



The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

E-blast

May 2009

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Hello,

I hope you enjoyed our last April E-blast in this new format! It's May 15th already, so it's time to fill you in on what's been going on over the past couple weeks and what is coming up.

Highlights include **PWA's Community Open House**, a **VIVA Las Vegas TICOT event at George's Play** and a film at the **Inside Out Film Festival on the Friends For Life Bike Rally**.

A quote I thought I would include was sent to me by PWA's Executive Director, Murray Jose.

'When Margaret Heckler, then secretary-general of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, announced at a Washington news conference on April 23, 1984, that the "probable cause" of AIDS had been found, she boldly predicted a vaccine within two years and eradication of the disease by 1990.

This quote from a recent newspaper article is somehow humbling, sad and yet awe inspiring to think of the work and dedication that has gone on for over 25 years responding to HIV/AIDS.'

Thank you for your ongoing support. Read on and let me know if you have any feedback, Kristen at klawrie@pwatoronto.org or 416-506-8606 ext. 239. Thank you!

Community Open House - May 26th 4-7pm

PWA is excited to show off our new home! The Community Open House is taking place Tuesday May 26th from 4pm to 7pm. Board Members, Staff and Volunteers will be on hand to take you on a personal tour of the new facility.

Refreshments will be served!

We hope to see you all there! If you have any questions please call 416-506-1400.

We Need You!

To date, 50% of our financial assistance budget has been accessed by clients who are finding the times very difficult.

We need your support more than ever in order to continue offering this vital service to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Have you signed up yet?

Friends For Life Bike Rally

PWA's annual bike rally is fast approaching. **From July 26th to the 31st, you have the chance to be a rider, or a volunteer.** By biking from Toronto to Montreal, participants raise critical funds for people living with HIV/AIDS. This Bike Rally would not be possible without its generous sponsors and proceeds go towards PWA's programs and services.

Riders are required to raise \$2200 by June 30th and donations from the community will help to reach and exceed this goal!

Sign Up Today! Call 416-506-1400 ext. 238, or visit the Friends For Life Bike Rally Website to learn more . [Bike Rally Website](#)



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Inside Out Film Festival

The Inside Out Film Festival consists of screenings of films created and featuring the LGBT community. This film festival also includes artist talks, panel discussions, and amazing parties! A film featured in this festival, A Reason to Ride, is based upon PWA's Friends For Life Bike Rally; and is showing on May 22nd at 5pm at the ROM and allows viewers to see the emotional, mental, physical, and inspirational sides of the Bike Rally.

There are numerous other films being screened that will appeal to everyone, but be sure to buy tickets soon since this festival is only running from May 14th to the 24th. [Buy Tickets Now](#)

Pride Parade



The Annual Toronto Pride Parade is happening June 28th at 2pm!

This will be Toronto's time to support the LGBT community. The Toronto People With AIDS

Foundation has an amazing float, and we also have a booth in the community fair. We look forward to seeing you all there!

This is the first time that the Pride Parade will be broadcasted live on CP24, so if you can't make it, be sure to check it out!

WANTED: Positive Speakers

PWA has a unique speakers bureau that offers the free service of a volunteer who speaks from their own experience living with HIV/AIDS. This service is available to everyone.

HIV/AIDS prevention is taught in schools, but first hand inspirational stories and in-depth knowledge concerning HIV/AIDS helps to erase stigma and myths as well as reducing discrimination. In 2006-2007 the highest increases of HIV infection was found in heterosexual women aged 15-29, this statistic confirms the fact that students need to have further understanding of HIV/AIDS.

PWA is currently seeking HIV positive people who wish to reduce stigma and discrimination by speaking about their experience. If you are interested please email speakers@pwatoronto.org or call 416-506-8606 ext. 207.

VIVA Las Vegas

The Imperial Court of Toronto presents VIVA Las Vegas at George's Play, 504 Church Street on Thursday May 21st at 9pm.

An Elvis Impersonation Contest will grant the winner \$200 Cash!!!

Empress II Veronica Blake will be hosting the event. Keep your eyes open for PWA's own Director of Finance Richard who will be among the judges for the evening.

In Closing...

Thank you for your support! Your next e-blast will arrive Monday June 15th. Your continued support makes a positive difference! **We hope to see you at our Community Open House on Tuesday May 26th from 4-7pm** at our office (200 Gerrard St. East at Sherbourne, 2nd Floor) and at the Pride Parade!

To learn more about what we do check out our website, www.pwatoronto.org, and also check out our hot topics! If you wish to make a donation to PWA and support people living with HIV/AIDS, you can make a secure online donation, simply click on the donation link featured on our homepage.

Look forward to our next edition with information about the STARS of the Bike Rally, the **do not miss upcoming event featuring the scantily clad daredevils of the Tightey Whitey Car Wash**. Take Care!

Sincerely,

Kristen Lawrie
Development Coordinator

and

Christine Rousseau
Co-op Student



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