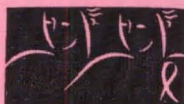



THE UPDATE



 AIDS Vancouver Island

JUNE 1996

FUND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

AVI's Fund Development activities are proceeding amid the plaster dust and relative chaos as the organization grows into its new offices. Work on the *2nd Annual Walk For AIDS* is proceeding, with businesses, schools, printers and others being approached to help us reach our goal of 1,500 participants and \$60,000 in pledges on September 29th.

Bizarre Bazaar, with the indomitable persistence of Irene Hibbert, will hold its 7th Annual sale on July 20th in conjunction with the Moss Street Paint In. Irene and the Biz Baz Committee would like your help! They need a storage space – preferably a ground level garage – to collect, organize and store Biz Baz donations until July 20th. Anyone with an empty garage or suitable storage space can call Erik Ages at 388-2067. Volunteers are also needed, and can call Erik at the same number.

We also need ticket sellers – and ticket buyers! — for the 2nd Annual *Summer Garden Lottery*. Tickets are a bargain at \$1 each for chances at \$1,000 of garden-related prizes (the draw's on August 7th). Call Stacy LeBlanc at 384-2366 to get involved.

Special thanks to the cast, crew and Board of *William Head Onstage*, who staged brilliant performances of *No Exit* and *End Game*. At an awards dinner held on May 12th, WHOS presented AVI's Financial Assistance Fund with a cheque for \$500.00. Bryan Teixeira, our Board Chair, thanked them and acknowledged them as honorary AVI volunteers.

Finally, all of us in Fund Development would like to wish Joy Stanton and Cindy Nicholson a successful and healthy hike as they set out for their 2nd time on the *Tahsis Lions Club Great Walk*. Last year, Joy and Cindy hiked 64 km of grueling mountain logging road to raise \$1206 for AVI's FAF. Rumour has it that the two-woman team may beat this total on June 1st!

Wait: there's more! Heartfelt thanks to Dana Becker, a long time AVI volunteer and now office administrator at AVI Nanaimo. Dana is busy organizing the *4th Annual AIDS Benefit* at Nanaimo's Queen's Hotel on Sunday June 23rd. This year, proceeds from the Benefit will go to the FAF...an important step for AVI fundraising north of the Malahat. Thank you, Dana!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteer Recognition Night. Over 100 Volunteers and guests enjoyed excellent food, entertainment, comradre, and never ending door prizes, at this year's Volunteer Recognition Night held April 26th at the Victoria Art Gallery. The evening was a great success.

Recipients of Special Recognition awards were:

Roweena Peters - Education
Bruce Sproule - Support Services
Norm Brulotte - Fund Raising
Maureen Morrison - Administration
All the Special Volunteers - Street Outreach
Ed Wilson - Speaker of the Year

Nominated for the Shawn Costello Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year, were: Doug Aitkenhead, Maureen Morrison, Janice Hepburn, Bruce Sproule, and Ed Wilson. The award was presented to Doug Aitkenhead by JoAnn and Bruce Sproule.

their commitment to AVI. Congratulations to everyone. Special thanks to our entertaining and competent Master of Ceremonies Ned Lemley for a job well done.

Please remember to support the individuals, organizations and businesses who helped make this evening possible:

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Best Western Carlton Plaza Hotel, Buttercup Creations, Cafe Mexico, Decadence Gourmet Foods & Catering, Debbie & Doug Harding, Eurosa Gardens Ltd. Doug from B.J.'s, Every Last Crumb Catering Entertainment Publications, Herald Street Cafe, Linda Graham, Karidwen Irvine, Mission Hill Winery, Ned Lemley, Isabella Luke, Daphne Marlatt, Liam Morton, Milestones Restaurant, Prairie Inn Neighbourhood Pub, Royal Oak Florists-Paul Thompson, Scents of Touch-Piedad Escobar, Spinnakers Brewery Pub & Restaurant, Truffles Creative Gourmet Catering, Daniel Weisenburger.

Reference Material
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AVI Resource Centre

HELPLI

(VICTORIA) HELPLINE: 1-800-665-AIDS (2437)

THE UPDATE

The Update is published monthly as a service to members. One-year subscriptions are available for \$15.00. Typed submissions and letters to the Editor are welcome, c/o AVI #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7, or via EMAIL at avi@IslandNet.com. The Update will print no sexist, racist or homophobic copy and will cover issues and events from perspectives which will initiate positive change in the work done by and for AIDS Vancouver Island. The appearance of any advertisements, treatment information or letters to the editor do not imply endorsement by AIDS Vancouver Island. Submissions may be edited for conciseness and grammatical correctness. AIDS Vancouver Island will not be responsible for errors or omissions.

Erik Ages (editor) c/o casper@IslandNet.com

NewsLetter Committee: Marilyn Branco, Michelle Purdon, Leah Morgan, Stacy LeBlanc

MORE VOLUNTEER NEWS...

International Conference on AIDS Volunteer Opportunity

The XI International Conference on AIDS is currently seeking volunteers for a wide variety of positions. The conference is to be held from July 7-12, 1996. For more information Phone Bridget at AVI, 384-2366.

“Victoria Cares: A Benefit for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS” Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed to answer the telephone and process ticket sales at the VARCS office from May 13 to July 11, 1996. A variety of shifts are available and training will be provided. For information, call Jaime Crouch at 920-5976.

Volunteer Evaluations

E.J. would like to thank everyone for their input into the Volunteer Evaluations. Survey highlights will be published in the July UPDATE.

Comings and Goings

John and Betty Redfern are in England, finally having the trip of their lifetime.



Mark your calendar....Bizarre Bazaar is happening July 20th. Volunteers are needed for a multitude of tasks including set up, sales, baking, pricing etc., if you can be of ANY ASSISTANCE please contact Bridget or Erik at 384-2366

SUPPORT SERVICES

Greetings from Roshni, Bart and Alicia who are all so busy keeping the Support Services Department flowing smoothly that they've no time to write a column. Check the calendar for a list of some of the upcoming Support Services related functions.

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

Is the needle exchange just that? I was able to catch up to Claire Dineen, Street Outreach Coordinator, to do an interview with her. We began with the mandate then carried on with other duties of S.O.S.

The mandate of the S.O.S. is to prevent HIV/AIDS and related infectious diseases. The prevention is done through needle exchange and condom distribution to street involved individuals, primarily for injection drug users and sex trade workers.

S.O.S. consists of two full time workers, seven casuals and twelve volunteers. Also, S.O.S. has two nurses provided by and employed by the CRD Health Unit. All employees of S.O.S. are those who; can work and deal with a diverse clientele, have an understanding of HIV/AIDS and understand poverty and addiction issues. Volunteers undergo a two night training orientation then they are integrated (as volunteers) into S.O.S. Volunteer responsibilities include direct contact with clients, street outreach, assisting staff with food donation pick-up, as well as running errands to and from the AVI main office. This opportunity allows volunteers (who are involved in other sectors of AVI) to utilize those skills learned at S.O.S.

S.O.S. clients range between 12 years old to 60 plus. They may be any one or more of the following: steroid users, longtime drug injection users, sex trade workers, street youth, or those with psychiatric diagnosis. S.O.S. offers: anonymous HIV testing, Hepatitis tests/shots, pregnancy tests, sexually transmitted disease treatment, counselling/referrals, needle exchange and lots of ears and hot java.

S.O.S. also provides educational and street based workshops and services. For instance, Claire, a volunteer, and another staff member will go out into the community to do workshops to promote education and safety issues. S.O.S. has given presentations to: Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (monthly), William Head Penitentiary, Pemberton Detox, Sandy Merriman House (Emergency shelter for women), and other Social Service agencies.

From April 1995 to March 1996 S.O.S. exchanged 128,000 syringes, had 16,000 drop-ins and distributed 59,600 condoms. Victoria has one of the lowest rates of HIV caused by drug use in North America.

S.O.S. also provides mobile needle exchange in Duncan, serving the area from Shawnigan Lake to Chemainus. This service exchanges up to 11,000 needles per year. Condom distribution is also done in the Duncan area.

I asked Claire if there was one thing she would like those who are not familiar with S.O.S. to know, what it would be? She replied, "It is imperative that people are aware of the necessity of S.O.S. and realize their impact is necessary in prevention strategies for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases."

It is plain to see that the needle exchange is not just that! Congratulations to Claire, the S.O.S. staff and volunteers for doing such a miraculous contribution to our community. Next month I'll take a closer look at S.O.S. with its staff members.

- Leah Morgan

S.O.S. Announcement

Street Outreach Services plans to move in July '96 and would like donations of: House plants, book cases, toiletries, socks, coffee tables, end tables, tv/vcr stand and a filing cabinet. S.O.S. hours of operation are: Monday to Saturday 4:30pm - 11:55pm and Sunday from 7:00pm - 11:00pm, or contact S.O.S. at 384-1345. All contributions would be greatly appreciated.

ISLAND OUTREACH

News from the Island... Support Services for PWAs in Nanaimo and across the Island have been very busy. The volunteer Support and Care Team training has recently been completed in Nanaimo, and we welcome our new support volunteers. Thanks to Roshni, Alicia and Bart from Support Services for the training (and great food!).

On Sunday, June 23rd, the 4th Annual AIDS Benefit will be held at the Queen's Hotel in Nanaimo to raise funds for the Financial Assistance Fund. The benefit will include live bands, raffles and an auction. Please come and support this event if you're in the area... The AIDS Benefit will happen from 2 pm to midnight at the Queen's Hotel which is located at 34 Victoria Cres. in Nanaimo (close to Harbour Park Mall). If you would like more information or you're interested in volunteering for this event, please call Dana at 753-2437.

The Nanaimo HIV/AIDS Education Project brought YouthCO to Vancouver Island in April, providing intensive peer training sessions for youth in the communities of Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Parksville. The in-depth training sessions were well attended, and participants commented that the workshops were very informative and inspiring. The next few months of this project, co-sponsored by AVI and the Central Vancouver Island Health Unit, will be focused on education to community agencies in the Nanaimo area and preparing for the Quilt display. For information on the project, contact Mana at 753-2437.

The Canadian Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt display for Nanaimo is still in the works. However, we have postponed it until '97. We want to build a stronger base of support for the project in Nanaimo before we go ahead. The display will be held in the late spring or early fall '97 and will include more than 60 sections of the AIDS Quilt - each section 12'x12'. We need volunteer support now if this is going to be a success! We need people with organizational skills, individuals with experience in promotion, bookkeeping, working with volunteers, quilters, as well as many general tasks and assistance at the time of the display. We will also be working with people in communities across the Island to make the quilts in their community to bring to the display in Nanaimo. This is a BIG project and will require lots of volunteer support!!! If you are interested in being involved, would like to work on a quilt in your community, or just want more information, please call Shari at 753-2437 or 335 1171.

EDUCATION UPDATES

Hey there everybody! This is my first submission to the Update since I began filling in for Barb and I have some good news to relay. The AVI Library Resource Center is moving into the Computer Age! We are currently working on a database which will encompass books, videos and journals. My aim is to have the database up and running with most of our materials entered by the end of the summer. The new system will allow consumers to search materials by author, subject or title. This should make things much easier for people writing research papers, preparing for Speakers Bureau, or searching for information for personal use.

The system will also allow us to track how often resources are used so that we can buy new materials accordingly. I have noticed that there are quite a few books missing from our present library so if you have any AVI materials at home please return them so that we can catalogue them into our new system. During this change over, things are going to be a bit disorganized so I would like to thank you all, in advance, for your patience.

The Helpline and Speakers Bureau are also in the process of change right now. The Helpline is currently in transition to its new location across the hall. The new space is brighter and more open than the old one and, after all the dust settles, it should be very comfortable to work in.

Meanwhile, I have been taking advantage of the slow season to brainstorm some ideas for adding new skills to the Speakers Bureau. I have taken into account some of the feedback from the volunteer focus group as well as the community and am trying to develop a plan for sharing techniques and skills in our monthly meetings. So, Speakers, keep your eyes and ears open for the next meeting coming up in June!!

Well, that's about all the news that's fit to print right now so, I'll sign off until next time.

Echo

GAY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hi, everyone. Just to introduce myself, I am Robb Stewart and I am the new Gay Community Outreach Worker at AVI. Over the next two years, I will be implementing the Men's Outreach Project which provides education and outreach to men who have sex with men (MSM). This includes out gay and bisexual men as well as heterosexual-identified men who have sex with men. This is an exciting new project which will require a lot of community development and input.

The project will incorporate peer-based education teams and a community advisory committee. Eventually, the project will involve outreach to schools, bars, and public sex environments (you know where they are...).

Oh, yeah...my intro. Well, I'm 25 and I just finished my B.A. at UVIC. Born and raised in Victoria (gasp!), I have been a long-time activist in human rights and queer issues in Victoria. I am the host/producer of "Queer and Present Danger" on CFUV, I am a Pride Society board director, I coordinate the Anti-Violence Project and am the provincial Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Coordinator for the BC Young New Democrats. I'm looking forward to building a strong Men's Outreach Project which will ultimately lead to the improvement of men's sexual health. If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to call me.

p.s. Our fearless leader, Peter MacDougall is still on his well deserved vacation. He returns May 26th.

- Robb Stewart

A SPECIAL THANKS

It has come to my attention on the remarkable work from the staff. The acknowledgement on a job well done not only goes to the volunteers, but without certain guidance and preparations, we the volunteers, would not be there.

A good pat on the back is deserving to Roshni, Alicia and Bart. Without them, HIV/AIDS people would be totally lost, believe me. A very special thank you also goes to JoAnn, Echo and Peter for simply being there during a traumatic period. Thank you guys for a job well done.

As a volunteer we feed off the energy around the office.

John Crete



AIDS Vancouver Island

JUNE 1996

M	T	W	T	F	S/S
					1 Claire's Birthday 2
3	4 HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm	5 Melanie's Birthday	6	7	8 Roshni's Birthday 9
10	11 Board Meeting 6:30 pm Support Services Committee Mtg. 5:30pm	12	13	14	15 16
17	18 HIV+ Women's Support Group 5 pm	19 Speakers Bureau Meeting 6:30pm John's Birthday	20	21	22 23 Bart's Birthday
24 PWA Dinner 5:15 AVI Living Room	25	26	27	28	29 30

DIRECTORY

AIDS INFO LINE
(VICTORIA)
384-4554

TOLL-FREE INFO LINE
1-800-665-2437

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EDUCATION
SPECIAL EVENTS
SUPPORT SERVICES
VOLUNTEERS
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Fax: 380-9411

STREET OUTREACH
609 Johnson St.
Tel: 384-1345

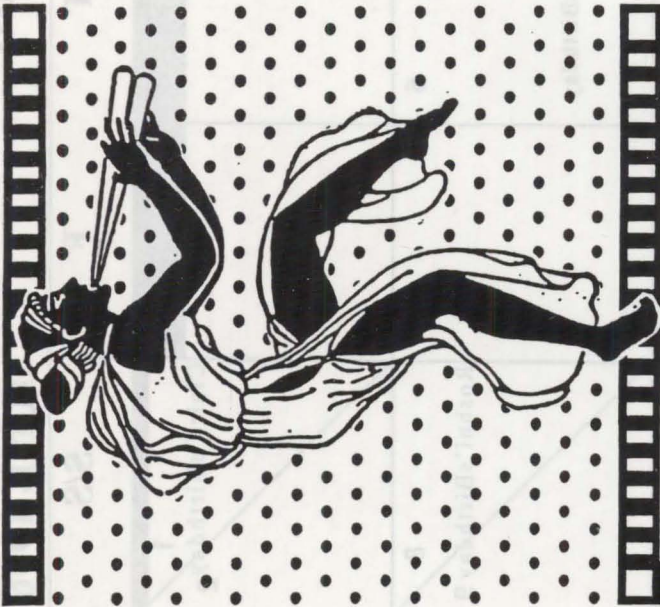
ISLAND OUTREACH
(NANAIMO)
Tel: 753-2437
Fax: 753-4595

ISLAND OUTREACH
(COURTENAY)
TEL 335-1171
FAX 355-1178

ISLAND OUTREACH
(Cowichan Valley)
TEL 746-0808
FAX 746-8666

LOCATION OF EVENTS

Events, unless indicated otherwise, occur at
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