



Our Mission: To provide compassionate community based education and services that empower people of all ages to live courageously with HIV/AIDS.

January 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lee's Art Lesson this month will be on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. We will be making Mardi Gras cola koozies. So come join the fun.
- "Dinner & Bingo" night is Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Jennie & Anna head up the evening with lively bingo, good prizes & great food. Mark your calendars for the upcoming "Dinner & Bingo". They will be on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> & March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Call Darron for transportation.

## ATTENTION CLIENTS

ACCT will be closed on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Happy New Year!

## CHAIR RAISING EVENT

We reached our goal of 100 chairs! Thanks to all who donated. For those who donated "In Honor or In Memory" of, we are in the process of having recognitions printed to be affixed to the chairs.

## KROGER SUPPORTS ACCT

For those of you, who shop at Kroger or the Kroger Family of Stores, please consider linking your Kroger Community Rewards Card to ACCT. These donations add up quickly, and greatly assist our organization with our day-to-day operations, pantry supplies and our Friends

Feeding Friends project. If you haven't already linked your Kroger Rewards account to ACCT, please do so today. Access your account by going to Kroger.com and linking to ACCT.

## "FRIENDS FEEDING FRIENDS"

U.T.M.B.'s Cheryl and Kelly Haas have generously donated a lunch for January. We serve lunch every Thursday at noon. If you would like to donate a lunch, cook or help out, please call ACCT at 400-763-2437 to volunteer. In January, we have the 29<sup>th</sup> open.

## WORLD AIDS DAY

World AIDS Day is always on December 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's memorial was, "Galveston Remembers" and was to those courageous friends and love ones that have ended their fight with HIV/AIDS.

H.O.P.W.A Coordinator, Joe Rios was the Chairman with lots of help from committee members Jennie Meyer, Anna Latham, James Myers-Smith, Alice Watford & Matt Hannon.

There was an open house during the day with artists & friends: Margaret Canavan, Jim Nonus, Ryan Frankenbach, Charlene Lutz, James Myer-Smith, & Alice Watford who donated art with special memories of people and the effect of AIDS. Jennie cooked lots of cookies and Becky Chavarria, of Mel's Diner provided delicious

pastries and super-hot chocolate for the evening memorial service.

Downtown Blooms generously donated a gorgeous spray of red roses in a red ribbon for the day. Rosalind Meeks and James Harris from Gulf Coast Center performed HIV testing throughout the day.

Our special guests were Council Woman Terrilyn Tarlton and Jim Rothgeb. Ms. Tarlton read the Proclamation from the city proclaiming December 1<sup>st</sup> World AIDS Day in Galveston. We thank her for sharing a very personal story with the gathered crowd. Jim Rothgeb moved us all with a prayer for all who have been and are affected and effected by HIV.

The group then retired to the “Wall of Remembrance”. Violinist Dave Thomas played beautifully in the garden, newly landscaped by Matt and Alice. Candles and carnations were placed in memory of loved ones no longer with us.

The home office of American National was lighted by red lights in support of World AIDS Day 2014 on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

“The red lights were turned on in recognition of the red ribbon, the universal symbol of awareness and support for those living with HIV.

The red ribbon was the first ribbon symbol, inspiring later versions such as the pink ribbon

for breast cancer awareness” as reported in the “Tower”, an American National Publication,

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

- To the super “News Team” Dianna, Sandra & George!
- Trinity Episcopal Ladies warmed and donated wonderful hams for the Special C.A.B. lunch!
- Miller’s Seawall Grill for the Thanksgiving lunch ham, yummy mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and of course for the to kill for rolls!
- Helpers for Thanksgiving lunch: sister Val, newcomer Susan, board members Charlene, Carrie, Lynda, George, Robert and nurse Mel
- Dana who donated lunches for October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> & December 4<sup>th</sup> and a roll of stamps!
- Past Board Prez Michele Carter for her support and a roll of stamps!
- Nathan for counting, rounding up and passing out the “Goody Bags”!
- The “Dot Com Boys” Jim & Lee and their staff sorted and made up the “Goody” bags for our clients!
- Charlene, Carrie, James, & Joey for handing out aallll the gifts!
- James Myers-Smith for being such a super Santa –whew!
- San Luis for the FABULOUS and very memorable Christmas lunch. Michelle and Lauraleigh ran the show serving wonderful roast beef, tasty mashed potatoes, almond green beans, and rolls. The topper was the fantastic pecan pie with whipped cream!
- ALL who donated so very generously so all of our clients would have gifts!

## SO MANY THANK YOUS, SO LITTLE TIME!

**The C.A.B. (Consumer ACTION Board) did it! They managed to plan and keep secret the Staff Appreciation Luncheon on the Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for over 3 months! Headed up by President James Myers-Smith with fellow members Andrea, Reggie, Aaron & Tay, they handed out “treasures” for each staff member as well as homemade gifts and notes by the clients. It was done superbly and with hardly a dry eye in the house. WELL DONE C.A.B.! The staff has taken the time to thank the clients in the following notes.**

To all of the clients of ACCT, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and gratitude for the surprise Staff Appreciation Day that you all bestowed upon my fellow co-workers and me. Never have I been more moved by such a sweet and thoughtful act of kindness; ever in my life. I love my job and each and every one of you has given me a purpose in life and I thank you all for that. I hope the New Year brings everyone much love, happiness, prosperity, and of course, good health! Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

Love, Gordon Jones  
Client Services Coordinator

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I am at a loss for words to express my deepest and humble gratitude to our clients and CAB members for the “Surprise” Appreciation Day given to all the Staff of ACCT. I have never been ambushed in such a loving, kind and thoughtful way. Thank you all so much for welcoming me to the family of ACCT. I have found the place I am meant to be and truly love my job. Sally Laird

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To all of the clients of ACCT, I would like to start by sincerely thanking each of you for your overwhelming appreciation of our staff. Never had I been truly surprised as I was that day. I personally believe each person in their lifetime questions what their intended purpose in life is, if a glimpse of that purpose is made known to us, I believe we question our ability to perform the purpose intended. Often times I question my ability to help others but you, the clients have shown me that I am more on the path I believe was chosen. All of you have touched me in a special way that has helped the character I have become today. For this I am truly grateful to be present to serve you. I look forward to entering the New Year with all of you as we continue forward.

Much Love, Darron Miller  
Client Transportation/Pantry Coordinator

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I’ve often heard Oprah say “Beauty is in the details” and now I truly know what she means. The Details of personalizing everyone’s gift with our names and initials on the gift bags and all the beautiful words were simply wonderful. I am much honored that you all took the time to show your appreciation either in writing or by your presence. We all truly felt the love and appreciation. I’m truly grateful to have this opportunity to work with each of you. Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you!  
Joe Rios  
HOPWA Coordinator

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You got me! I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart, but for you my heart has no bottom. Now I must try to remain as deserving of this honor as you believe me to be.

Mark