



Providing Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Education

Newsletter Spring 2010

Our New Name

Welcome to the very first Carolinas CARE Partnership newsletter since our recent name change from the Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium. We are so excited to have a new name that we feel truly represents our present goals. Our mission remains the same, “to foster and ensure a regional approach to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, and to meet with compassion and dignity the needs of those affected by these diseases”. However, we recognize the rapidly changing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in our region and realize the importance of community collaboration to provide an excellent array of services to those affected by these diseases. We hope you’ll join us in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community!



In the Spotlight

Each newsletter, we will feature an employee or board member whose contribution to the organization has been paramount to our success. Who better to highlight with the first edition than our Executive Director, Terry Ellington.



Terry became the Executive Director in January of 2009. However, Terry is not new to the organization, but began work here in 1998 as a Housing Specialist. His involvement since then has been quite diverse, but housing has been his forte.

Originally from North Carolina, Terry has contributed greatly to his home state. His efforts have benefited the Charlotte community in many ways but perhaps the most noteworthy is the agency’s major accomplishment of earning a grant of national significance from HUD in 2006. His unending energy and enthusiasm made for an exciting year for us, and 2010 is off to a fast start!



2009 Slowdown?

Not HIV or Our Organization

We have never had a more active year in the history of our agency than we did in 2009. We hit the ground running and have not stopped! We have been testing, teaching, training, and touching the lives of thousands in a multitude of venues. In fact, we are inspired to have had the opportunity in the last 6 months to touch the lives of more than 1,189 individuals in our community that are affected by HIV and AIDS.

Our training programs continue to flourish. Our employees have continued to educate both in Charlotte and on the roads with some 260 persons learning about HIV from our highly skilled professionals.

With the number of individuals infected by HIV rising here in our community, testing is paramount in our attempt to slow down the

virus. Again, reaching far and wide, our staff tested more than 800 persons in 2009 alone in venues ranging from health fairs to nightclubs, to shelters, and substance abuse centers.

Our housing programs, benefitted by Terry's many years of expertise, continued to touch the lives of many. Over 400 individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their family members were provided with critical housing services that prevented homelessness and provided housing stability.

Our impact in the community has been substantial and we continue to strive to make the lives of those infected and affected by HIV better ones.



What's New

We are very excited to have recently been awarded a new joint grant with Duke University to provide in home mental health services to people with HIV. This grant awarded by the NIH is innovative in its approach to help HIV positive persons who suffer from mental illness and offers a unique and very exciting opportunity for the Consortium to partner with a leading academic institution. We are confident this program will greatly help our constituents meet their needs and fill a gap that has been present in our community and we are pleased to now be enrolling persons in the study. We welcome Veronica Jones, Program Director. Contact: Veronica Jones at 704-531-2467 x 27 or vjones@carolinascare.org.

In addition, we recently add the D-Up! program that is a HIV prevention program targeted to

young men of color ages 13-24 who are MSM (men who have sex with men). The five-year program is funded by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and is a cooperative agreement with the Carolinas CARE Partnership. The D-Up! program implements Popular Opinion Leader (POL), a CDC community level intervention that focuses on HIV risk reduction through peer influence.

The mission of D-Up! is to recruit, engage, and train key influential young men of color who have sex with men (YMCSM) in the community to influence their social networks and make a difference in the greater Charlotte. We welcome Darrin Johnson, Senior Project Coordinator, Daniel Valdez, Latino Project Coordinator, and GeoAnna Smith, Administrative Coordinator, to our agency. They, too, hit the ground running and already have been involved in several successful HIV counseling and testing events.



Our New Website!

We are pleased to let you know that we now have a new website! It is located at www.carolinascare.org. There you will find exciting information about our agency and a variety of useful resources. Please visit it and let us know what you think!

Also look for us on:

