



# CATAWBA CARE CONNECTION

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Winter 2007

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## OUR MISSION

To promote optimal health for York, Chester and Lancaster County residents by providing medical care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and by educating the community to prevent the spread of HIV.

## Executive Direction...

*by Anita Case*



At the beginning of 2007, CCC implemented a five-year strategic plan that focused on increasing community awareness and support, as well as reaching underserved populations. With the first year nearly complete, CCC is pleased to report tremendous successes in both areas.

With increased community awareness through the publication of Catawba

Care Connection, the HIV testing billboard sponsored by the York County Community Foundation and wonderful support from local media partners, CCC has provided HIV testing services to more than 300 people, nearly doubled the number of active volunteers since 2006, and initiated efforts to increase partnerships with the faith community.

In an effort to reach underserved populations, CCC has added on-site mental health counseling services, HIV testing and education services for the Latino community, rapid HIV testing, walk-in HIV testing, and a peer advocacy program in which people living with HIV/AIDS serve as mentors to others living with HIV/AIDS.

CCC needs your help to continue to meet the goals set forth in our strategic plan. If you are a member of a faith community that would like to be involved in serving people living with HIV/AIDS, please contact me to learn more about our partnership opportunities. If you are looking for meaningful volunteer work for a population that needs support, please contact our volunteer coordinator about how you can make a difference. If you would like to visit CCC to see our mission in action, we would love to give you a tour.

As another year draws to a close, we are very grateful for the many blessings we have received at CCC. We thank you for your support and wish you a very merry holiday season!

## Duke Spirituality Project

Catawba Care Coalition was contacted by the Health Inequalities Program at Duke University to be one of two participating sites to assist with a research project titled "Spirituality, Health, Trust, and Culture Among Persons Living with HIV." If funded, this project will study the relationship between spirituality/religion and HIV medication adherence. The project will examine messages received about health and HIV in the faith community, spiritual/religious content of discussions between patients and providers, and the influence of messages and discussions related to spirituality/religion in establishing trust in providers and medication adherence.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

How familiar are you with planned giving? There are many ways in which you can support CCC, and a gift for the future may be the right choice for you and your family.

To help our friends make informed decisions about planned giving, we will be hosting periodic information sessions with professionals who can answer all of your questions. Many thanks to Bob Breakfield and Bryan Albert for moderating our November event.

Contact Sally Baker at x243 or sbaker@catawbacare.org if you would like to attend our next event or learn more about your options for a planned gift.

### PEER ADVOCATES

We now have five people who have been trained as Peer Advocates. This special group of HIV+ volunteer peers work with CCC's clients to help them achieve healthier lives. Some of the programs they offer are a new patient orientation to the clinic and to living with HIV; a buddy program; community outreach assistance; psychosocial support; and adherence support.

## Program Updates

- CCC has recently received several new grants.
  - Ryan White Part A funds have been granted through the Mecklenburg County Health Department for client visits with the Infectious Diseases physician, health insurance premiums, laboratory services, HIV-related medications, and outreach to people at high risk for HIV infection.
  - Ryan White Capacity Building funds will support the first year of CCC's Information Technology Strategic Plan. This funding will assist with the purchase of a not-for-profit accounting software package, replacement of outdated computers, a new telephone system, and upgrades to the network back-up systems.
  - The Arts Council of York County, Lancaster County Council of the Arts and Tibotec Therapeutics have all funded CCC's 3rd Annual *World AIDS Day: Celebration of Art*.
- In October, four CCC staff presented at the *2007 SC HIV/STD Conference*. Jennifer McDaniel and Latisha Jackson presented "Interviewing Techniques: From Interrogation to Conversation;" Mary Jane Hardman presented "Navigating through Medicare;" and Anita Case presented "Hot Topics in Human Resources." CCC is pleased to be the technical assistance provider to SC DHEC for HIV/AIDS organizations throughout the state. CCC staff providing technical assistance are Jennifer McDaniel, Mary Jane Hardman, Latisha Jackson, Brenda Carter and Eli Branscome.

## Changes to the Board of Directors

As we look to 2008, there are several changes to report with our Board of Directors.

Monique Ramseur of Robinson Funeral Home will complete her second term at the end of December. A Director since 2002, she also served on the Executive Committee for two years. We want to thank Monique for six years of dedicated service, and look forward to her continued support and involvement.

We would also like to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors, Dr. Tara Staten and Michael Laessle. Tara works for Rucker Chiropractic in Lancaster and joined CCC's Board last month. Michael, the former Chair of the Board, is returning to serve with CCC after a one-year hiatus.

And finally, Julia Childress Khaled will be expanding her role on the Board to join the Executive Committee as the new treasurer. The other officers for 2008 are: Thomas Rowe, Chair; Deana Morrow, Chair Elect; and Tammy Whisenant, Secretary. Many continued thanks to the Board for their service and dedication to our mission!



*Pictured above are Dr. Tara Staten (left) and Monique Ramseur.*

## A Special Morning for Our Heroes

On September 12, CCC held its first Community Heroes Breakfast to honor community partners and volunteers. We recognized many of the partners and friends that have helped us achieve our mission in the last year, with special accolades for 72 volunteers. We presented

annual awards to Tommy Durham, CCC's Volunteer Driver of the Year and Lane Brafford, the Ruth Webb Volunteer of the Year. CCC would like to thank all of our community partners who attended the event, as well as our sponsoring partners, Dollar General

Stores, the City Club of Rock Hill, Emmert's Auto Service, and Express Car Wash. CCC would like to say a special thanks to Mignon Eayre and Maury Wilkinson for providing the special music and to Gilead Sciences for sponsoring the delicious breakfast.

## Holiday Happenings

- Catawba Care Coalition had a very special Halloween with children from the Children's Attention Home. CCC clients, volunteers and staff made Halloween treat bags for the children at the client monthly social and then hosted the children for a Halloween party at the pantry house. CCC clients, volunteers and staff decorated the pantry house with spider webs, party lights, ghosts and goblins, and served Halloween treats and witches brew punch. The kids participated in games like the cake walk, bean bag in the pumpkin toss, and ping pong ball toss, and decorated their own mini pumpkins to take home. Twenty-nine children and three staff from the Children's Attention Home participated in the party. CCC is excited about another party for the children to celebrate Christmas. CCC clients and volunteers made Christmas gifts at the November client social to give to the children from the Children's Attention Home. CCC would like to thank the Children's Attention Home for partnering with CCC this holiday season and Mary Alice Bucher, CCC's Volunteer Coordinator, for organizing the festivities!
- It's time for the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) and CCC's annual RAINDeer Project. Local communities of faith donate toys and gifts for CCC clients and their families for the holidays. This project is a favorite event for CCC clients. RAIN and CCC partner to host a holiday celebration for clients, volunteers and staff. The children impacted by HIV/AIDS receive gifts to make their holiday season brighter. The clients of CCC also receive gift cards and food assistance to help make the holidays extra special. Many thanks to RAIN and the area communities of faith for making a difference in the lives of families impacted by HIV/AIDS in our community.

## Volunteer Program Updates

Our volunteer program is growing! Just since August, we have trained 41 new volunteers.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped with various projects over the last few

months, such as mailing postcards for World AIDS Day, babysitting, cooking and decorating for client socials, clerical assistance, and transportation for CCC clients to their medical appointments.

We truly could not meet all of the needs of our clients and community without your help!

For more information on how you can become a volunteer, contact Mary Alice Bucher at x238.

## THE PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) partners with CCC to provide clients with *The Pantry*, a source of household and personal care supplies. Since 70% of CCC's clients live at or below the poverty level, and these items are not covered by food stamps, we face a continual demand for this assistance. However, these supplies are low, and so we have had to turn away clients. Our wish list includes:

**HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES**  
laundry detergent, bleach, kitchen and bathroom cleaners, toilet paper, paper towels

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**  
shampoo, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, feminine care items

For more information on how you can help, contact Mary Alice Bucher at x238.

## THANK YOU

In May, the York County Medical Society Alliance held a fundraiser, featuring a fashion show by Luis Machicao, to benefit CCC. The proceeds resulted in a \$10,000 donation! Thank you to everyone who made this generous gift possible!



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## HOT OFF THE PRESS...

- Many thanks to the team at Pure Creative ([www.purecreative.com](http://www.purecreative.com)) for helping us to design a new agency brochure. The brochure highlights all of the programs and services offered by CCC and includes photographs from Rhiannon Gaubatz's *Symbols of Living: Portraits of HIV* and the Delta Sigma Theta human AIDS ribbon.
- We also have fabulous red t-shirts in styles for both men and women. Show your support for CCC and get yours today! Contact Sally Baker at x243 or [sbaker@catawbacare.org](mailto:sbaker@catawbacare.org).



Since this newsletter is only published quarterly, be sure to check [www.catawbacare.org](http://www.catawbacare.org) for announcements and upcoming events that may not be listed here.

### HELP US SAVE A TREE!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please send an e-mail to Sally Baker at:  
[sbaker@catawbacare.org](mailto:sbaker@catawbacare.org).



- Chester County Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce