

POSITIVE VOICES - October 2012

Your Newsletter by Positive People for Positive People

September 21, 2012 - AIDS Documentary *How to Survive a Plague* Opens Nationwide

How to Survive a Plague, a documentary about the history of AIDS treatment activism, opens nationwide in theaters on Friday, September 21. Longtime AIDS journalist and first-time filmmaker David France uses archival footage to show the impact of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and the Treatment Action Group (TAG). By focusing on the stories of a few members of both groups, including AIDSmeds founder Peter Staley, the film tells the larger story of the movement.

August 2, 2012 - HIV-Positive Man Arrested for Having Sex Without Disclosing

Deputies arrested a Florida man for having sex with his live-in girlfriend without informing her that he was living with HIV, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reports. Nathaniel Faulk, 51, faces 10 charges, and if convicted, he could face up to 50 years in jail as well as \$50,000 in fines. The girlfriend found out about Faulk's status when she discovered his HIV meds. When she went to get an HIV test on Tuesday, she learned that in Florida it is a felony for an HIV-positive person to have sex without disclosing his or her status, regardless of whether the virus is transmitted. Her test results are unknown. Faulk told authorities she wanted to have unprotected sex.

January 13, 2012 - Viral Load Most Important Predictor of HIV Transmission

A new African study of heterosexual HIV-serodiscordant couples—in which one partner is positive and the other is negative—confirms that viral load is the most important factor influencing the risk of transmitting the virus, [according to data](#) published in the February 1 issue of *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*. The findings also stress the importance of other transmission variables, including condom use, age, male circumcision status and the presence of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The primary goal of the study was to calculate the risk of HIV transmission per act of sexual intercourse with an HIV-positive partner in the absence of antiretroviral treatment, notably among heterosexuals in sub-Saharan Africa, who make up roughly two thirds of the world's population of people living with HIV. According to study authors James Hughes, PhD, of the University of Washington and his colleagues, the average rate of infection was found to be 1 per 900 coital acts.

Though estimates of the probability of HIV infection per act of sexual intercourse can be confusing on a level of personal decision making—it only takes one unsafe sexual encounter to become infected with the virus—these estimates are of importance to experts in the field of HIV epidemiology and prevention. According to [an editorial](#)

accompanying Hughes and his team's paper, Ronald Gray, PhD, and Maria Wawer, MD, of Johns Hopkins University point out that these estimates are needed "for modeling the epidemic and for projecting the effects of preventive interventions." Indeed, they add, these estimates "[have] been the holy grail of HIV epidemiology for [more than] two decades."

August 1, 2012 - Tennessee Man Loses Wife, Job After False HIV-Positive Test

A Tennessee man has lost his job and separated from his wife after receiving a false positive from an HIV test, reports News Channel 5. Sean Smith, a 47-year-old from Goodlettsville, said that while he tried to donate plasma at a local center, the staff ran his information through a national database and informed him he was HIV positive (and therefore unable to give blood). Smith assumed the information was correct and that it derived from a previous instance when he donated plasma. He decided to disclose his status, a move that cost him his job and marriage. Since then, Smith has tested negative for HIV and is now trying to remove the false information from the database.

August 14, 2012 - DC Man Misdiagnosed With HIV Settles \$20M Suit

An HIV-negative man in Washington, DC, has settled a \$20 million lawsuit for negligent emotional distress against Whitman-Walker Health, which falsely told him 12 years ago that he had HIV, The Washington Post reports. Terry Hedgepath sued Whitman-Walker in 2005 after he tested HIV negative at another clinic. A judge threw out that suit because Hedgepath had no physical injury resulting from the false HIV-positive diagnosis. In 2011, the DC Court of Appeals overturned that ruling saying patients can sue for emotional injury, which allowed the trial to move forward. The settlement was reached just a week before the case was to go to trial. Both parties said they reached their agreement "amicably" and declined to release details.

September 12, 2012 - Texas Woman Killed by Boyfriend Because She Had HIV

A Texas man stabbed his girlfriend to death because she allegedly did not disclose she had HIV before having sex with him, KDAF reports. Larry Dunn is being held in the Dallas County Jail on a murder charge for killing Cicely Bolden. His bail is set at \$500,000. Dunn told police, "She killed me, so I killed her." However, Bolden's family and friends dispute Dunn's assertion that she had not disclosed her HIV-positive status before sex, KDFW reports. They claim that she was open about her status. A follow up KDAF article reports that Dunn has not yet taken an HIV test.

*All of the above "Newsfeeds" are from www.poz.com, there are so many other stories worth reading.

With Election Day just around the corner these are the words our President spoke last year on AIDS DAY. Get out and vote so he will be our president for 4 more years. Yes, our state is a no-brainer.... It will go for the President, but that does not mean we don't have to vote anyway. We need our voice to be heard by all our local, state and federal Representatives.

December 1, 2011 - Beginning of the End of AIDS

Transcript of remarks by President Obama at George Washington University on World AIDS Day.

Hello, everyone! Thank you, Sanjay. It's an honor to be with you all today and to follow President Kikwete and President Bush. To Bono, to Alicia, to the ONE campaign, thank you for bringing us together. Because of your work, all across Africa, there are children who are no longer starving; mothers who are no longer dying of treatable diseases; and fathers who are again providing for their families. Because of you, so many people are now blessed with hope.

We've got Members of Congress here who have done so much for this cause. Thank you.

Let me also thank President Bush for joining us from Tanzania and for his bold leadership on this issue. History will record the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief as an extraordinary legacy. That program - more ambitious than even leading advocates thought was possible at the time - has saved hundreds of thousands of lives, spurred international action, and laid the foundation for a comprehensive global plan that will impact the lives of millions. And we are proud to carry that work forward.

Today is a remarkable day. Today, we come together, as a global community, across continents, faiths and cultures, to renew our commitment to ending the AIDS pandemic - once and for all.

Now, if you go back and look at the themes of past World AIDS Days, if you read them one after another, you'll see the story of how the human race has confronted one of the most devastating pandemics in our history. You'll see that in those early years - when we started losing good men and women to a disease that no one truly understood - it was about ringing the alarm; calling for global action; proving that this deadly disease was not isolated to one area or one people.

And that's part of what makes today so remarkable; because back in those early years, few could have imagined this day; that we would be looking ahead to 'The Beginning of the End;' marking a World AIDS Day that has as its theme, 'Getting to Zero.' Few could have imagined that we'd be talking about the real possibility of an

AIDS-free generation. But we are. And we arrived here because of all of you and your unwavering belief that we can - and will - beat this disease.

Because we invested in anti-retroviral treatment, people who would have died from AIDS - some of you here today - are living full and vibrant lives. Because we developed new tools, more and more mothers are giving birth to children free from this disease. And, because of a persistent focus on awareness, the global rate of new infections, and deaths, is declining.

So make no mistake, we are winning this fight. But the fight is not over, not by a long shot. The rate of new infections may be going down elsewhere, but it's not going down in America. The infection rate here has been holding steady for over a decade. There are communities in this country being devastated by this disease. When new infections among young, black, gay men increase by nearly fifty percent in three years, we need to do more to show them that their lives matter. When Latinos are dying sooner than other groups; when black women feel forgotten even though they account for most of the new cases among women, we need to do more.

This fight isn't over. Not for the 1.2 million Americans who are living with HIV right now. Not for the Americans who are infected every day. This fight isn't over for them. It isn't over for their families. It isn't over for anyone in this room. And it isn't over for your President.

Since I took office, we've had a robust national dialogue on HIV/AIDS. Members of my Administration have fanned out across the country to meet people living with HIV, to meet researchers, faith leaders, medical providers, and private sector partners. We've spoken with over 4,000 folks. And out of all those conversations we drafted a new plan to combat this disease.

Last year, we released that plan - our first ever comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy. We went back to basics - prevention, treatment, and focusing our efforts where the need is greatest. And we laid out a vision where every American, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status can get access to life-extending care.

Now, I want to be clear about something else - since taking office, we've increased overall funding to combat HIV/AIDS to record levels. With bipartisan support, we reauthorized the Ryan White CARE Act. And, as I signed that bill, I was so proud to also announce that my Administration was ending the ban that prohibited people with HIV from entering America. Because of that step, next year, for the first time in two decades, we will host the International AIDS conference. So we've done a lot over the past three years. But we can do more.

Today, I'm announcing some new commitments. We're committing an additional \$15 million for the Ryan White program that supports care provided by HIV medical clinics across the country. Let's keep their doors open so they can keep saving lives. And we're committing an additional \$35 million for state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. Now, the federal government can't do this alone. So I'm also calling on state governments, pharmaceutical companies, and private foundations, to do their part to help Americans get access to all the life-saving treatments.

Because here's the thing: this is a global fight, one that America must continue to lead. Look back at the history of HIV/AIDS and you'll see that no other country has done more than us. That's testament to our leadership as a country. Look back and you'll see that both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have consistently come together to fund this fight. Not just here, but around the world. That's testament to the values that we share as Americans; a commitment that extends across party lines and that is demonstrated by President Bush and I joining you all today.

Since I took office, we've increased support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We've launched a Global Health Initiative that has improved access to health care, helped bring down the costs of vaccines and, over the next five years, will help save the lives of four million more children. And, all along, we've kept focusing on expanding our impact.

Today I am proud to announce that as of September, the United States now supports anti-retroviral treatment for nearly four million people worldwide. In just the past year, we've provided six hundred thousand HIV-positive mothers with access to drugs so that two hundred thousand babies could be born HIV-free. And nearly thirteen million people have received care and treatment, including more than four million children. So that's something to be proud of.

And we're achieving these results not by acting alone, but by partnering with developing countries like Tanzania, and with leaders like President Kikwete.

Now, as we go forward, we need to keep refining our strategy so that we're saving as many lives as possible. We need to listen when the scientific community focuses on prevention. That's why, as a matter of policy, we're now investing in what works, from medical procedures to promoting healthy behavior. And that's why we're setting a goal of providing anti-retroviral drugs to more than one and a half million HIV-positive pregnant woman over the next two years so that they have the chance to give birth to HIV-free babies. But we're not stopping there. We know that treatment is also prevention. And today we're setting a new target of helping six million people get on treatment by the end of 2013. That's two million more people than our original goal.

So on this World AIDS Day, here's my message to everyone out there.

To the global community - join us. Countries that have committed to the Global Fund need to give the money they promised. And countries that haven't made a pledge need to do so. That includes China and other major economies that are now able to step up as major donors.

To Congress - keep working together and keep the commitments you've made intact. At a time when so much in Washington divides us, the fight against this disease has united us across parties and presidencies. It has shown that we can do big things when Republicans and Democrats put their common humanity before politics. Let's carry that spirit forward.

And to all Americans - keep fighting. Fight for every person who needs our help today but also fight for every person who didn't live to see this moment. Fight for Rock Hudson, Arthur Ashe, and every person who woke us up to the reality of HIV/AIDS. Fight for Ryan White, his mother Jeanne, the Ray brothers, and every person who forced us to confront our destructive prejudices and misguided fears. Fight for Magic Johnson, Mary Fisher and every man, woman and child, who, when told they were going to die from this disease, said, "No, I'm going to live."

Keep fighting for all of them because we can end this pandemic. We can beat this disease. We can win this fight. We just have to keep at it, today, tomorrow, and every day until we get to zero. And as long as I have the honor of being your President, that's what we're going to keep doing. That's my pledge - my commitment - to you. And that has to be our promise to each other; because we have come so far; we have saved so many lives; let's finish the fight.

Thank you for all that you've done. God bless you. And God bless America.

ON GOING MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Join/ Attend: Consumer Advisory Committee [CAC] Meetings

The STAP Consumer Advisory Committee is a committee facilitated by and made up of consumers (STAP clients) who welcome other consumers and their significant others, caretakers and family members to join them on the second Tuesday of each month. This collaborative effort provides a confidential space for clients to make recommendations regarding STAP client services and other programs in a non-judgmental environment. The meetings are held following the Friends Dinner @ 5:45 at Trinity Memorial Church (on the corner of Main & Oak Streets) in downtown Binghamton. Call 1-800-333-0892 for directions or more details. If you cannot attend these meetings, mail your opinions or suggestions to STAP, 122 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, 13790, Attention: CAC. CAC is encouraging consumers in other counties to organize monthly meetings in their area.

Friends Who Care Support Groups

Broome County: "Friends Who Care" meets every Tuesday at 3 pm - 4:30 pm at Trinity Memorial Church located at 44 Main St. in Binghamton... Come join us for Binghamton's HIV/AIDS Support Group *(open to clients only). Also stay for a good (free) meal afterwards at the "Friends Dinner".

Chemung County: Men Living with HIV Support Group; 2nd Monday of each month; 6-7:30pm; Ivy Clinic, 600 Ivy St., Suite 206, Elmira. For more information people can contact: [Lynn Bassler](#), LMSW Treatment Adherence Counselor, Ivy Clinic, 737-8188.

Tompkins County: The Ivy Clinic is pleased to let all HIV+ men in the Ithaca and surrounding area know there is a support group that is held the third Tuesday of every month at the Ithaca STAP office. Time for the group is 6-7:30 pm and topics vary. If you are interested in attending please e-mail Shannon Sprague at ssprague@aomc.org for further information.

Friends Dinner

"Friends" meet every Tuesday for a time of fellowship and food. Join us at Trinity Memorial Church (on the corner of Main & Oak St. - across the street from the High School) in Binghamton. Doors open at 5PM and dinner is served @ 5:30. No charge, just come with a smile and a friendly attitude - ready to meet friends and have a hearty meal. Parking is on Oak St. behind the Church Annex. Use the Oak St. entrance for the cafeteria. Call your case manager for info. Free bus passes available for transportation to/from the dinner (STAP clients only). For more info about the "Friends Dinner", call STAP and they will get you in touch with Bill.

Free Anonymous Rapid HIV Testing

Walk-in *Anonymous* testing is available in the STAP Johnson City office Mondays from 1:00-4:30PM and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM. *Confidential* testing is available in the Johnson City office Thursdays from 9:00AM - 12:00PM at 122 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, NY 13790. Walk-in *Anonymous* Testing is also available Tuesdays from 9:00AM-11:30AM, and *Confidential* testing is Thursdays, 9:00AM-11:30AM at STAP's Ithaca office located at 501 S. Meadow Street, Ithaca, NY. For more information and other testing opportunities available throughout the month, please call (607)798-1706.

Free EDUCATIONAL Lunch/Dinner: October 2012

NEXT EVENT: October 16th 2012 @ 12 noon (Tuesday)

*Gilead will have a lunch on October 16th at 12 noon at Grande's / Vestal Ave.

* As usual seating is limited (you & a guest only) and must be reserved with Martha at least a week before the event. *R.S.V.P. - Martha # 607-238-8350.*

These are "learning events" - please respect everyone's right to learn.

Ask the Medical Advocate

**** DO YOU Know What the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Program Is?**

C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is a self-paced educational series designed specifically for YOU to learn and understand HIV and your body. Whether you take one quick course or decide to go through the entire program and take charge of YOUR HIV, ask a Medical Advocate about C.H.O.I.C.E.S. today...

Medical Advocacy Coordinator: Stacy # (607) 798-1706 Ext. 210

Medical Advocate: Autumn # (607) 426-9445

* Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm *(new time) - just before the Friends Dinner come join us for our monthly C.H.O.I.C.E.S. module (open to everyone). We have found that we get more out of the program when we learn the modules as a group. Informative questions and discussions are raised.

* Next Program will be October 16th at 4:30 pm *(new time) with Autumn Cook, Medical Advocate, in the dining room at Trinity Church. Followed with a free dinner prepared by one of the local churches that supports our “Friend’s Dinner.”

Nutrition Education Services Coming Soon!

Greeting friends, my name is Eric Krohn and I am STAP’s new Nutrition Education Specialist. I have a background as a chef and dietitian. My hope is providing enhanced access to nutritious foods, as well as the knowledge to make meals with them! Soon the nutrition program will be soliciting for participants, and we look forward to working with you in the near future. Our program requires a dietary evaluation (done by Registered Dieticians) in order to receive individual and group nutrition education sessions from yours truly. Participants also receive gift cards (for nutritious foods) or groceries/pantry bags filled with great foods and recipes. The program is designed to serve individuals with the greatest need with educational sessions in addition to food. In addition I am always available for questions from anyone, not just program participants. I look forward to meeting you all soon. Have a great day and an even better dinner!

Client Satisfaction Survey

The annual Client Satisfaction Survey is enclosed in this month’s newsletter. Please complete it and give STAP feedback about all of their programs and services. You may put your name on it if you like, but it is optional. You can drop it off at any office location.