

The Common Thread

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The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Winter Edition ~ 2008

www.factlv.org

P.O. BOX 1028

ALLENTOWN, PA

IN THIS EDITION!

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items, donated by area businesses and individuals added to the excitement of the night as bidders kept watch over what they hope would be their prize!



A group of "Revelers" enjoying the fine food and Fellowship of the Snow Ball!

The Snow Ball has always been a great way to start the Holiday season and a time to catch up with old friends and a chance to meet new ones, while enjoying a scrumptious meal and supporting FACT. This year's event was exactly what was expected! An exciting night of fun! The Snow Ball has also been an opportunity for FACT to honor members of the organization and the community who have helped FACT in their efforts.

AIDS Walk A Great Success!

Sunday, October 7, 2007, heard the patter of 500 feet through the Streets of Bethlehem as the FACT sponsored AIDS Walk took place beginning and ending in the Bethlehem Rose Garden Park, Union Blvd. at Eighth Avenue. Registration began at 11:00 a.m. with people from all walks of life walking to aid those who who's lives have been changed by HIV/AIDS. This yearly event, sponsored by FACT has become not only a time for friends and family to gather and show their support and love, but a time to educate and remind all of us that HIV/AIDS affects all of us and does not discriminate based on gender, age, race or sexual orientation. Over \$14000.00 given to local agencies who participated in the AIDS Walk.



David Moyer

Allan Smith

Steve Ziminsky

This year David Moyer was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The President's Award was awarded to Allan Smith. The Rainbow Award was awarded to Steve Ziminsky. Over \$5000 was realized from the event. We are very grateful for the donations that were made and helped to make the event so successful.

TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL SNOW BALL!

Outside a cold snowy night greeted the 150 revelers who attended the Twenty First Annual Snow Ball held on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Ninth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Inside, the atmosphere and an abundance of food and drink warmed the crowd that gathered! Over 90 silent auction



More Laughs and fun by attendees at the Snow Ball!

FACT Members Attend Annual Meeting and Election of Officers!

The annual general membership meeting of FACT was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday evening, November 19, 2007 at Diamonz in Bethlehem. Approved was the 2008 Budget and a discussion on the need to continue to raise more funds due to an increase in the number of contingency requests and funds needed. The election of officers and board members who's terms expired on December 31st. also took place.

Elected to the Executive Board were Carl Mancino, President; Brian Marks, Vice-President; Robert Burton, Secretary and Bryon Reynolds, Treasurer.

Elected to a two year term on the General Board were Chris Criswell, Daniel Friedman; Joseph Mininno; David K. Moyer; Ray "Skip" Sheetz and Allen Smith. Without these dedicated individuals, it would be impossible to continue the good works and acts of kindness this organization has established. FACT has always been a 100% volunteer organization. If you would like to become part of FACT as a member of the Board of Directors, you are encouraged to fax or mail a letter requesting to be considered for a position on the board with a copy of your resume and a phone number where you can be reached. Fax your request for information to FACT at 610-820-8363 (attention Skip Sheetz). You may also write to us at: FACT, P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105 or Email us at info@factlv.org

Become A Member Of FACT!

It is very easy to become a member of FACT. Simply send us your name, address and phone number, along with a donation of \$15 for a general membership or a donation of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$250, \$500 for a patron level membership. Send your donation to: FACT, P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105. Membership cards are always available at FACT events! See a board member or volunteer and become a member. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible and you will be helping FACT to continue their assistance to people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS!

Halloween Benefit at Lee Gribben's on Main

Lee Gribben's on Main, owners, Lee Gribben's and Dr. Manuel Gonzalez, located at 194 Main Street in Emmaus, sponsored a Halloween Party to benefit FACT on October 25, 2007, hosted by Dame Betty and Pearl E. Gates. A free buffet and cash bar was included in the \$20. admission. Attendees in costume were invited to participate in a costume judging! \$1000 was raised in the event! Again, many thanks for their continued support of FACT.

GAYDAR Holiday Party Benefits FACT and Pride of the Lehigh Valley

GAYDAR in association with Lee Gribben's on Main, held a holiday party to Benefit FACT and Pride of the Greater

Lehigh Valley. \$500. was given to FACT from the proceeds of the event, which included a gourmet buffet and first drink. FACT is very grateful for the efforts of Steve Libby, editor of Gaydar, and Lee Gribben's and Dr. Manuel Gonzalez owners of Lee Gribben's on Main, for their tireless efforts to help FACT in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

How Can I Help FACT Raise Money?

Since the early days, when FACT was just beginning it's efforts to raise funds, simple events and even private donations are what the organization was sustained by. Today in addition to events planned and held by FACT, the help of individuals and groups continue to be a major contributor of the funds that FACT uses to help those in need. A fund raising event for FACT need not be elaborate. From a dinner party where a select group of friends are invited to attend and make a set donation, to a holiday gathering, barbeque or picnic where a fish bowl is set up for attendees to leave a set or free will donation; every effort you make helps FACT to help those who are infected/affected HIV/AIDS. If you would like to sponsor an event for FACT, all we ask is that you notify us of the event. A FACT Officer or Board Member may be available to attend your event if you like. FACT has always been an all volunteer organization. No members are paid for their participation or assistance in events. This enables as much money as possible to be used for the needs of those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS.

FACT Welcomes New Member to The Board!

Welcome to William Drolet, of Easton, to the FACT Board! Bill is a project manager at Dunn & Bradstreet. We welcome his experience and leadership, as he begins his two year term on the Board of FACT.

Have you Recently Moved???

Have you recently moved, changed your name or contact information? If you have please notify FACT when you are sending out your change of address announcements! This way you will continue to receive mailings and information about coming events! You may also update your address by emailing FACT at: info@factlv.org

7TH ANNUAL FACT BINGO !!!

The 7TH Annual FACT BINGO will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the Rainbow Room BINGO Hall, home of Durell Shellhammer, Kim Mickey and Kevin Picht, located at 2413 Sunshine Road, Allentown, PA 18102. If you need directions please call 610-797-9526! This exciting and fun filled afternoon will consist of all the great games and surprises that every BINGO player loves! There will be cash and gift prizes as well as food and refreshments. You are also welcome to B.Y.O.B. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the first game starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp! Admission is \$15.00 and the event will

be hosted by Carol Ann and Durrell Shellhammer. There is plenty of parking and there is also ATM service if needed.

SPRING FLING AT THE ALLENTOW BREW WORKS!

The 2008 Spring Fling will be held on Sunday April 20, 2008, at the Allentown Brew Works, located at 812 Hamilton Street in Allentown, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. The theme is "*Fashions of the Heart*" and will include a fashion show by local Lehigh Valley Clothing Retailers, along with a make up demonstration by Sephora of the Lehigh Valley Mall. Several high end food stations, including pasta and carving stations, will be available to temp and satisfy your taste buds. Of course no social gala would be complete without dancing and socializing with your friends new and old! The donation is \$30.00 which includes all of the above. So don't miss out on this great spring gala!

The Sisterhood Goes Overboard!!!!

Sisterhood is sponsoring a fund raising night at Diamonz in Bethlehem on Sunday, April 6, 2008! Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and the show will begin at 7:00 p.m. Free HIV testing will also be available from 5-7p.m. admission for the event is \$5.00 and if you wish to reserve a table (Tables are limited) the donation is \$25.00. Many of our local ladies who appear on stage at Rainbow Mountain, The Raven, The Stonewall and Diamonz, will perform for your entertainment! The proceeds from this benefit will go equally to PA Diversity Network, Pride of the Lehigh Valley and FACT. We thank all of the bars and organizations for assisting Sisterhood in putting this event together with special thanks to Diamonz for hosting Sisterhood and The Wood's Campground for the printed materials!

Coming Events 2008:

April 6, Sisterhood Goes Over Board
July 13, Celebration of Life House Party
August 17, PRIDE In The Park (Bingo Tent by FACT)
September 7, FACT Summer Games
December 7, Snow Ball

Celebration Of Life House Party!

A house party is being planned for July 13, 2008, to be hosted at the home of Robert Burton and Harry Able in Bethlehem. The event themed, "A Celebration of Life," is sponsored by FACT! For information contact Bob Burton at 484-554-6645. More information on the event will be published as details become available!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

We need your help!!! As you can see, we have many events planned for the coming months and we can not possibly accomplish what we need without your help! FACT is an all volunteer organization. If you are

planning to attend an event please volunteer an hour of your time while you are there! What a great way to not only help FACT, but meet new friends and show your support for people infected /affected by HIV/AIDS. FACT always has the need for volunteers outside of events also. If you would like to volunteer to help with mailing, or staff an information tables or any other areas, please contact us at 610-820-5519 or contact FACT through our website at: www.factlv.org There is currently a need for volunteers for FACT BINGO.

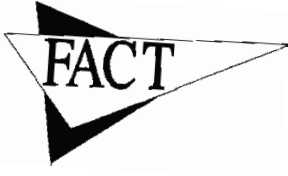
Where Does Your Money Go???

In 2007 FACT paid out over \$46,700.00 in contingency requests. FACT is approached when all other resources are exhausted and as the economy has worsened, requests for help have increased. With this in mind, we continue to search out other ways to increase our income so we are able to continue to assist those in need. Some of the areas where FACT provides assistance are with auto repairs, dental assistance, eyeglasses, funeral expenses, medical procedures, prescriptions, food, Clothing, medical devices, quality of life expenses, rent and mortgage payments and utility expenses. Many times, funding requests like these, we not only help the individual, but provide them with a continued way to work, get to doctors appointments and care for their children. And keep a roof over their heads. Many times minor medical procedures are not covered by Medicaid or insurance plans and sometimes there is difficulty paying co-pay. In emergency situations FACT is able to help. All contingencies request are screened by a service agency caseworker and further evaluated by the FACT Contingency Committee, chaired by David Moyer. The board is never told who the contingency request is for so their identity is protected.

Our Mission Statement

FACT is an organization of concerned people committed to raising money to assist individuals and families affected by HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and to conquer the HIV/AIDS crisis within the Lehigh Valley and surrounding communities. FACT identifies, supports and monitors programs that provide direct and educational services within the communities. FACT's mission is to alleviate suffering and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and to provide an improved quality of life to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

FACT is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. The official registration and financial information for Fighting AIDS Continuously Together may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free (within PA) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105

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Watch for our Upcoming Events



March 30, 2008 – FACT Bingo!
April 6, 2008 – Sisterhood Goes Overboard!
**April 20, 2008 – Spring Fling at Brew Works
Allentown!**
July 13, 2008 – Celebration of Life

