ASF’s volunteers

doing something good, feeling something real

a publication of AIDS Services Foundation Orange County
Our Mission
The mission of AIDS Services Foundation is to prevent the spread of HIV and improve the lives of men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS in Orange County.

Our Story
A small group of volunteers founded AIDS Services Foundation Orange County (ASF) in the late summer of 1985 because people were dying, had nowhere to turn, and desperately needed help. ASF is now the largest and most comprehensive non profit HIV/AIDS service provider in Orange County, with a staff of over 60 committed and caring individuals, a 19-member Board of Directors, and hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

Each year, ASF helps more than 1,600 men, women and children, along with their families, that are either living with HIV or are impacted by HIV disease. Services include food, transportation, housing, case management, emergency financial assistance, children and family programs, Latino outreach programs, mental health counseling, support groups, HIV testing, and an extensive array of HIV prevention and education programs. We hope for a time when these services are no longer needed. Until then, we work hard each day to prevent the spread of HIV and to ensure that everyone living with HIV and AIDS in Orange County has access to life-enhancing care and services.
Dear Friends,

Famed anthropologist Margaret Mead once said “Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world. It’s the only thing that ever has.” ASF was launched 25 years ago by a small caring group of volunteers who saw the growing threat AIDS was to become, and responded. Since its founding, ASF has depended on volunteers.

In 2008 more than 61.2 million people volunteered 8.1 billion hours to a wide array of causes in the U.S. During ASF’s 2008-09 fiscal year, 818 people volunteered 20,181 hours. Based on the dollar value of an hour of volunteer time of $22.79 as established by Independent Sector $459,925 worth of time was donated to ASF last fiscal year. What is even more impressive is the fact that once people become ASF volunteers they tend to remain engaged for years.

In this issue of The Voice we see volunteering through the eyes of three very different persons who have something very powerful in common — each believes they receive as much back from helping as those they help. Kayla, Olivia and Jerry work directly with our clients, primarily in our food pantry. They are three examples of persons who help make ASF’s assistance possible in that program and many of ASF’s other services.

This issue of The Voice is dedicated to them and all of the other volunteers who have helped change the world for people living with HIV/AIDS in Orange County. We really couldn’t do this work without each of them.

If you’d like to know about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at (949) 809-5700 or visit www.ocasf.org. With AIDS Walk Orange County just around the corner (May 22) your help at the event as a volunteer or walker or both will be very welcome!

Letters from the Executive Director & the President

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2010 it’s a good time to take stock of where we stand. Last year we grappled with funding from various sources eroding beneath us. In response we needed to reduce programs and staff which also resulted in the elimination of some services, especially in the area of prevention. Yet as we begin 2010 it seems as if we will be able to begin restoring some of the services we were forced to reduce in 2009. How did this happen? Well… the bottom line is that it took a lot of hard work and the generous support of our donors and volunteers. Individual donations, estate gifts, foundation grants and our amazing volunteers really made the difference!

This month, The Voice is highlighting how important our volunteers are to our mission. From our Advisory Board members to the many volunteers who served as staff at fundraising events, the food pantry, Kids Club, office support and much more, they all selflessly gave their time and talents.

We called for help and you responded with passion and dedication. As a result ASF programs and services have benefited each and every day. At the beginning of 2009 it was a challenge to visualize how the current economy could change ASF. We aren’t out of the economic woods yet but we got through a very tough year and we’re making progress. Today, it’s easy to see that each donor and volunteer has provided the spirit and energy to find a path toward program restoration. The challenge has made us more creative and we will benefit from the lessons learned for a long time.

I’m sure that 2010 will present its own set of challenges and opportunities but it’s great to know that you will continue to have our backs. It’s important that you know what a difference it made. So dear friends, on behalf of those we serve, I thank you.
When 17-year-old Olivia Penfil asked her mother about where she should volunteer, the two decided to do some research on agencies that could use Olivia's help. While a number of worthy organizations were considered, Olivia settled on ASF and began helping in the food pantry in August 2009. The Newport Harbor High School student has been at it ever since coming in every week to pitch in.

Kayla LaVilla started volunteering once a week in January 2007 while managing double majors in biology and public health policy at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). In September 2008 she decided to parlay her volunteer time into an ASF internship to gain school credits. But as soon as the internship was completed, Kayla returned to volunteering in ASF's food pantry.

Jerry Dunn, a former health care industry human resources executive, has done a lot in his 14 years at the agency. From helping out with the Snickers program, Splash, the Memorial Quilt Tour and the food pantry Jerry has watched as ASF has evolved over the years into Orange County’s most comprehensive nonprofit provider of services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Orange County.

As different as Olivia, Kayla and Jerry may seem, they each have one thing in common: an appreciation for the people they help and a belief that they gain as much personally from helping as those they help. According to Carolyn Spivak, ASF’s volunteer coordinator, that’s not unusual.

“Every one of ASF’s volunteers will tell you that they get far more from helping than they give,” says Spivak. “Many of our volunteers have some connection to HIV/AIDS. Maybe a friend, relative or co-worker has the disease. Something touches them and they want to help. ASF offers them that opportunity.”

Olivia, who volunteers every Tuesday afternoon, says all of the clients she assists with pantry orders are very kind. “The truth is, I’m the one who is grateful because I get so much back from the people I am helping. When I came to ASF I really didn’t know what to expect. But this has been one of the best things I have ever done.”

ASF offers a very wide array of volunteer positions including direct service activities such as the food pantry and food delivery to helping with Kids Club, a support group for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Recognizing the need for flexible volunteer activities, ASF also depends on volunteers to help at special events such as AIDS Walk, Splash or other short term assignments and events.

Spivak says that ASF appeals to people who want to connect with their community. “People who come to ASF know they can make an important difference and at the same time they can be themselves here at the agency.”

“We work hard to make sure that everyone who wants to help at ASF can and that they have clear expectations, appropriate training and a good experience”, says Spivak who points out the agency’s track record in retaining volunteers. “Many of our interns and court-required community service volunteers tend to stay long after their hours are completed.”
Spivak says ASF’s youngest volunteer is 17 and the oldest is 92. And this year ASF will recognize three volunteers for 25 years of service to the agency. She also noted that since the beginning of the year there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people inquiring about volunteering.

Kayla, who first started volunteering with another organization while in high school, says she enjoys ASF’s volunteer-friendly environment. “ASF is very welcoming. The clients are always very appreciative.”

“I’d been volunteering at ASF and was very pleased to learn they were also on the approved internship list at UCI. It was an easy decision to do my internship at ASF and to transition back to volunteering when done,” said Kayla. “In fact I even got my sister to volunteer here and have invited some of my friends to join me,” she said.

Jerry points to his experiences dealing with HIV/AIDS in the hospitals he worked for in the 1980s and 1990s as his motivation for signing on as an ASF volunteer. “Many of our employees, nurses and other health care professionals knew very little about the disease and were afraid to even go near patients,” he recalls. “As head of the human resources department I needed to learn more and to put training programs in place to help our staff understand what the disease was and more importantly what it wasn’t.”

His work eventually led him to ASF and, after “retiring” Jerry became an ASF volunteer. Because he is bi-lingual in Spanish he saw a particular opportunity to help the agency in outreach to the Hispanic community.

“Volunteering at ASF has been a very positive experience for me. I enjoy working with the staff and especially the clients. It’s very rewarding and gratifying. I know I get a lot more from this than I give,” he said. “Anybody who believes in our mission can do this work. It’s the best job you’ll ever have the privilege to do.”

To learn more about volunteering at ASF, visit www.ocasf.org or call Carolyn Spivak at (949) 809-5771.

Here are a few things to know about volunteering at ASF:

- All in-house volunteer opportunities require an up-to-date tuberculosis test that volunteers arrange at their own expense and which must be updated annually.
- Volunteer shifts vary depending on the opportunities and activities.
- To help volunteers better understand and enjoy their experience an orientation session with the Volunteer Coordinator is required prior to volunteering.
- New volunteers are asked to complete an application and associated forms prior to beginning volunteering.
- Volunteers under the age of 18 must have their application and other forms co-signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- ASF may accept volunteers who are required to do community service hours through court referral.
- ASF offers undergraduate and post graduate internships.
- Volunteers are required to carry out their assigned duties in accordance with ASF’s Volunteer Policies and Procedures.
Travel Ban Lifted
International AIDS Conference Returns to US in 2012

The repeal of the travel ban on people with HIV entering this country has cleared the way for the International AIDS Conference to return to the US in July 2012. The conference, which is organized by the International AIDS Society (IAS), will be held in Washington, DC. The last time the conference was held in the US was 1990 in San Francisco.

“The return of the conference to the United States is the result of years of dedicated advocacy to end a misguided policy based on fear, rather than science, and represents a significant victory for public health and human rights,” said Elly Katabira, MD, president-elect of IAS and professor of medicine at...
Patron’s Council

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* ASF Board Member ** ASF Advisory Committee Member
Indicates renewal of Patron’s Council Membership since last printing (November 2009).

HIV in the News, continued

Makerere University in Uganda, who also will serve as the international chair of the conference.

More than 25,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, advocates and policymakers from nearly 200 countries are expected to attend the conference.

Mortality Rates Slowing

Report finds that PEPFAR is making an impact

According to a report by amFAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, and the Center for Global Health Policy the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and other global AIDS initiatives have contributed to significant declines in AIDS-related mortality.

The report also shows that these efforts have strengthened primary care in countries most affected by HIV/AIDS and have enhanced the treatment and prevention of other diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis.

The report urges U.S. policymakers and President Obama administration officials to increase HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, which can help build broader and more sustainable health care in developing countries.

“PEPFAR and other global AIDS programs have given more than 4 million people in resource-poor countries a second chance,” said Christine Lubinski, director of the Center for Global Health Policy. “Going forward, PEPFAR can serve as a backbone for the revitalization of primary care in Africa.”
Imagine being a caretaker for someone you love who has HIV/AIDS. Now imagine what that responsibility must feel like to a child. ASF’s Kids Club participants don’t have to imagine. For most it is their daily reality. Thanks to the Wilbur May Foundation and the quiet and extraordinary generosity of Anita May Rosenstein, for one afternoon a week since the early 1990s ASF has provided kids welcome respite from helping care for a parent or sibling with HIV/AIDS.

According to Laurie Barber, ASF’s Family Program coordinator, the program allows kids to be themselves in a non-judgmental environment. The three-hour program includes an educational or emotional health session, tutoring, free time, and dinner.

“Every one of our kids is struggling with a unique situation and yet all have very similar needs. The Club offers a safe place where kids can share their feelings. We create a sense of family where kids can forget for a few hours all the challenges and emotions of worrying about a sick parent or brother or sister,” says Barber.

**Kids Club** is designed for children ages 6-15 years old. Weekly participation is consistently high with an average of 12-14 kids attending each Thursday session.

**Kids Club** is just one aspect of ASF’s **Family and Children’s Program**. In addition to the Club, funding from the Wilbur May Foundation and Rosenstein also underwrites critical services such as counseling for about 125 families each year. And it was solely through Rosenstein’s commitment that ASF was able to launch **Family Camp** which has served hundreds of families since it started in 1994.

Eagerly awaited by scores of parents and kids alike every year, **Family Camp** takes place the last weekend in August. The event is held at Camp Scherman, an Orange County Girl Scouts’ facility in the San Jacinto mountains.

Each year about 70 kids and 50 parents come to **Family Camp**.

“Most of our attendees have never had a traditional camp experience,” says Barber. “Our goal is fun and HIV is never discussed.”

Upon arrival parents and toddlers are taken to one portion of the sprawling 700 acre campground for crafts and other activities. The older kids go with counselors to separate cabins and are treated to archery, canoeing and games. On Saturday night parents and kids come together for a campfire and songs. On Sunday, the groups meet up again for lunch before returning home.

“It takes between 30 and 40 volunteers to put on our **Family Camp** each year,” said Barber. “We also have seven volunteers helping with **Kids Club**.”

Many of the children served through ASF’s **Kids Club**, **Family Camp** and family counseling services come from very modest means. Their parents are usually not able to provide Christmas presents. Barber was able to secure holiday gifts in 2009 through the **Secret Angels** program for about 200 children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

Donors have also found other creative ways to support **Kids**
Club. For example, Ken Jillson and ASF’s founding President Al Roberts asked guests attending their recent holiday party to bring presents to be given to children. It’s this type of thoughtfulness says Barber that is reassuring and also gives a sense of normalcy for children whose lives have been turned upside down.

The Wilbur May Foundation and Anita May Rosenstein have donated $1,589,500 to grow and expand various aspects of ASF’s Family and Children’s Program.

“The Family and Children’s Program would not exist were it not for Anita May Rosenstein and the Wilbur May Foundation. Hundreds of lives have been touched through the years because of her and the kindnesses shown by many others to help kids and parents affected by HIV/AIDS,” said Philip Yaeger, ASF executive director.

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Grants

PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION

ASF recently received notice of two grants from the Pacific Life Foundation.

A $10,000 grant was made to the agency’s SOMOS Program. SOMOS, ASF’s Latino HIV Education and Outreach Program was developed with and for young monolingual Spanish-speaking men ages 18-25, and is designed to reverse the escalating trend of HIV infection in Orange County. SOMOS (a Spanish word meaning “We Are”) will:
1) mobilize these young men to shape a healthy community for themselves and others;
2) build positive social connections; and
3) support safer sex among Latinos in Orange County.

In addition, Pacific Life Foundation awarded a $75,000 Economic Impact Grant to ASF to offset significant funding cuts as a result of the State’s elimination of more than $80 million in general funds for HIV Prevention and Care Services. ASF lost $110,000 in funding for its prevention programs. As a result, ASF was forced to cut an HIV Testing Coordinator position and an HIV Prevention Specialist. The HIV Testing Coordinator position was eliminated in October 2008 and resulted in the reduction of the number of hours HIV testing was available from 21 to 12 hours each week. The HIV Prevention Specialist position was eliminated in October 2009 which resulted in closing down the VOICES HIV Prevention Program which targeted high-risk Latino women primarily in Santa Ana. Thanks to Pacific Life’s grant, ASF will be able to hire two part-time staff members; restoring HIV testing back to October 2008 service levels; and reinstating the VOICES HIV Prevention Program.

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Holiday fundraising events cap-off the year for ASF

Two holiday parties raised much needed funds and helped close out the year on a positive note for ASF. On December 2, the agency held its second annual “Bells, Bows & Balls” event at The Shark Club in Costa Mesa. Just over 200 persons attended with more than $20,000 in proceeds going to ASF’s client services.

Several local restaurants participated, giving the festive evening a Taste of Costa Mesa theme. Among the food purveyors were Harry & David’s, Memphis, Plum’s Café and Catering, Taco Mesa and Taco Rosa. Music was provided by local favorites The Tijuana Dogs. Because of their popularity last year, ASF’s Kids Club crafted hand-made holiday ornaments which attendees purchased, boosting the amount of dollars raised. Event underwriters included C J Segerstrom & Sons, The Hershey Company and Time Warner Cable.

“We’re delighted so many people supported our “Bells, Bows & Balls” fundraiser again this year,” said Frank Bianchini, event chairman. “It was a fun and meaningful way to kickoff the holiday season.”

A few weeks later, “Dance 4 the Cure”, an annual New Year’s Eve bash to support ASF was held in Anaheim at the White House Restaurant. Started in 2008 by Dr. David Petreccia and his family, “Dance 4 the Cure” was created to raise money for ASF and as a way of expressing appreciation for all that ASF does to support patients and patient families.

The evening featured food, music, drinks and of course dancing. One unique aspect of the party was the opportunity for attendees to participate in ballroom dancing with professional instructors. Over 75 party-goers toasted in the New Year and generated more than $10,000 for ASF.

“This was a terrific way to end 2009,” said Phil Yaeger, ASF’s executive director. “‘Dance 4 the Cure’ was another example of how people pulled together to help ASF continue assisting clients even in tough economic times.”

Event recognizes and thanks donors to leading HIV/AIDS service organizations

AIDS Project LA (APLA) and AIDS Services Foundation (ASF) donors were cordially welcomed January 28 to the Irvine home of Damon Chen and Howard Gleicher to be thanked for their generosity to both organizations. The joint donor recognition idea was proposed by Chen and Gleicher who support both agencies and wanted to acknowledge and thank donors to both groups. The cocktail reception attracted more than 70 people.

“This was a unique way of saying ‘thank you’ to donors that have generously supported our two agencies,” said Phil Yaeger, ASF’s executive director. “APLA and ASF have so much in common starting with terrific supporters.”

Craig E. Thompson, APLA executive director was also on hand to thank donors.

APLA was launched by Max Drew, Nancy Cole Sawaya, Matt Redman and Erv Munro. In December 1982, they held the first fundraiser generating over $7,000. Since then, APLA has raised millions of dollars for people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS, through the generosity of corporations, foundations, and individuals.

ASF was similarly launched through the very first Big Splash in 1985, a backyard pool party at the home of Ken Jillson and founding president Al Roberts together with several of their friends. That first event raised about $33,000.
In Memory of Michael Cole

A beloved and long time supporter of ASF. His sense of humor was contagious and he will be deeply missed.

Ken Jillson & Al Roberts

Memorials & Tributes

TRIBUTES

IN HONOR OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE ALONE
Sean M. Seeley

IN HONOR OF BARBARA VENEZIA
Mr. & Mrs. David Gullen

IN HONOR OF GERRY GIANNINI AND SKIP WILSON
Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Torrini

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF NOEL LAFLIN
Andrea T. Duncan

IN HONOR OF JEFF BENEDICK
Roy Khoury

IN HONOR OF KEN AND AL
Anita May Rosenstein

IN HONOR OF DAVID & STEPHANIE SIMPSON
Jean M. Thompson

IN HONOR OF JEFF STUCKHARDT
Gonzalo A. del Rosario

IN HONOR OF KAITLIN MCCAHAN
Susan Sondgroth

IN HONOR OF DR. DAVID PETRECCIA
To a great ID doctor
Dr. Harry Peled

David, who you are for me is an amazing leader causing great things in the world
Simon Walker

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL COLE
Mr. Gordon Cowan & Mr. Dwight Spiers

IN MEMORY OF JAMES K. DANG
Jerry Dang

IN MEMORY OF DINO GOMEZ
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Gomez

IN MEMORY OF JERRY HOPPIES
Allen L. Shaw

IN MEMORY OF JAMES R. LEWIS
Alfred W. Moore

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD MAZUREK, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O’Keefe

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL T. NUSSKERN
Herbert A. Nusskern

IN MEMORY OF STEVEN PICKENS
Rest in Peace
Victor Hsu

IN MEMORY OF JAMES SALMON
Darrell E. Spaulding

IN MEMORY OF MARC SCHRUM
Gregorita Martinez

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL LEWIS
John F. Ganahl

IN MEMORY OF MR. HUGH CRAWFORD
Mr. Gordon Cowan & Mr. Dwight Spiers
WEINGART FOUNDATION

The Weingart Foundation has given ASF a $150,000 grant for core operating support. The Foundation has made core support grants available for organizations that have been directly impacted by the financial crisis and economic downturn. Core support grants are not restricted and can be used to provide organizations with the resources they require to carry out their missions.

The grant is especially important to ASF because of recent state budget cuts and additional cuts that may be on the horizon. Including cuts to its prevention program, ASF has seen a decline of approximately $500,000 in state funds primarily though the loss of service contracts provided through the County of Orange. The grant will be used to shore up some of the essential services ASF has had to reduce.

OTHER GRANTS

Chapman & Associates
A $2,500 grant supporting the Positively Speaking Program.

Employees Community Fund of Boeing
A $5,000 grant supporting ASF’s Food Pantry.