



Access Care of Coastal Texas, Inc.  
 Education, testing, care and support services for HIV-affected residents in  
 Galveston, Brazoria & Matagorda Counties  
 January & February 2017

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lee's Art Lesson this month will be on Thursday, February 9th at 11 a.m. Come join the fun!
- The Houston Volunteer Lawyers will be here on Thursday, February 16th at 9 a.m. Please call to make an appointment.

### OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

ACCT will be at:

- Roberts Lafittes on Jan. 10, and Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 8-10p
- Rumors Beach Bar Jan 11<sup>th</sup> and FEB 15<sup>th</sup> 5-7p
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Station Jan 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 8-10p.

For FREE HIV testing.

Also on February the 7<sup>th</sup>, ACCT and the Galveston County Health Dept. will be collaborating on a testing event, to celebrate "National Black HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY". For more details feel free to call Mark H. 763-2437.

ACCT offers free anonymous testing every day Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. - noon at 707 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Galveston.

### New Year's Resolution:

Losing weight, eating healthy, making all my Dr.'s appointments, staying compliant with medications., getting regular exercise? What is the common thread with all these resolutions?

Care of one's self! This year instead of individual promises to accomplish single goals, how about we resolve to love and care for ourselves, every day. Remember that each choice we make, alters the course of our lives!

Happy New Year friends! *Sally*

### Happy New Year!

Wanted to say Happy New Year's to all the clients at ACCT. Being the first person you guys usually talk to, it has been a pleasure. I want to think that I am always available to help you guys with whatever you need. My job here at ACCT has been very rewarding and fulfilling.

Thanks for the opportunity. *Donna*

### Community Rewards

Just a reminder, It's that time of year! You may have already registered ACCT to receive the Community Rewards, on your Kroger Plus Card. However, Kroger requires that this be done every year. It's really easy. Go to [www.Kroger.com](http://www.Kroger.com), look for the tab that says Community, then you would have to create an account, or sign into an existing account. Make sure you list ACCT as your charity, in doing so, ACCT will receive a portion of each of your purchases. We have to eat anyway, so you might as well shop, stock your pantries, and HELP our cause.

Kroger is not where you go to shop? Randall's Good Neighbor Program also, requires you to update your Randalls Remarkable Card every

year. Theirs is a little different. Below is the form to fill out, and return to the Courtesy Booth. ACCT's charity number for them is 2392. Please list ACCT as your charity of choice, as this cost nothing more than your groceries. The more we spend, the more we benefit. *Mark H.*

## Recipes

Want some recipes that are quick, easy and healthy? Check out the monthly pantry newsletter that comes with your pantry. Should you have a recipe suggestion, bring it by and let's see if we can provide supplies and get it published in the newsletter. *Darron*

## HOUSING NEWS

Just wanted to remind everyone that if you pay electric bills check to see if you are on a "Plan." Some people have 6 or 12 months plan and when you don't renew, some electric companies will automatically place you on a "Flex plan". This usually means you will be paying a lot more on your bill until you get back on a plan.

Use your Calendars on your phone to give you reminders of when you need to renew plans. Keeping up with this will save you money.

And have a very Happy and safe 2017. *Joe*

## Attention!

A REQUIREMENT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS THAT YOU MUST FILE IRS TAX RETURNS FOR THE YEAR THAT YOU RECEIVED BENEFITS! THIS MUST BE DONE NO LATER THAN APRIL 15, 2017. A COPY OF THOSE TAXES MUST BE TURNED INTO ACCT NO LATER THAN **MAY 1, 2017**. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUIREMENT WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF BENEFITS THROUGH RYAN WHITE, TEXAS STATE SERVICES (DSHS) AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (OBAMA CARE) A LIST OF FREE TAX

SERVICE ASSISTANCE AGENCIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY OF ACCT. This is a requirement of the agencies list above not ACCT.

## CLIENTS

All clients will be getting a call or a letter from ACCT to update your file. To stay active and receive services you MUST update when notified. Please help us help you by following through with the instructions in the request.

## BERING DENTAL

There will be agency van transportation to Bering Dental on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays every month. Bering requires you to make your own appointment so call the clinic at 713-524-7933. Tell them that you will be using ACCT for transportation. Any questions, call Darron at ACCT for help. Dental hygiene is the basis of good health!

## SUPPORT GROUP

The HIV Support Group for individuals meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 12:45. The hope is that these meetings, if popular, can be expanded to weekly and in the evenings. Open to everyone in the community affected/effected by HIV.

## TO ALL THE ONES WE LOVE

So many people to thank this time of year. The holidays would not be so wonderful if not for Bill Milligan, Michael Costello, Susan Milligan and all of their merry workers who transform ACCT into a wonderland of decorations. For years now Bill and his crew show up and create the perfect party atmosphere for a month of holiday activities. They even stayed to

transform the “Christmas” tree into a “Mardi Gras” tree. Again, perfection at work!

Another group that makes the holidays more cheery are the Galveston.com group. They bring a big party and put together the hygiene bags that we give the clients. They knocked it out in under an hour this year. Their problem was they let Mark W. in the assembly line and he kind a messed it up. Thanks guys!

### **“FRIENDS FEEDING FRIENDS”**

**Thanks friends for starting the New Year with lots of lunches. Those who have generously donated:**

- **Steven Creitz**
- **William & Anita Walden**
- **Jim & Bret**
- **Pamela & Jacque Passino**
- **Yaga’s**
- **G.W. Cornelius for 2**
- **Veronica Jacobs for 2**
- **David Bowers for 2**
- **Woody & Richard for cooking**

We serve clients and a guest lunch every Thursday at noon. It is \$100 to sponsor a lunch, and we feed approximately 50 people each week. If you would like to donate a lunch, cook or help out, please call ACCT at 409-763-2437 to volunteer.

## **Thank You!**

Sue Lynn Baucom  
Patrick Collins  
Galveston Island Humane Society  
Jimmy Gray  
Ellen Klimenko  
Brian Mayes  
Cheryl Mogridge  
Lee Roane  
U.U.s  
For  
Clothes, Accessories, Appliances. Cat  
& Dog Food, Office Supplies &  
Hygiene Products

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

- Our loyal Newsletter team Dianna, Sandra, George, Carol, Nathan & stamper Joe!
- San Luis for the FABULOUS Holiday dinner of succulent pork loin with cherry sauce, roasted veggies, always great salad and litterly melt in your mouth bread pudding!
- Brack’s GREAT group from Tideway for the great Chili and cornbread!
- Ted and Karen Waterman for the goody basket “Thank you” for our volunteers!
- The Galveston.com Gay Cruises for the \$500 donation from the “Cruise the Never Left”!

## COMMUNITY CONTEST!

We need you, to become an HIV testing Krew member!! Getting to zero one test at a time. By now we have all heard how important having an HIV test is, yet, most people still don't make the time to come in and get one.

What better way is there to have someone come in for a test? Have a contest!! ACCT will be giving a \$25 dollar Walmart card to anyone who refers 5 people in for a test. The person receiving the test MUST say who they were referred by. We will keep a tally from now until February 28<sup>th</sup>. EVERYONE who sends us 5 of their friends, neighbors, family, or even enemies, will receive a gift card.

Test and treat, when a positive is found, we help get them in for treatment, which decreases the chances of the spread of infection. We need you to be a part of the KREW, testing is available at ACCT Mondays -Thursdays 9-5, and Friday 9-11:30.

So, get started sending us those testing referrals. Together we can get to Zero new infections in our community.

## WISH LIST

- We are still accepting "gently" used clothing, shoes and clothes hangers.
- Pet food is always welcome for our client's cats and dogs.
- Cleaning supplies for our clients especially antibacterial soaps and bleach.
- Books for our lending library.



# GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Complete this portion to link your Remarkable Card to the charity of your choice. You can choose to link up to three charities. Contact your charity of choice and ask if they are a member of our Good Neighbor Program or ask the Courtesy Booth for the GNP number of a particular charity. To learn about the Good Neighbor Program, go to [www.randalls.com](http://www.randalls.com).

REMARKABLE CARD NUMBER:

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Don't know your card number? Call Customer Care at 1-877-723-3929.

Charity to be added to your card:

- 1. Charity # 2392
- 2. Charity # \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Charity # \_\_\_\_\_

Charity to be deleted from your card:

- 1. Charity # \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Charity # \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Charity # \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD RANDALLS COURTESY BOOTH**

**OFFICE USE ONLY:** STORE # \_\_\_\_\_  
COURTESY BOOTH: SEND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO THE MAILROOM - ATTN: DATA CENTER OF ARIZONA

## Well, here we go again ... another year has begun!

We have achieved many things over the past year. The employees as always, have expanded or improved their areas of expertise to serve the community. Mark Henson, ACCT's new Outreach Coordinator has settled in and become a force to be reckoned with in the Galveston HSDA.. He has expanded the testing program, reached out to the schools, high schools and colleges, about the testing and education programs available, he has added evening hours to the bar testing and now holds a monthly class for newly released TDCJ inmates on safe sex and testing in our area. Joe Rios has expanded the number receiving long term housing assistance here in our service area by 35%. This is quite a feat since he could do this without a similar raise in the grant funding. Darron Miller has grown our Dental program averaging 20 dental appointments per month and increased the pantry issuances to 115 unduplicated clients per month. Sally, Eduardo and Darron received a perfect score on the "big" grant review this year. A feat many said could not be done! Donna has kept the office running and clients headed in the right direction for assistance with all these additional service.

Volunteers! Edmund, Rebecca, Ann, Nathan, Josh x 2, Randy, Mike, Jesse, Kent, Nathan, George, Dianna, Carol, Sandra, Eve, Maurisa, Jennie Anna, Misty, James, Matt, Jennifer, Anna, Misty, Alice, Bill, Michael & Decorating group. **Without you we could never have achieved half of what we have done!**

Some statistics.... 200 HIV Tests, 1290 Thursday Lunche's, 33267 Prescriptions paid for, 231 Gas Vouchers, 284 cases of Nutritional Supplement, 86 Dr's copay's issued ....

And 2017 we are hoping to expand services even more! As many of you already know, Galveston County is attempting to lead the way in offering Pre-Exposure Prophylactics as a community backed program. The agencies participating in the program are

- a. Access Care of Coastal Texas – Mark White, LVN
- b. Coastal Health and Wellness – Tammy Babcock, Abdul-Aziz Alhassan MD, Jason Borillo, PA-C,
- c. Galveston County Health District – Kathy Barroso, CEO, Eileen Dawley RN,
- d. GCHD HIV/STD Control Services – Jim Hilton Director
- e. Galveston County Local Health Authority – Phillip Keiser MD
- f. Southside Pharmacy - Nandan Kumar, R. PH.

The hope of the group is to begin offering PrEP treatment to those that qualify within the next three months. While this can be an expensive treatment the committee believes this can be accomplished with little to no cost to the patient. With success, we are hopeful to expand this program to include "Test and Treat" which is the process of starting HIV antiviral therapy same day as a positive test result. UTMB is also asking for our assistance along with SouthSide Pharmacy in assisting UTMB ER department in the distribution of PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) for sex assault victims.

Outreach is going to expand recognition and awareness days to include **February 7, National Black Awareness, March 10, National Women and Girls Awareness, April 10, National Youth HIV Awareness, June 27, National HIV Testing Day, September 27, National Gay Mens HIV Awareness, October 15, National Latino / Latina Awareness and, of course December 1, World AIDS Day.**

Remember we are here for you the clients of ACCT, together we can do great things! **Mark**





# JANUARY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AA Meets 7:00 PM	2 ACCT CLOSED	3 Pantry 11-3	4 Pantry 11-3 AA Meets 8:00 PM	5 HIV support group	6 Bering Trip	7
8 AA Meets 7:00 PM	9 Pantry 11-3	10 Pantry 11-3	11 Pantry 11-3 AA Meets 8:00 PM	12 Tideway Does Lunch	13	14
15 AA Meets 7:00 PM	16 Martin Luther King Day	17	18 AA Meets 8:00 PM	19 HIV Lawyers HIV support group	20 Bering Trip	21
22 AA Meets 7 7:00 PM	23	24	25 AA Meets 8:00 PM	26 Woody & Richard Do Lunch	27	28
29 AA Meets 7:00 PM	30	31				



# FEBRUARY 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 AA Meets 8:00 PM	2 Tamales for Lunch! HIV support group	3 Bering Trip	4
5 AA Meets 7:00 PM	6 Pantry 11-3	7 Pantry 11-3	8 Pantry 11-3 AA Meets 8:00 PM	9 Tideway Does lunch Farewell to Brack!	10	11
12 AA Meets 7:00 PM	13 Pantry 11-3	14 Pantry 11-3	15 Pantry 11-3 AA Meets 8:00 PM	16 Candy's Enchiladas! HIV Lawyers HIV support group	17 Bering Trip	18 Mardi Gras
19 Mardi Gras AA Meets 7 7:00 PM	20	21	22 AA Meets 8:00 PM	23 ACCT MUFALATASI Noon	24	25 Mardi Gras
26 Mardi Gras AA Meets 7:00 PM	27	28 FAT TUESDAY!				