

# AIDS CARE SERVICE

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Summer 2006

[www.aidscareservice.org](http://www.aidscareservice.org)

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(336)777-0116

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## MEETING THE NEED

### ACS IDENTIFIES GAP IN SERVICES AND CREATES NEW PROGRAM

After a very long birthing process, ACS is pleased to introduce our latest program, HIV Case Management. ACS' quest for case management began when we started to get many requests from clients to provide HIV case management services after HOPE closed its doors. At the time, other excellent case management service providers answered the call, allowing ACS to focus on other unmet needs in the community.

One of the needs identified by ACS and other service providers was for culturally appropriate services for our Latino brothers and sisters living with HIV and thus the Latino Client Health Education Program (LCHEP) was created. The LCHEP Coordinator, Martha Chica, has worked very closely with these clients providing HIV information, HIV medication education, prevention education for positives, community referrals and translation services for other case management organizations.

Our Latino clients, many of whom are ineligible for Medicaid funded healthcare services, require "out of the box" solutions

to their problems. Martha's program has been extremely successful for many reasons but primarily because of the trust that she has built up with her clients, speaking to them in their native language and providing flexible hours for service. With the knowledge of how effective providing services in Spanish to our Latino clients has been, the board and staff of ACS felt that the creation of a culturally competent HIV case management program would provide the best care possible for these clients.

After months of research and training, as well as consultation with the Northwest Care Consortium and the N.C. AIDS Care Unit, ACS started the application process in March and received

certification in June. ACS is now certificated to perform Ryan White/Medicaid HIV+ Case Management services in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Davidson and Davie counties. More great fortune struck ACS when we hired Alexis Onasis for the position of HIV Case Manager. Alexis has more than five years experience as a case manager with CenterPoint Human Services. Previous positions in Florida also involved counseling, teaching and advocacy in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. Originally from Puerto Rico, Alexis combines her love for her people with her passion for professionalism. Her son is a manager and head coach of an arena football team in North Dakota. John Haworth, MSW with the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center Infectious Disease clinic, will be providing supervision for the case management program.

Some of Alexis' main responsibilities as HIV Case Manager will be to:

- Perform client needs' assessments and create care plans;
- Assist clients in negotiating social services and other systems, provide information and referral, arrange necessary services, and provide follow-up and monitoring support on a monthly basis; and
- Evaluate the client eligibility for medical care access programs (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, insurance, state medications programs, etc.).

As mentioned previously, ACS HIV Case Management services are Latino focused but will be available for all individuals living with HIV who seek our services. If you are interested in learning more about the ACS HIV Case Management Program, please contact Katherine Foster, Associate Director of Programs at (336) 722-6909 or [acsassocdir@bellsouth.net](mailto:acsassocdir@bellsouth.net).



*Alexis Onasis, HIV Case Manager*

***Holly Haven Family Care Home will admit 100th resident in July.  
Many thanks to all who have been a part of making it happen.***

*The mission of AIDS Care Service is to empower and serve our brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS and to educate our community in the struggle against the disease.*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT, DAVID PINER



As children of privilege, most of us grow up with the music of childhood in our heads. I was young in the era of *How Much is that Doggie in the Window?* "The one with the waggly tail," of course. Then came my favorite song, one about a little red caboose that chug, chug, chugged

behind the train "smoke stack on its back, back, back, goin' down the track, track, track, track." These songs evoke in me feelings of safety, innocence and happiness, feelings that are a gift when life is simple and filled with promise.

To have known these feelings even once in a lifetime is privilege indeed. Sadly, there are those who hear no such echoes, whose lives from birth were hard-edged and scary. Then there are those whose childhoods disappear behind impermeable eclipses of sadness, poverty, failure, fear, and disappointment. Few escape such life experiences. Some are shattered by them in ways that silence all music and destroy all hope.

I share this reflection as the in-coming President of the Board of AIDS Care Service to remind myself of yet another privilege in my life. I am privileged to serve, and why? Because my life has allowed me this privilege while denying it to noble others. The clients of ACS are such people, people with dreams, and a desire to live with security that we take for granted. Those of us

privileged to stand on the light side of the eclipse MUST make it our business to extend hope to our brothers and sisters who are denied all light.

AIDS is an impermeable object eclipsing the light of life for MILLIONS of our brothers and sisters. Africa is dying in the darkness of this eclipse. People in our community are struggling to live with dignity, tapping in the darkness in search of resources such as food, housing, medical care; the simple resources of life that most of us assume as our entitlement. I am proud to have the opportunity to serve ACS and to do what I am able to do in this community to help our brothers and sisters living with HIV improve their quality of life. Vernon Gaines, Kimberly Parson-Daly, Rafael Perez, and Sylvia Zapata, new members of the Board, have committed themselves to this cause. Join us by supporting ACS as a volunteer, as a benefactor, and as a partner in prayer for those whom we are called to serve.

"The doggie in the window" reminds me that we, all of us, are looking for a home, and in need of friendship. This is the common ground of humanity that embraces both those who serve, and those who are served, human beings separated by imaginary lines drawn by circumstance and reinforced by privilege. ACS, on the other hand, is like the red caboose, rolling down the track offering home and friendship to people living with HIV and AIDS. The red caboose rolls along, however, only because of the strong engine that pulls it. We, those of us who are concerned about the tragedy of AIDS, WE are the engine of ACS. WE have work to do this year.

## WISH LIST

### Household Items

Gently used living room furniture, bedroom suites, kitchen table/chairs. Please call Katherine Foster at (336)722-6909 to discuss your furniture donation. We are only able to accept furniture that can be delivered to one of our locations.

### Food Drives

Schools, youth groups, and civic organizations can collect boxes of macaroni and cheese or peanut butter and other canned goods for the Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry also uses recycled paper grocery bags with handles.

### Lowe's Greenpoints

ACS is able to stretch food dollars by redeeming Greenpoints for milk, eggs and other staples. To donate your Greenpoints, call Lowe's Foods at (336)659-0180. You will need your Lowe's rewards card number and the ACS card number: 420 21449 2734.

## SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

**ACS Trustees** who have served on the board and rotated off:

Butter Birkas  
Nita Fowler  
Denise Hodge  
Paul Sinal  
Dan Wilkers  
Rodney Windsor

**Wanda Starke of WXII**, for appearing on the 2006 cover of "I Said RED!" invitation.

**All of our "I Said RED!" hosts.** More than \$25,000 was raised.

**Richard Boyd**, for designing our 2004-05 Annual Report

### The Adam Foundation



generously supports AIDS Care Service with grants for the Food Pantry and the Positive Action Club. The Adam Festival is October 21, 2006. Check out their website at [www.adamfoundation.org](http://www.adamfoundation.org) for

information about The Adam Festival and the many other events they sponsor to raise funds for our community.

**Wake Forest University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program** opened its doors

for the ACS Annual Meeting. NoteWorthy, the Triad Pride Men's Chorus Ensemble, made beautiful music and Frank Beadle de Palomo, Senior Vice President and Director, AED Center on AIDS and Community Health inspired everyone in attendance to take action against AIDS.

**Lowe's Foods and Harris Teeter** stores regularly donate paper bags with handles to the ACS Food Pantry. The bags made the 99,922 pounds of free groceries that were distributed in the past year much easier for our clients to carry!

**Interns**, our very special volunteers. Each year, they help with projects for Holly Haven, Food Pantry, fundraising or other areas of ACS. Our interns in 2005-2006:

Salem College:  
Lorien Gilbert  
Nadja Mummyery  
Wake Forest University:  
Kelly McManus  
Christine Moxley  
Winston-Salem State University:  
Shema Carter-Taylor

### Special fundraisers:

**Wake Forest Running Club** sponsored Spring Ahead 5K.

**A Great Escape**, family oriented fun with miniature golf course, go-carts, and arcade games.

## FROM THE

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR,  
CHRISTINE  
JOLLY



**D**ear Friends of ACS,  
How time flies! It just seems like yesterday that we were wishing farewell to several of the staff that helped build ACS to the organization it has become today. During the past year, the ACS team has experienced many transitions and transformations. We have laughed and cried, but mostly, we have learned. We have learned different approaches in helping people living with HIV disease with the same compassion and care. We are excited to experience yet another fiscal year with the same enthusiasm and passion.

We are governed by our tireless Board of Trustees. In April, the Trustees convened to formally begin our strategic planning process. The Trustees intend that the process will wrap up in November and provide a template for our programmatic direction for the next three years. Hard questions asked by innovative minds are the norm at these retreats. We look forward to sharing the results of their hard work and leadership.

Regardless of any new direction we may take, we know that we will need your help. No gift of time or support is too small. AIDS is not just in Africa, it is here in North Carolina and more particularly in Forsyth County. Let's start by helping our neighbors close to home.

With deep gratitude,

*Christine*

## LIKE MARIAH

**M**ariah Dease has been here almost every day since Christmas. Some days she gets lunch onto the table or packs the cooler for a picnic. Other days she goes bowling or to the Y. She might play miniature golf or make the popcorn for a video. Mariah is one of the many ACS volunteers who make a difference in our community. Like Mariah, our volunteers do all kinds of interesting things with us, such as fishing at Salem Lake. Like Mariah, our volunteers make amazing things happen, such as learning some Spanish while helping a client learn English. Not all of our volunteers are able to help out as often as Mariah, but every time a volunteer brings a meal, sweeps the porch or plays a game, it reminds our brothers and sisters living with HIV that they are important to someone special in our community . . . like Mariah.

CULTIVATING FLOWERS, CREATING ARTWORK,  
COOKING OUT - IT'S COOL TO VOLUNTEER



To volunteer, go to [www.aidscareservice.org](http://www.aidscareservice.org) or call (336)777-0116. En español, (336)725-8682.



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**Late breaking news. . .**

*The mission of AIDS Care Service is to empower and serve our brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS and to educate our community in the struggle against the disease.*

The Board of Trustees of AIDS Care Service unanimously approved this transformation in our mission statement in order to reflect the direction of our strategic planning and better address the needs of our community. Watch for updates on the website and in newsletters about how our new mission will be implemented through ongoing ACS services.

**AIDS Care Service Sponsors  
*Women Like You!***

**A Discussion About HIV/AIDS in the African American Community**

**When:** Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 6:00 PM

**Where:** Forsyth County Public Library, Central Branch Auditorium

*Women Like You!* is a 20-minute documentary about HIV/AIDS in the African American community. It features African American women and men talking about HIV/AIDS. AIDS Care Service invites our community to this presentation that employs a "straight talk" approach to speak frankly about HIV/AIDS-related issues facing African American women. The documentary uses music and humor to engage the audience.

Tamara L. Alexander, Winston-Salem State University Registered Nurse/HIV Educator, will lead the discussion Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 6:00 PM in the Forsyth County Public Library, Central Branch Auditorium.

HIV infections continue to rise in all demographics, however, according to the North Carolina HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, 74 percent of women infected in 2005 were African American. For the

first quarter of 2006, the rate rises to 80 per cent. Serious discussion about this epidemic is critical to protecting the women we know.

*Women Like You!* is open to the community. ACS invites representatives from faith communities, schools, or civic groups, to participate. *Women Like You!* is a tool that is available to share with any group that is ready to be a part of HIV prevention discussions.

Pfizer, Inc., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Institutes of Health partnered to launch *Women Like You!*, an HIV/AIDS awareness and education campaign targeting African American women.

For more information on bringing *Women Like You!* to your church, school or other group, please call Cindy Stubblefield, Community Relations Director at (336) 777-0116.

