



AIDS
Community
Health
Center

It's a matter of life.



News from AIDS Community Health Center

Fall 2009

AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester

Together at Monroe Square

Historic Merger to be Official in January 2010

After many months of planning and preparation, 259 Monroe Avenue in downtown Rochester is now our new home. Both AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester have moved into this new shared space, and the clinic, pharmacy, prevention and support services are up and running. “We are very excited to begin work at our new location, which we are sure will bring immense benefits to our patients and the community as a whole,” says Jay Rudman, president of AIDS Community Health Center.

The decision to move together into a new facility was made carefully, and focused on our commitment to provide the best possible environment for patients and clients. Pleasant Street Apothecary and ACM Medical Laboratory have moved with us. And many of our partners in care — Baden Street Settlement, Huther-Doyle, Ibero American-Action League, and Rochester Rehabilitation Center — will be providing services on site, just as they did in our former locations.

Our new building is spacious and the renovations, designed by our former Board Member, Jim Bridges of HBT Architects, are both beautiful and multi-functional. This is now the only place in the Rochester area focused solely on providing comprehensive, community-based health care and a continuum of programs and services for persons living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. And now, at Monroe Square, all of these specialized services, including

education, prevention, advocacy, and support services, will be under one roof.

“I was just amazed at how convenient it is to come to Monroe Square for my medical care, and at the same time, be able to pick up my medicines from Pleasant Street Apothecary. I will also be able to take advantage of several programs that were once housed at AIDS Rochester’s former location,” says AIDS Community Health Center patient, Diana Waters Tejan.

Jay Rudman says, “In the future, it is our vision to remain at the forefront of developing programs and services that anticipate the needs of our HIV/AIDS patients and clients, so that they will always be able to access cutting-edge medical treatment and support services from the leader of comprehensive HIV/AIDS care in this area.”

And we are looking forward to January 2010, when AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester will become one — a legally merged organization and new center for HIV/AIDS care, with one united effort to help people get well, stay well, and live well. At that time we will announce our new name and hold an open house to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Look for more information about our open house celebration at 259 Monroe Avenue which will take place in January. But, please know that you are welcome to visit us at any time. Call Mary Beth Lowery at 585-210-4145 if you’d like to schedule a tour.



YOU CAN HELP

We invite you to help us create this vision at Monroe Square, and make our mission a reality. Every gift is important to the success of our merger and move. We would be happy to help you find the level of giving that is right for you.

Major donors (\$5,000 or more) can name a room in our new facility based on the amount of the donation.

Gifts of \$250 to \$4,999 will receive group recognition with names of donors displayed in our new facility.

Remember, your gift may be tax deductible to the extent allowable by law; please consult your tax advisor.

Special Event Celebrates Move and Merger

A Night of 1,000 Parties Raises Nearly \$70,000 for HIV/AIDS Care and Services

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, event supporters across the Rochester community hosted dinners for friends, family and colleagues, at homes, restaurants, and other venues to celebrate the merger and move of AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester. At 9:00 p.m., dinner hosts and their guests came together for dessert and a special show featuring The Big Wigs at Max at High Falls. Our guests were also able to bid on select auction items generously donated to the event by members of the community. After a full evening of food and entertainment, the party continued from midnight to 2:00 a.m. at One Restaurant & Lounge.

The proceeds, nearly \$70,000, raised from this event will go directly to fund much-needed HIV/AIDS care in our community, including expert medical care, social services, prevention, and clinical research, whether or not our patients and clients can afford to pay for it.

"I'd like to thank everyone who attended this special event, our event chair Rob LaFave, and the committee of staff and volunteers from both agencies, for their hard work and commitment to supporting our mission to provide quality care for people living with HIV/AIDS. And a special thanks goes to our sponsors and dinner hosts for making this successful event possible," says Jay Rudman, president of AIDS Community Health Center.

The coming year will be an exciting one as we move forward as one, merged organization. Paula Silvestrone, executive director of AIDS Rochester states, "We would not be able to carry out the important work of helping those who face the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS without the generous support of our donors. Ours is an important mission, and we appreciate knowing that many people in this community care enough to support our work."



Jay Rudman, AIDS Community Health Center president, and Paula Silvestrone, AIDS Rochester executive director, celebrate the first joint fundraising event, *A Night of 1,000 Parties*.



The bidding was fierce for the live auction items, which included original art, jewelry, travel, and theatre packages.



The Big Wigs' talented performance included the impersonation of many divas, including Bette Midler and Dolly Parton.

Special Thanks to Our Supporters

A special thanks to the following companies and individuals for their generous support of *A Night of 1,000 Parties!*

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Cynthia Woolbright and Bill Spelman



SOLIDARITÉ • CORDELL CORDARO

Cordell Cordaro created this piece in honor of this momentous occasion, as symbolized by the two colors in the background of the dress. This dress has two sides, indicating the merger of AIDS Community Health Center and AIDS Rochester. In the figure's left hand is a book, meant to symbolize learning, and on the book's cover, the rod of Asclepius, which represents healing. On the figure's right hand, which is open to symbolize willingness to help, is a red ribbon, a symbol for the solidarity of people living with HIV/AIDS. The crown indicates wisdom.

Red Ribbon Reception Honors Major Donors

Tim Tompkins Receives the Founder's Award

Local entrepreneur, Tim Tompkins, was recognized recently for his exceptional support of AIDS Community Health Center at the 2009 Annual Red Ribbon Reception to honor major donors. The Founder's Award was presented to Tim by Dr. William Valenti, co-founder of AIDS Community Health Center.

In his remarks, Dr. Valenti said, "Tim has supported AIDS Community Health Center in significant ways for many years. In addition to his personal donations, Tim assisted our agency through the organization Helping People with AIDS. He has graciously opened his beautiful home to us several times for donor events, even celebrating his 50th birthday with a party and inviting his friends to donate to AIDS Community Health Center rather than accepting gifts."

On behalf of the entire organization, Jay Rudman, AIDS Community Health Center president, added his thanks to Tim. "This award is the highest recognition given to a person who has provided support to AIDS Community Health Center. We truly appreciate all that Tim has done to support our work," he said.

Congratulations to Tim, and special thanks to Rob LaFave and Peter Garbacik of Gateway and Company for hosting this year's event.



Tim Tompkins (center) is presented with the Founder's Award by Jay Rudman (left) and Dr. Bill Valenti (right).

Community Outreach Efforts Expand

Agency Establishes New Minority AIDS Initiative

As part of its ongoing efforts to increase access to HIV/AIDS medical care and support services, AIDS Community Health Center recently introduced a new Minority AIDS Initiative which will build on our already successful Women of Color outreach program by focusing on Men of Color and Latinos. The primary goals of the program are to improve HIV-related health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS and reduce HIV related health disparities. The focus will be on improving the quality of HIV services, increasing prevention efforts, and supporting the enrollment of individuals with HIV/AIDS into needed care.

"This is not a new idea for AIDS Community Health Center, but rather an expansion and formalization of what we've been doing to reach out to and serve minority groups," says Jay Rudman, president of AIDS Community Health Center.

Minority AIDS Initiative staff will provide offsite HIV counseling and testing; complete HIV risk assessments, risk reduction plans, and referrals for patients at risk for STDs and HIV infection; advocate for patients with new HIV diagnosis and assist with the establishment of primary care and support services; and coordinate HIV educational activities.

Board of Directors

Thank you to our Board Members who provide valuable guidance and support.

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AIDS Community Health Center is a non-profit, community-based medical treatment center, dedicated to achieving the highest quality of life for persons living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS Community Health Center provides expert primary and HIV healthcare along with a wide range of comprehensive support services and prevention education — all under one roof.