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Toronto People With AIDS Foundation



E-news

March 2010

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Welcome Natasha

PWA welcomes Natasha

Out like a lion.

Hello friends,

There's always something positive about this time of year, isn't there? The air seems warmer, sweeter, and more pleasant. People are coming out of hibernation and are ready to embrace springtime.

At PWA we hope that people will also embrace the ideals behind PWA's programs and services by making a generous donation and/or by volunteering with our programs.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please contact us at info@pwatoronto.org or at 416-506-1400 ext. 239.

CLIMAX

103.9 PROUD FM is excited to present CLIMAX (Canadian Live Intimate Music and Art Experience) at Royal Theatre on 608 College Street, Toronto on Thursday May 27, 2010, an event supporting the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation. It will be an evening of live entertainment with the remarkable Molly Johnson and talented Tracy Gallant.

The evening includes a VIP Cocktail reception, curated silent auction with established and emerging Canadian artists, live performances as well as an on-site after party. This intimate and exclusive event can only accommodate 400 honoured guests.

Tickets will be available for sale March 22nd on our website at www.pwatoronto.org on a two tier system with General Admission tickets at \$50 and VIP tickets at \$100. Donated Art will be available for online viewing before the show! Any questions, please call 416-506-1400 ext. 239.

SEE YOU THERE!

Artists include: Kent Monkman, Andrew Morrow and Robyn Cumming

VOLUNTEER CORE SKILLS TRAINING

The AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) and the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA) are teaming up to offer a series of workshops called Volunteer Core Skills Training. The program will run on Thursdays and Saturdays beginning on Thursday,

Ward as our new Special Events Coordinator. She will be leading the annual Friends For Life Bike Rally as well as all PWA events.

Natasha comes to us with a certificate in events management and extensive experience in the execution of special events. Please join us in welcoming her.

bikerally@pwatoronto.org

March 18th and concluding with the fifth and final session on Thursday, April 1st.

Topics include: Introduction to volunteering; HIV/AIDS 101; psycho-social issues; concepts in communication; assessment and referral; anti-oppression and cultural competence; volunteer opportunities/closure and graduation.

The five workshops will take place at 200 Gerrard Street East, on the 2nd Floor. A light supper and snacks will be provided for the evening sessions and a light lunch and snacks will be provided for the afternoon sessions.

Prospective volunteers are required to attend all five sessions. All you need to bring is enthusiasm and energy! Please contact one of the volunteer coordinators below to make arrangements to participate in the Volunteer Core Skills Training. We look forward to seeing you!

Sergio Martinez, Program Volunteer Resources Manager,
ACT: (416) 340-8484 Ext. 224

Darryl Ramsey, PWA Volunteer Coordinator: (416)
506-1400 Ext. 205

HASSLE FREE CLINIC

Hassle Free Clinic is a health clinic that provides a safe atmosphere in providing much needed services to those seeking to gain knowledge and achieve wellness in the area of sexual health. These services are confidential and include anonymous and rapid HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, support services, health education, needle exchange, and testing/treatment/follow-up for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

There are two clinics that operate at different times of the day: one for men/trans-identified, one for women/trans-identified. Hassle Free offers information guides on STIs, information and tips on safe sex, and information on issues people may face if they are HIV positive. The women's clinic also provides information and methods for birth control, as well as a wealth of services for women's sexual health and general well being.

All services regarding STI testing, treatment, and follow-up do not require an appointment and are on a first-come, first-served basis. At this time, HIV testing does require an appointment.

Hassle Free is located at 66 Gerrard Street East, 2nd Floor. They can be reached by telephone at (416) 922-0566. You may also consult the Hassle Free website for more information, including the schedule for hours of operation: www.hasslefreeclinic.org

TORONTO HEALTH BUS

The Toronto Health Bus is parked outside the offices of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA) every Thursday afternoon from 12:00pm-2:00pm. PWA can be found at 200 Gerrard Street East at Sherbourne Street.

The Toronto Health Bus provides free medical care to communities of focus in Southeast Toronto. It is operated by the Sherbourne Health Centre and runs through many different neighbourhoods in the city to expand health care services to those who cannot access it. The bus makes stops at various shelters, drop-in centres, and community centres.

Volunteer registered nurses are the backbone of the program. They provide on the spot medical care including basic wound care, health education and promotion, providing supplies, and referring people to health centres for any further treatment. They personally deal with people who access this service on the front line. Along with the technical aspect of being a nurse, they also provide emotional support and listen to people's stories. The Health Bus would not be able function without these dedicated professionals.

Clients of the Health Bus may include people who are homeless, those who live in poverty, those who do not have an Ontario Health Insurance Card, or those who may have had negative experiences with the health system in the past. The Health Bus provides a barrier-free service to reach as many people as possible. No appointments are necessary, as the service is brought directly to the people who may need it the most.

To volunteer as a nurse on the Toronto Health Bus, please contact the Sherbourne Health Centre at (416) 324-4170. Volunteer applications and other information such as the bus schedule may also be found at <http://www.sherbourne.on.ca/programs/healthbus.html>. Please complete the application and send it to the email address on the page.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (At the 519 Community Centre)

Springtime is near, which means tax season is even closer. As part of the Canada Revenue Agency's Income Tax Plan, the 519 Church Street Community Centre will provide a venue for those needing help to file their taxes this year. Volunteer accountants will dispense advice and technical assistance at the 519 during the months of March and April to help people prepare for the call from the taxman.

In order to qualify for this program, individuals must make less than \$20,000 per year, while couples must make less than \$30,000 per year.

Twenty volunteer accountants will be ready to work every Tuesday from 6pm-10pm and every Saturday from 12pm-4pm during March and April. Please contact the front desk at the 519 Church Street Community Centre to make an appointment: (416) 392-6874.

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