 states, including a contingent of people living with HIV known as the Positive Pedalers. The 545-mile trek from San Francisco is the largest annual HIV/AIDS fundraiser in the country. Some 60,000 people donated a record 11.6 million dollars. "For seven days, this remarkable

community of riders, roadies and donors traveled together down the California coast to make life better for people with HIV and AIDS," said Mark Cloutier, CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"Their support will help us devise new tools to prevent HIV infections and improve treatment and care for people living with HIV. Every year, AIDS/LifeCycle brings us closer to a world where HIV no longer threatens the health and happiness of those we love," Cloutier said.

"We've made many advances in the struggle against HIV and AIDS, but the fight is far

LIFE CYCLE-continued on page 5

AIDS Walk a tremendous success!!!

After 20+ years AIDS Walk is still making a difference in our community and interest is on the rise. In fact, this year AIDS Walk raised over \$4,512,934!!! The SFAF AIDS Walk team with 155 members raised a record \$56,554.49!!! If you were a member of the team or supported the team thank you for making AIDS Walk 2008 an amazing experience! It is because of all of you, and the effort you put forth this year, that we have done so well. This year was Jorie Pollak's first as team captain, and she had a great time due to your participation!

We had a record number of Star Walkers (people who raise \$1000 or more) this year including Troy Brunet, Shannon Casey, Sarah Gluckstern, Richard Gonzalez, Greg Kouri, Nancy McCormick, Dede Meyer, Matthew O'Connor, Michael Polychroniou, Hannah



*The SFAF
Walk Team
acknowledges
support.*

Silberman, Kimberly Snyder, Larry Stern and Christopher Unguez. Additionally we would like to call everyone's attention to the Gluckstern Team, who jointly raised over \$11,000! Sarah, raising \$9,075 of that herself!

Another aspect of this year's walk that we have to celebrate is the introduction of the BBQ Lunch! The wonderful Wells Fargo team allowed us to be a part of their delicious repast and it was really nice to enjoy it with them!!! THANK YOU ANNETTE FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE! Troy

Brunet has been calling for a team BBQ for years, we hope you loved it Troy!

Finally, we would like to take a moment to recognize this year's Team SFAF sponsors; Townsend Bakery (at the corner of Townsend and the Embarcadero), Whole Foods (at 4th and Harrison), Starbucks (at 9th and Howard), Safeway (at King and 4th) and Gina Kast (the graphic designer of our fabulous T-Shirts.) Please keep them in mind when you go in to shop and give than a Team SFAF "Thank You" shout out!

LIFE CYCLE-continued from page 4

from over," said Lorri Jean, chief executive officer of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. "What's more, HIV continues to be nothing less than a health care crisis internationally and in our own backyard. The 3,000 riders and volunteer roadies -- and the 60,000 people who sponsor them -- are raising awareness and making a statement that we will not stand idle in the face of the monumental challenge before us."

During the time it took them to reach Los Angeles, more

than 1,000 Americans will become newly infected with HIV, Jean said. Along the route, organizers and participants distributed free premium condoms -- in packages labeled "Ride Safe" -- to HIV/AIDS organizations and community clinics.

This year's event included the largest number of riders ever, with participants ranging in experience from novice to expert. The riders range in age from 18 to 81, and each must raise at least 2,500 dollars to take part.

According to event organizers, an estimated 160,000 Californians are living with HIV/AIDS, and many are unaware of their infection. For more information or to register* please see <http://www.aidslifecycle.org/>

*Registration is open for ALC 8 and since last year filled to capacity and this one is well on it's way to full, register today!



The Team at the SFAF Tent.

Up Your Alley Fair: Celebrating sexuality!

Dore Alley's Up Your Alley Fair which happened on Sunday July 27th was a chilly one but in spite of it being cold, we had a full and vivacious crew of volunteers to make sure that everyone was playing safe!!!

Usually leather and nudity play a big part in the dress for the day at Dore but this year due to the cold it was challenging. Our crew definitely represented with many wearing their fetish wear best! The crew was able to reach many people at the Fair. We handed out many pamphlets, condoms and the promotional items, including paddles, upon which the Hotline number is listed so that our Hotline volunteers may answer any questions that pop up later!

First out of the gate, Jillian and Kyle wearing their leather/pleather(!), helped get us all set up and they worked it OUT! Celeste really is Queen of the Condoms and she along with Angelo who

rode 100 miles on his bike the DAY BEFORE (no wonder he's so muscly!!!), handed out many of the tasty treats including our 'lip lube' (lip blam)! Tandra not only 'diva'ed'

Papa Ray is always willing to tattoo ANY body part placed in his capable hands !

(vs. manned) the tent but also made her way through the crowd with condoms and paddles and really EARNED that Diva title!!!

I don't think anyone would dispute that Louis was ON FIRE as our 'barker'! He was not only getting

the donations to ROLL in but was entertaining the crowd and really more importantly US!!! Alejandro and Jim joined us for their first Dore Alley and since it was pretty tame this year, I don't think that they have been scared away!!! They were both troupers and handed out MANY AIDS Hotline emblazoned promotional items, ensuring that their next shifts here at the Hotline will be busy! James in spite of a bad hip not only worked the crowd but also the booth making sure that a lot of information not only made it out but that the donations flowed in! Thanks for the dedication James. Papa Ray remains our undisputed King of tattoos. Once again he brought many to the booth and tattooed ANY body part that was presented to him. The participants loved it! What a great assembly of wonderful people with such a great sense of fun and community! Thank you for a great day!

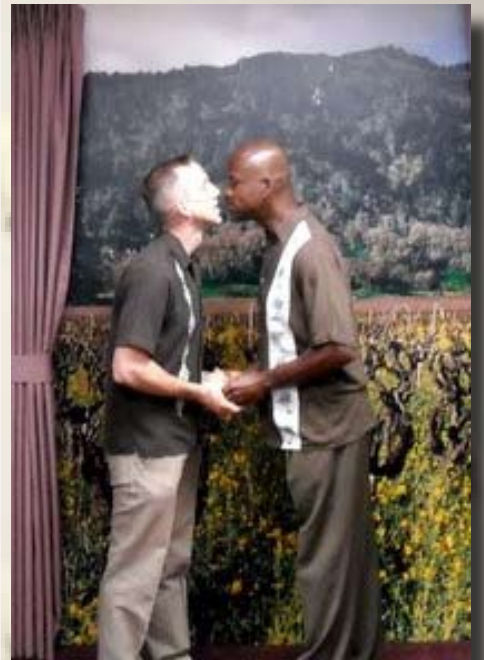


Jon and Diego



Marital News!

City Hall in San Francisco has been a hub of activity since the law was passed allowing same-sex couples to be married. Several of our nearest and dearest have taken the opportunity to get hitched including Pangaea board member/ Hotline Supervisor/Volunteer Extraordinaire Lonnie Payne, his husband Bruce and Hotline Associate Diego Sans and his husband Jon. These lovely couples were married June 20th and July 3rd respectively. We hope that they continue to enjoy many years of happiness and that many more people can join them in wedded bliss.



Bruce and Lonnie



The Folsom Team missing Papa Ray.

Folsom Street Fun!!!



Louis and Allison working it...baby!

Sunday September 28th, 2008 was the 25th anniversary of the Folsom Street Fair and SFAF was well represented at this VERY San Francisco event! The fair started as a fair for the leather community but it has morphed into a celebration of sexuality where every proclivity and fetish seems to be represented and possibly demonstrated. Needless to say it takes a special crew of volunteers to BE there, let alone to pass out HIV/STD/health information and condoms to the hoards of fair goers! That said we had an EXTRAORDINARY posse! They not only made sure that everyone was playing safe with condoms, had the Hotline number on them either via our written or our promotional materials and had their questions answered but they went WAY beyond that with all their sassy talk, the paddle-smacks, the advertising (read this any way you like!) and the condom gifting. In fact, we would not hesitate to say that this group made the Folsom Street Fair more fun and DEFINITELY more sexy for everyone!

tweaker.org
ESPAÑOL



Community Service with a SMILE

For the month of September 2008 alone, Tweaker.org's Latino Community Advisory Board (CAB) members and our amazing interns from San Francisco State University logged 76.5 hours! This, when combined with the ongoing dedication of our Tweaker.org Peer Educator Team [A.K.A. the "Tweak Team"], averaging an estimated 60 hours per month, creates a wall of engaging support for gay/bi men or friends of men who use crystal methamphetamine. It just goes to show that a small yet dedicated group of folks can support meaningful change and increase positive outcomes for gay/bi men who use meth.

Tweaker.org's Latino Community Advisory Board [CAB]

Since its inception in March 2007 the Tweaker.org Latino CAB has worked diligently to produce tangible products such as Spanish language Tweaker.org brochures. Specifically, it has been busy for the past few months translating the "Rigz" brochure, an injection fold-out based on Harm Reduction principles. We also celebrated the launch of our first Spanish language campaign: CHICO SEXY! Many friends and extended community members attended the celebration at Club Cocomo on Friday, September 19th. What an amazing turnout! With one beautiful club, two bangin' DJ's, and a team of dedicated CAB members, how could we miss? These men are now in the process of having "Crystal in our Sex Lives"



The Stonewall Team.

printed after many intense translation meetings.[How does one say "multiple loads" in Spanish? We know now, and soon so will you too!] Be sure to pick up your copy available through the website soon...

Meth Use Prevention and Treatment Needs among Black Gay/Bi Men

San Francisco State University (SFSU) students may soon be up for journal publication after presenting the findings from their assessment. Since January 2008, 4 MPH students from SFSU collaborated with the Stonewall Project to develop and implement an assessment exploring the prevention and treatment needs of African American men in San Francisco who have sex with men. Under the internal leadership of Pedro Arista, Health Educator who also leads tweaker's Latino CAB, the team discovered some areas where the Stonewall can further expand its services to reach this community. We would like to thank



both groups for their unwavering energy and dedication to both projects. Please feel free to contact him for an in-depth discussion of the findings!

The Tweak Team

Tweaker.org's Peer Education Group is looking forward to an exciting gathering at the Castro Street fair followed by a period restructuring and regrouping from the inside out. What can we say about the street fair season? If it happened we were there: Pride, Pink Saturday, Dore Alley, Folsom Street, Real Bad, and Castro Street Fair! And if Tweaker.org wasn't there, then The Speed Project, our sister program, was there with its own dedicated team of Peer Educators, some of whom currently serve both programs.

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As far as restructuring and regrouping goes, Health Educators Jonathan Batiste and Pedro Arista, with the help of the Tweak Team are attempting to increase value in the Peer Educator experience for both the PE's themselves and the community members we serve. Some of the inspiration for all of this is coming from the integration efforts between SFAF's Speed Project and Stonewall's Tweaker.org. About a year ago, Stonewall, along with Magnet, was welcomed under the umbrella that is San Francisco AIDS Foundation. After seeing the great work being done by Speed Project Peer Educators, Tweaker.org decided to beef up PE efforts. Thanks for setting a great standard, Speed Project Peer

Educators. Mr. Batiste is contributing half time for both the Speed Project and Tweaker.org in an effort to assist with the integration of two distinctly different programs. While figuring out how to best serve the community, we have enjoyed the time spent getting to know TSP Staff and Peer Educators. Together, this "speed effort" has the unique opportunity for increasing widespread harm reduction efforts among gay/bi men who use crystal meth throughout our 7x7.

If you see any of the folks mentioned above, please take a moment and THANK them for their time and commitment. We're beginning to brainstorm ideas about how to acknowledge them for their contributions.



Magnet outreach at 18th and Castro.



Special Thanks to:

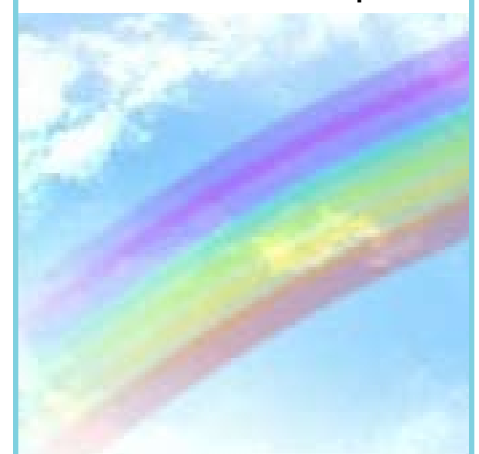
Latino CAB Members:

- Carlos Alfredo Romer*
- Jorge Vieto*
- Dusty Araujo*
- Dimas Moncada*
- Luis Ciprez*
- Ramon Ramirez*

SFSU student Interns:

- Janette Alvarez*
- Kim Baranek*
- Claudia Figallo*
- Hetana Patel*

The Entire Tweaker.org Peer Educator Group!



Learning more about anything mentioned above please contact:

Pedro Arista: Pedro@tweaker.org
Jonathan Batiste: Jonathan@tweaker.org

For Counseling Info around Crystal Meth usage, please contact:

Kevin Mosley: Kevin@tweaker.org
or Stonewall Counseling 415.478.3100



The whole team (minus Dylan on the left!).

On Sunday September 7th 2008, HPP and the Hotline teams met to play some softball and it was a sunny, hysterical and energetic time! HPP organized having the game at the newly remodeled James Rolph Recreation Center at the corner of Potrero and Cesar Chavez.

The HPP team was Katie Bouche, Graham Norris, Jahaira Fajardo, Bethany Trombly, Melissa Morelli, Joey Crottigini, Mimi Cove, Brian McClain, Rigel Christian, Annette Flores, Jonathan Hicks, Janani Srikantharajah, Michelle Scheurich and Dale Tegtman. The Hotline team included Sergio Cano, Dylan Sanders, Carly Flores and her friend Lou, Jorie Pollak and her friend Emily Redmond, Bob Sodervick, Will Walker and Emily Mariko-Sanders.

Of these illustrious participants, there were some definite stars/ringers who amazed us all and not naming any names but most were women. Incredibly, everyone that came out participated in the game from pitching each and every inning (Jahaira and Brian), to cheering for their teams, Bethany, Janani, Jonathan and Lou.

The game began with HPP (always treading the line of legality), stealing bases and the Hotline was able to come through with ample double entendre and seriously inappropriate-for-the-general-public language. There was some good athleticism shown during the game including some spectacular slides (Joey, Jorie) but most of us simply suffered from sore abs from laughing.



Several members of the teams were not there for the start of the game but, HPP was the ideal of good sportsmanship. They gave one of their star players Brian, to the Hotline team which was seriously short of players at the start and allowed him to play with the Hotline for the duration of the game. Several HPP team-members even filled in as catcher for the Hotline. Team members for both teams continued to trickle in until the very end of the game around 5pm. Poor Annette dragged all her equipment out to play for half an inning but it was this cooperation and amorphous nature of the teams that definitely led to more fun and camaraderie.

We are still working on the final names for the teams although several are out there including the Hotline Ding-A-Lings, the Hotline Hotties, etc. Regardless it was the Hotline team that stole (bases), lied (on the ground on the way to the bases) and cheated (several of us have been on Weight Watchers and we all indulged in chips salsa/guac and burritos!!!) our way to victory 21-9 but the winning and losing was not as important as the trash-talking and the fun we had!

As predicted by many early on, Jahaira did injure herself but being resilient she and her NYC bravado will be back to play again along with the rest of us! We hope to have another game in less than 6 months so dust off your glove/bat (actually few of us have equipment, we share what we gather!) and show up so we can see your game face particularly if it includes a smile!

To our friends at the SF AIDS Foundation

(This letter sent August 21, 2008 was heavily condensed to fit into this format.)

First and foremost, we want to start out this homage to the SF AIDS Foundation by saying that it is because of the SFAF that we are able to write this letter from beautiful Guyana. It is because of your training, guidance and acceptance that we feel confident in our volunteer credentials, and that we were eventually accepted and sworn in as Peace Corps Volunteers. To Sergio, Emily, Pauli, Diego, Jim, Lonnie and Mark who touched our hearts so dearly, along with everyone else who makes that place go, thank you.

From a time shortly after we graduated, until a few months after our wedding, we volunteered at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation as hotline volunteers to gain some experience before our service in the Peace Corps. It proved an excellent decision and we feel fortunate to have been a part of the SFAF hotline. We had our interview with the Peace Corps recruiter after working at the hotline for a month; he told us that our application was much stronger because of the commitment we made to volunteer at the hotline until we left for our service.

Two major aspects of our hotline involvement proved important. One was the advice we received from staff and other volunteers who had also been involved with the Peace Corps. One woman in our training group, who was leaving for her Peace Corps service in Mali, told us about the long and tedious application process. Another hotline volunteer, who had returned from her stint in the Peace Corps, shared her experiences including a time that she replicated an activity during her service in Kenya that she had done in hotline training which ended in her need to explain that one could not get HIV from chocolate. (This story has already proven useful, as we have told it many times to fellow volunteers here in Guyana to emphasize the need to understand the people with whom you are relating and their ability to understand your "metaphors.") Most importantly, our involvement at the SF AIDS Hotline enabled us to share our stresses and concerns, as well as receive the amazing support of our fellow hotline operators, supervisors and SFAF staff throughout the whole process.

The other is the skill and knowledge we gained while volunteering at the hotline. Guyana is now the only PEPFAR country in the Caribbean, which shows that HIV is a real threat to the relatively small population here. Though issues of stigma and discrimination are more prevalent here than in San Francisco, volunteering at the SFAF and the knowledge and experience gained from doing so, is giving us the confidence to combat those issues by means of education and community outreach. Our experience on the hotline enabled us to get our first choice for site placement. We are both working with HIV organizations. Beth is working with a local HIV NGO and Eyal with the Regional Hospital's Voluntary Testing and Counseling site.

We will both be doing outreach and assisting in training



Beth, their host mom, Eyal and their host aunt.

peer educators to go into primary and secondary schools, indigenous communities, out-of-school youth and other community based organizations. In doing so, we will be using the most important skill we learned working at the hotline: the ability to relay sensitive information to individuals and groups from various ages, cultural backgrounds and levels of education. Additionally, we will be dealing with risk assessment, risk reduction, stigma and discrimination, and finding resources for people living with HIV (PLWHA), all issues that we discussed on the hotline. We will also attempt to create a stronger network between the hospital and the NGO as well as other organizations throughout the country by increasing communication flow between them. Lastly and most relevantly, Eyal's supervisor informed him that the hospital has plans to start a hotline of their own which Eyal, along with the help of the extensive information with which the SFAF staff has been supplying us, will be assisting in facilitating this project! Isn't it terrific? The SF AIDS Foundation is now touching the lives of those in Guyana!

(Both) of us have had the opportunity to impart valuable, fact-based information, directly aimed at thwarting stigma against PLWHA. We have already had conversations with men who insisted that women are to blame for the rapid spread of HIV because of their higher rate of contraction. We have also heard similar remarks from females who believe that only women with loose morals are susceptible to contracting the virus.

Fortunately there are organizations like the ones we work for that are passionate about eliminating the stigma and discrimination around HIV/AIDS through the education of the Guyanese population. The information we acquired at the hotline ... will help us to deal with misconceptions we encounter in Guyana regarding HIV/AIDS. Our hope is that, armed with our SF AIDS Foundation hotline experience and by working with our Guyanese counterparts, we will be able to assist in education as to how the virus is transmitted to dispel some of these common misconceptions and help prevent further spread of the virus among the Guyanese population.

We feel very fortunate to have been a part of the SF AIDS Foundation Hotline and consider it our first, and most essential, step towards becoming competent Peace Corps Volunteers and health educators.... and we are extremely thankful for the help and support that the SF AIDS Foundation continues to give us.

Yours truly,
Eyal and Beth Zilberman



Jenna Ferrara

March 08

Jenna Ferrara has been volunteering with HPP since April of 2005. She completed a 20 hour per week internship with HPP during last fall's semester, serves as an occasional per diem staff, and is a rock solid outreach volunteer on Friday nights. We love Jenna and congratulate her on being volunteer of the month!



Steve Landherr

April 08

Steve has volunteered at Magnet since its beginning in 2003. He was unanimously selected as Volunteer for the Month by Magnet staff for his consistent service, his willingness to do what he can for the organization and for gay men's health. He has worked beverage booths at Pride, Dore Alley and Folsom Street Fairs, the Academy of Friends Gala, and other special events. Steve completed tedious data entry of over 20,000 Magnet service menus, enabling staff to provide vital internal and external reports on client demographics and service utilization. We are grateful for Steve's commitment and service and are proud to have him as part of the family.



Mark Skalsky

May 08

Mark has been a volunteer since February 2005 and is very deserving of this award. Mark is very reliable and punctual for all his hotline shifts and anything else he signs up for. Mark also assists us with his video technology skills and has been a great addition to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Thanks for volunteering for us Mark!



Jorie Pollak

June 08

Jorie Pollak has only been volunteering with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for a short time now but has already proved herself to be invaluable and a favorite of staff and volunteers alike! She is the Captain of the SFAF AIDS Walk team, an avid supporter of AIDS/LifeCycle (she hopes to Roadie next year!) and has completed the California AIDS Hotline training! As the official AIDS Walk Intern, she is in the office at least once a week recruiting new team members, maintaining the registered team, organizing the logistics and bringing a lot of energy to the office as she does it! Thank you Jorie!



Troy Wood

July 08

Troy Wood has been an active volunteer since August 2007. He started as a lay volunteer in clinic and soon trained to become an HIV test counselor. Soon after, he became trained to complete STI/STD screenings. Troy is reliable and extremely dedicated to his community. Troy is a true asset to Magnet. He actively seeks to better himself, improve his knowledge base with regards to STI/STD's and HIV, and provides superior care to his clients. Most recently he independently became a certified phlebotomist using his own time and finances. He is well admired by his peers, coworkers, and clients whom he serves. Troy is highly deserving of the Volunteer of the Month award.



Ed deHaan

August 08

Ed deHaan joined the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in February 2007 as Health Educator for the California AIDS Hotline. After volunteering for a few months we were thrilled when Ed took on more responsibility as a supervisor on the hotline. Ed's enthusiasm, dedication and compassion makes him volunteer of the month. Thank you Ed!



Pepper Austin

September 08

It is long overdue that we recognize Pepper Austin as Volunteer of the Month. She has been an exceptional volunteer for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation since September 2003. Pepper has assisted with many Hotline trainings and is currently helping to supervise one of the Hotline shifts. We are fortunate to have her as part of our volunteer team and acknowledge her many contributions. Thank you, Pepper.

Volunteers Worth 3.3 Times Minimum Wage

The value of a volunteer hour nearly kept pace with inflation during 2007, increasing 3.94 percent while consumer prices tracked at 4.1 percent. The estimate for the value of volunteer hour jumped by 74 cents, from \$18.77 in 2006 to \$19.51 last year, according to Independent Sector (IS), a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of nonprofits and foundations.

IS calculates the hourly value of volunteer time based on the average hourly wage for all non-management, non-agriculture workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with

a 12-percent increase to estimate for fringe benefits. The federal minimum wage is \$5.85 an hour.

"Our nation's volunteers play a vital role in helping America's 1.4 million charitable organizations improve lives across the country and around the world," said Diana Aviv, president and CEO of IS. "Quantifying the value of their time gives us yet another indicator of how important volunteers are to communities."

Excerpt from the April 17, 2008 article from NPT Instant Fundraising, a publication of The NonProfit Times.



Hal, James and Michael at AIDS Walk.

October 08

Seismic Challenge

Saturday & Sunday

October 18-19th, 2008

Fort Bragg to San Francisco through Mendocino and Russian River Valley

The Seismic Challenge is a two-day, 200-mile cycling fundraiser for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation which will be held on October 18th and 19th, 2008. The ride follows the San Andreas Fault from Fort Bragg in Mendocino County, through the Russian River Valley and across the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco. Registration is open via the Seismic Challenge website, www.seismicchallenge.org. The ride will be supported by a volunteer Crew who will be doing things such as pouring water, making Gatorade, picking up trash, parking bicycles, fixing bicycles, picking up exhausted riders, wrapping sore knees, leading cheers, giving directions, hanging signs, marking the route, etc. If you are interested in being a member of this invaluable crew of fun-loving, compassionate people, we would love to have you.

All Crew members will receive a Seismic Challenge jacket and will be provided with meals and accommodations while working the event. Crew members are not required to fundraise but Crew members that reach the \$1,000 fundraising level will also receive an official Seismic Challenge cap. Sound good? You can register or click on FAQ in the left-hand navigation bar on the website if you'd like more information: Register for Seismic Challenge.

Can't volunteer for the whole ride? Volunteers work with us in San Francisco (mostly) before the Seismic Challenge on all our pre-events the Kick-Off Party, some training rides, etc. You could also be at the shuttle stop on Friday, Oct. 17, to send the riders off on their adventure or at the finish line expo on Sunday, Oct. 19, to welcome them back.... or both. Volunteers will all receive a Seismic Challenge Volunteer t-shirt. You can sign up online to be notified about volunteering for the Seismic Challenge and San Francisco AIDS Foundation events.

Seismic Challenge Finish Line Expo
Sunday October 19th, 2008

Crissy Field, San Francisco
At Closing Ceremonies we will welcome back all the riders after their 2 day, 200 mile bike ride from Fort Bragg to San Francisco. Duties may include Checking-In Volunteers, set up, distributing t-shirts, providing food and hydration, manage the VIP tent, selling merchandise, Sponsor relations, traffic, merchandise, and/or Bike Parking. We need volunteers from 10am - 2pm and/or 12-5pm. For more information, please contact Emily Mariko-Sanders at 487-8081 or via e-mail at emariko@sfaf.org

January 09

AIDS/LifeCycle Kick-Off Party

Sunday, January 11th, 2009

The Galleria at

the San Francisco Design Center

101 Henry Adams Street (map)

The Kick-Off party represents the first party of the year for AIDS/LifeCycle* and historically it has been a blast! The Kick-Off Party gathers registered riders, their guests as well as people who have expressed interest in the ride. It is hoped that anyone who hasn't registered yet will decide to ride based on all the fun they have at the party with all of us! We expect at least 600 participants and we would love to have you there to help support their efforts! We will be setting up, doing coat check, guest check-in, giving directions, having fun, loading the vans up to return to the foundation. 7-11am, 9:30am-2pm, 2-6pm (22 volunteers) Please contact Emily Mariko-Sanders @ 415-487-8081 or emariko@sfaf.org.

March

The AIDS/LifeCycle Expo and Roadie Training

probably Saturday, March 28th, 2009

SF County Fair Building (at 9th and Lincoln in Golden Gate Park)

This event gathers the cyclists and Roadies (volunteers on AIDS/LifeCycle) together to get them ready for the ride. It begins with a training ride, and encompasses vendor fair where participants (and volunteers!) can pick up all sorts of great items, Roadie Training, and a host of workshops to prepare the

continued on page 15

participants for the ride! As volunteers we will be doing everything to make this process understandable, smooth and more fun!!! 11am -4pm (4). For more information, please contact Emily Mariko-Sanders at 487-8081 or via e-mail at emariko@sfaf.org

The AIDS/LifeCycle Expo and Roadie Training

Sunday TBD late March early April, 2009
SF County Fair Building (at 9th and Lincoln in Golden Gate Park)

This event gathers the cyclists and Roadies (volunteers on AIDS/LifeCycle) together to get them ready for the ride. It begins with a training ride, and encompasses vendor fair where participants (and volunteers!) can pick up all sorts of great items, Roadie Training, and a host of workshops to prepare the participants for the ride! As volunteers we will be doing everything to make this process understandable, smooth and more fun!!! 11am -4pm (4). For more information, please contact Emily Mariko-Sanders at 487-8081 or via e-mail at emariko@sfaf.org



Jorie and Abbie.

April

The Day On The Ride

probably Saturday April 25th, 2009
SF County Fair Building (at 9th and Lincoln in Golden Gate Park)

This event replicates the look and feel of an actual day on the ride so we set up bike parking, snacks, check-in, safety, etc. The riders arrive early and then we send them on their way. They ride out on a ~40 or 80 mile ride and then instead of moving down the state they loop back to us in G.G. Park or "camp". 5-8:45AM (44 volunteers

and believe it or not this time is the MOST energetic and fun), 12:30-3:30 (17) and 3-7pm (17)! PERFECT for groups! Please contact Emily Mariko-Sanders at emariko@sfaf.org or 487-8081.

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May

Leadership Recognition Dinner Set Up

First Thursday in May, 2009
Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason
Each year the San Francisco AIDS

Foundation hosts the Leadership Recognition Dinner. The Dinner honors individuals and businesses who have made a significant impact in our ongoing battle to end the pandemic and the human suffering caused by HIV/AIDS. We are looking for volunteers to help us set-up the event. We need folks to assist us in setting up the tables, chairs, china, flowers, and making the place glamorous!!! 10am to 2pm and/or 1pm to 5pm. Please contact Sergio Cano at scano@sfaf.org or 487-8014.



Celeste showcasing the goods.



Jahaira and Joey at the softball game.