

# The Red Ribbon News



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## New Year, New Goals

Happy New Year! I hope your year is filled with happiness, accomplishment, and joy. Speaking of accomplishments, what better way to start the new year than by getting involved in your local community planning group!

Consortium 9B meets on a monthly basis and we are always looking for new members. We

are anticipating a busy quarter filled with planning an outreach dinner in Marion, a HIV Awareness Conference, and many other events that you can help decide! Not interested in meetings? Try your hand at writing an article for our newsletter, submitting a recipe, or simply sharing a photo.

If you would like more

information about the group or would like to see something published, please don't hesitate to contact me at (800) 226-5554 or [dambrosio@ohioaidscoalition.org](mailto:dambrosio@ohioaidscoalition.org)

-Cory D'Ambrosio  
Client Outreach Coordinator  
Ohio AIDS Coalition

Just a Reminder: The views expressed in opinion articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of OAC, ARC Ohio, or Consortium 9B.

## ARC Announces New Location for Client Updates

AIDS Resource Center Ohio Mansfield announces the opening of a new space in **Marion**. Beginning Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> we will have office hours in Marion at the Marion Area Health Center (next to the Frederick C Smith Clinic). The address is 1040 Delaware Avenue.

The first and third Friday of each month from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm anyone who wishes to schedule an appointment for an update or intake should phone ARC Ohio at 419-525-2437 (ask for Pat or Vicki).

Home and other visits are still an option for clients as well. We will also continue to see clients at our office in Mansfield (35 North Park Street, Suite 247).

-Lori Robinson, ARC Ohio



Supporters of ARC Ohio and NCOAF at their annual picnic

## Support Group Meeting Dates

**Mansfield**– January 26<sup>th</sup> and Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7:30pm at the ARC office  
**Sandusky**– Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Call ARC or email [savearc@ohioaidscoalition.org](mailto:savearc@ohioaidscoalition.org) for details  
Food will be served.

**Marion**– Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Marion Area Health Center. Call ARC for more details



# Memories by Gerald Pugh

*“..and the memories are a part of my being and not stored away to be lost forever.”*

While putting together my page for the World AIDS Day memorial scrapbook for ARC Ohio and NCOAF, I soon realized that there was a corner of my mind filled with names and memories. I decided to empty this corner because, Heaven knows, I need every space these days.

Soon, I had 10 pages, 15 pages, eventually 20+ pages filled with names and memories of people with whom I had shared so much. As each name was printed on paper, and faces flashed in front of me; I cried. Then, I would smile as I remem-

holding back so many emotions. Anger. Sadness. Loss. Frustration. Loneliness. Emotions that filled that corner of my mind. I then realized that these same emotions kept me from moving on with my life. Putting these pages together was a kind of healing process for me.

These feelings I know, will always be a part of me. But now, I can remember and it will be good. I think it is good to remember; to keep the memories of such wonderful people with you. I thank those persons for allowing me the opportunity to have been a part of their lives.

Now, that corner of my mind is much needed available space, and the memories are a part of my being and not stored away to be lost forever



*“OAC began the Leadership Summit for HIV Positive Young Adults in an effort to train HIV positive young people from across the state in the life skills required for good health.”*

## Leadership Summit for HIV Positive Young Adults (Ages 18-25)

The 4th annual OAC Leadership Summit for Young Adults will be held March 12-14, 2010 at the Holiday Inn City Center in Columbus. OAC began the Leadership Summit for HIV Positive Young Adults in an effort to train HIV positive young people from across the state in the life skills required for good health. The work-

shops run the gamut of social and medical issues, and have included in the past: positive sexual health; disclosure issues; storytelling and advocacy; creative arts; medical care and treatment; nutrition and exercise, and body image. All workshops are taught by professionals in their respective fields. There is no cost to

participate in this program and all lodging (based on double occupancy) and all meals are included. Transportation assistance may also be available. Applications can be found at the OAC website [ohioaidscoalition.org](http://ohioaidscoalition.org). Deadline for applications is February 22, 2010. For more information, please call 1-800-226-5554.



# A Note From S.A.V.E. Support Group

I would like to thank Cory D'Ambrosio, (Ohio AIDS Coalition), and Lori Robinson, (AIDS Resource Center Ohio), in all their efforts and help in the organization of an educational event for World AIDS Day at B.G.S.U./Firelands college.

At the event condoms and literature were distributed and information and questions were answered for the students for a good part of the day. This year was only a beginning with B.G.S.U. for World AIDS Day that I would like to see grow into a larger scale event each year in the future. Possibly adding a film festival for the students, or inviting Dr. Atkin's from Lima and his STD prevention team to perform at the school, or have Julia Applegate from the Ohio Department of Health speak to the students.

The main focus is to educate the youth of rural communities in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STD's. The more education made available hopefully will indicate that prevention measures will be considered. This was the second event of this type sponsored by S.A.V.E. for AIDS Resource Ohio Support Group in Sandusky.

Earlier in 2009 we had a fundraiser and night of education at the Crowbar in Sandusky and this was another very successful night. If you are interested in volunteering for future events or would just like to join our support group, please feel free to do so.

Tom Blankenship Jr  
Volunteer Support Group Leader  
S.A.V.E. for ARC

## Project "Have a HAART" Seeking Participants

Are you an HIV-positive adult living in a rural area? Are you currently prescribed medications for HIV/AIDS? If so, you may be eligible for a new study offered through the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Study participants must be 18 years of age or older, live in a rural area, and currently be prescribed one or

more HIV medications. Participation would involve the completion of two brief surveys over 5 weeks and two medication diaries. One-half of study participants will take part in a one-on-one, 60-minute telephone conversation with a medication adherence specialist. If you participate fully in the study, you will earn \$80.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact our research office at the toll-free telephone number or e-mail address provided below.

1-888-262-0017  
[Proj.Haart@gmail.com](mailto:Proj.Haart@gmail.com)



## Participants Wanted for a HIV Research Project

Participants are needed for a study designed to help gay and bisexual men improve their HIV-disclosure skills and reduce their sexual risk behaviors. Dr. Julianne Serovich, Professor and Chair in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at The Ohio State University, developed the study in conjunction with other HIV researchers, prevention specialists, and HIV-positive men who

have sex with men (MSM), and is now recruiting research participants to test the program's effectiveness.

Dr. Serovich is interested in recruiting HIV-positive gay and bisexual men, who are 18 years old or older, currently sexually active, and are willing to participate in 5 project sessions and 2 additional assessment sessions over a one year-period. Each session is ex-

pected to last approximately 1 ½ hours, and participants could earn a total of \$235.

Participants are randomly assigned to one of two conditions: a disclosure program or a comparable risk reduction program.

Participation is voluntary and all information associated with this study will remain strictly confidential. If you have questions or would like to discuss

eligibility, **please contact the project office at (614) 688-4168.** Minorities are especially encouraged to participate.



# The World According to Me!

By Andy Anonymous

Good Morning and welcome to another episode of the Andy Anonymous Show! My goodness, I have enough information and misinformation bouncing around in my playground right now that I could write a book! I'd like to share a few statistics with you that were published by UNAIDS in November 2009 and refer to the end of 2008. More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981. Approximately 33.4 million people were living with HIV/AIDS in 2008. At the end of 2008, women accounted for 50% of all adults living with HIV worldwide. 2 million people died from AIDS in 2008. *And finally*, it is estimated that 440 men and 40,170 women will die from Breast Cancer in 2009. "What the heck Andy, Breast Cancer statistics?" Yes and here's why. About a week ago I received an email from a friend of mine that I used to sing with at one of our local area churches. I opened the email expecting to find the usual Biblical verses surrounded by angels but, to my delight, I found a silly cognitive game/test. I beamed with pride after completing 7 of the 20 tasks (having been told by the author that "the average person can only complete 4 out of 20 tasks"). Quite full of myself due to my new-found cognitive abilities, I continued to scroll down the page, *click, click, click...*, final destination; a caricature of two senior citizens riding a Harley. The caption read, "**Did you know that senior citizens have the highest incidence of AIDS in the United States?**" My blood pressure began to rise. It was 1985 all over again. "What do you call a gay guy on roller-skates? Roloids!" *Oh please God, not again.* I continued to scroll down the page where the second caption read, "**Now have a**

**sense of humor, this is great!**" With rising blood pressure and growing apprehension, my finger began to *click.... click.... click*, "**Role-AIDS, Walking AIDS, Hearing AIDS!!! HA HA HA!! Have a GREAT Day!**" OH NO YOU DI INT! Simultaneously, my jaw hit the keyboard and a rush of feelings moved into my playground without even paying a deposit. Anger, shock, and fear were the primary tenants and there was full occupancy. Now here's the kicker. Upon reviewing my thoughts and feelings prior to any retaliatory key strokes, I actually asked myself, "am I being overly sensitive?" (Holy Moses! This is what three years living in rural Ohio can do to someone! I've mistakenly bought a ticket on Bubba's Evolutionary Train and as all of you know, it travels backwards! "CONDUCTOR, I WANT TO CONTINUE WALKING VERTICALLY! STOP THE TRAIN!") Pissed-off and still somewhat delirious, I jumped off my swing and scooped-up a handful of sand and typed the following message to my friend, "Thanks for the email! I scored 7 out of 20! Oh, I loved the joke, but next time could you ask the author to use a joke that involves Breast Cancer instead of AIDS? I think that would be hilarious!!! Have a great day! I'll see you at church on Sunday. Andy". Disgusting and so unbelievably wrong! And to boot, I never heard back from my friend, but to this day, she continues to send me heartfelt, "inspirational" emails. In response to the final straw that *Broke my Back* (not to be confused with the movie); I sent the following email to all my friends and family, "Good Morning Family and Friends! Exciting and somewhat scary news is brewing in my little corner of the world! Here's the scoop: I

have found a less expensive way to deal with conservative, rural, closed minded, religious patriots. Rather than going to counseling again, I'm moving to Columbus. After extensive research, I have come to the conclusion that I might experience fewer instances of discrimination, ignorance and hatred. I know there is no such thing as utopia so far as "we" human beings are concerned, but words and behaviors such as, "I don't have anything against them so long as they don't try anything with me" (Oh dear Bubba, I have absolutely no interest hearing about your homo-erotic fantasies!), "It's not my place to condemn you to hell, but YOU ARE WRONG in God's eyes", "All Muslims are bad Muslims", "Barrack Obama is the anti-Christ and Sarah Palin is our hope for the future (along with our right to bear arms, of course)", and the forwarding of jokes using AIDS as the punch-line, might possibly be used less frequently within the educational, governmental, healthcare, recovery, and religious "circles" down in Columbus. Thanks for the opportunity to rant and rave! You just saved me \$60 on a counseling fee! Thanks Geiko! Peace, Love and Happy Holidays and may Brahman, Yahweh, and Allah keep you safe this Holiday Season! Love, Andy"

Well readers, that's all for today's show and a big YEE HAW to all of you! I won't be moving to Columbus until April or May so "here's hoping" that I'll have the opportunity to write a few more columns. For today, I'm gonna slip out of these camouflage stilettos, clean my shotgun, hurl some venison into a fry pan and have my "old lady" toss me a can of Dew! Yee haw! From my playground to yours, I hope you have a wonderful New Year and always remember that "everyone is entitled to their own opinion, even if it is wrong!" Buh

## Could You Use A FREE Cell Phone?

You are eligible for a free cell phone through SafeLink Wireless if you receive benefits from Section 8, Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI, General Assistance/Disability Assistance, Home Energy Assistance, Supplemental Security Disability Income, or TANF.

Qualified customers receive a free cell phone and 63 free

minutes a month with no commitments, contracts, or bills. If you need additional minutes, you can buy TracFone Airtime Cards at stores such as Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Family Dollar, etc. Any minutes you do not use will roll-over into the next month. Features like caller ID, call waiting, and voice mail are all included in your service.

Your SafeLink Wireless service only expires when you are no longer eligible for benefits and you voluntarily cancel service from the program as required by the FCC. To fill out an application visit [safelinkwireless.com](http://safelinkwireless.com)

If you have any questions, contact the SafeLink Wireless Hotline at 1-800-977-3768.

