

The Common Thread

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The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Winter/Spring Edition ~ 2010

www.factlv.org

P.O. BOX 1028

ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

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FACT Begins its 25th Year of Continuously of Fighting AIDS !

It has been a cold and snowy winter and although getting around has been difficult for many of us, FACT has continued to work and plan events for 2010! It is hard to believe that FACT has been in existence for 25 years. Beginning as just a group of friends and concerned individual who came together at the first Summer Games event to raise money for people infected with HIV/AIDS in the community, who had no other resources. FACT has continued that endeavor all of these years. It has not been an easy task, if not for the volunteers, and financial contributors of FACT who have continued to support us and assist in underwriting events and providing donations, which have helped us to raise over \$2 million since that first Summer Games. As we begin 2010, the economy, although stabilizing somewhat, has still affected FACT. Like many "*not for profit (501c3)*" organizations, contributions are at an all time low. Expenses for running events are higher and attendance has been slightly lower than in previous years. FACT is an all volunteer organization. For our entire existence we have never had a paid staff. We receive no money from state or federal departments. All money you donate to FACT goes directly to people infected with or by HIV/AIDS. We continue to serve people from all walks of life, religious denominations and

ethnic backgrounds. We serve all age ranges from infants and children through the senior population. HIV/AIDS continues to be a major disease in our society and although there is still no cure, medications and preventative health measures are ensuring that those infected by HIV/AIDS live long healthy lives. Help FACT Celebrate it's 25th year by attending an event, volunteering to help out on an event or with a mailing, join our board of directors, or make a donation to FACT!

23rd Annual FACT Snowball

The 23rd Annual FACT Snowball, will took place Sunday, December 6, 2009, at the Hotel Bethlehem, Main Street, Historic Bethlehem. The *Roaring 20's* theme was a great success as many of the attendees too the opportunity to dress in period attire! The grand atmosphere of the Hotel Bethlehem also added to the feel of going back in time! The event is a black tie/period dress optional, dinner dance is held each year as a fund raiser for FACT and this year raised over \$6000. Attendees were treated to a lavish cocktail hour (Cash Bar), scrumptious dinner and entertainment. A silent auction also took place throughout the evening. The highlight of the evening was the annual presentation of awards. This year FACT honored the late Robert Burton, FACT's Vice President, who passed away in November, by creating the Robert Burton Memorial Fund to honor his memory. A plaque was presented to his husband, Harry Able, marking the occasion.

The Long Funeral Home of Bethlehem was also honored with the Presidents Award for their assistance in securing several grants for FACT and their support



Harry Able Receives Plaque Honoring Robert Burton and Louis James accepts award on behalf of Long F. H.

of the organization. Lenora Johnson, owner of Diamonz Bar in Bethlehem, was recognized by FACT and presented the Life Time Achievement Award for her countless efforts to help FACT and the Community.

The Rainbow Award was presented to Skip Sheetz and his partner Michael Perry. Skip a board member of FACT and his partner Michael, have spent countless hours in service to FACT through Chairing and planning events, providing financial support and helping wherever there has been a need. This year FACT was blessed with a great number of donations to the silent auction and we are very grateful to all of those individuals who made donations. Remember that the money raised by the FACT Snowball, helps provide the grants and financial assistance so desperately needed by those suffering from HIV/AIDS and have no other resources to turn to for help. This Years Snowball was truly a success! We look forward to our Special FACT 25th Anniversary Snowball in December 2010!!!

facts around HIV/AIDS and dispelled a number of misconceptions. Other speakers included Dr. Margaret Hoffman-Terry, from the Lehigh Valley Hospital AIDS Activities Office & Richard Boocock, VP of IT at Air Products. Air Products presented board members David Moyer and Joe Lesko with an annual contribution to FACT from the Air Products Foundation. Also, Sodexho, Air Products cafeteria vendor, donated 5% of the proceeds from Dec 1st sales at the Tell Me More café to FACT, as well. This event was organized by Air Products' Gay & Lesbian Empowered Employees (GLEE) and 6 other Air Products Employee Networks. FACT thanks Air Products for their continued support.



Some Snowball attendees in period dress!



David Moyer is presented a check by Joe Lesko

Long Funeral Home Presents Grant Check to FACT

In February, FACT was awarded a Grant of \$1000. by the York Children's Foundation a Division of Matthew's Casket Company. Michael Long of Long Funeral Home, Bethlehem, recommended FACT for this grant, which will be used for Children and adolescents infected with or by HIV/AIDS. Long Funeral Home has been instrumental in securing Grants through the York Children's Foundation for FACT. Each time a family served by the Long Funeral Home purchases a casket from the Matthew's Casket Line, a donation is made in memory of their loved one to the York Children's Foundation. FACT is very grateful to the Long Funeral Home and their staff who have secured \$5000. in grants to date.



Friends old and new enjoying the cocktail hour in the Lobby of the Hotel Bethlehem.

World AIDS Day Event at Air Products

On Thursday, December 3rd, Air Products held its first ever World AIDS Day recognition event. The event began with opening remarks from Joe Pietrantonio, VP of Operations. Joe introduced FACT's education board member David Moyer. David shared a number of key



Michael Long of Long Funeral Home Presents Check for \$1000. to David Moyer

HAVE A HEART IN FEBRUARY!!!!

FACT is very grateful to DJ Gonzalez, A.K.A. Salsa Caliente! Salsa is the reigning Miss Stonewall and has been very diligent in efforts to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and to raise money for FACT. During the month of February 2010, Salsa sold Hearts as a way of promoting awareness and to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Donations of \$1, \$5, and \$10 were accepted and Hearts posted on the walls to remind people not only of Valentines Day holiday but also to show love for each other and our community, by supporting those with HIV/AIDS who need our help. The event took place at the Stonewall Bar in Allentown and she raised over \$580., which was donated to FACT.



Salsa Caliente, selling Hearts at the Stonewall and a display of hearts already purchased on display.



DJ Gonzalez, presents check for \$580. to FACT Treasurer Bryon Reynold At the March FACT Board Meeting

FACT 25th Annual SUMMER GAMES 2010 Almost Here!

The FACT 25th annual Summer Games 2010, will be here before you know it! The Summer Games will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2010 at Rainbow Mountain Resort in the Pocono's! Last year the event raised over \$15000.00. This year's event promises to be one of our best as it was this event, 25 years ago that a group of friends and concerned people from the community came together to raise money to help those who were suffering from HIV AIDS. We have come a long way, but we are still fighting strong! This year we celebrate the 25th Annual FACT Summer Games and the Birth of FACT. The opportunity for more teams will be available as well as, an expanded program and opportunities for fun. If you and your friends would like to form a team and compete or if you have a team and need a business to sponsor your group, contact FACT at 610-820-5519 and let us know how we can help you! Watch your mail for additional information regarding the Summer Games. Announcements will be sent out in late July 2010.

AIDS Memorial Quilt Display At the FACT Summer Games 2010.

If you know someone who has died from HIV/ AIDS and you would like to create a panel in their memory, Please contact Lou James at the FACT office, 610-820-5519 or email him at LJFD1997@aol.com He will provide you with the paperwork and instructions on how to make the quilt panel and arrange for it's display at the FACT 25th Annual Summer Games. As this is a special year for FACT, we will take special time to honor and remember those left us. There will be opportunity to have new panels dedicated on the day of the Summer Games. Panels will then be sent to the NAMES Project to be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The NAMES Project requires an honorarium for all displays and additions to the quilt which help in it's storage and maintenance. This year we hope to have the Quilt display under written by donations made by local businesses and individuals. If you would like to be a sponsor for this year's display, or if you would like to request a panel to be on display at the FACT Summer Games, please contact Lou James, by May 21, 2010 as he will need to have requests for panels in by that time.

David Moyer Retires form Allentown Health Bureau!

As many of you know, David Moyer has not only been an instrumental part of FACT but also a valued employee of the Allentown Health Bureau for many years. In January, David, retired from the Health Bureau. To help celebrate this milestone his coworkers collected \$420. and donated it to FACT in his honor! Although he has retired from the 9-5 working day, he still remains active with FACT, his Church and his many other activities! Congratulations David!

TAKEOVER LEHIGH VALLEY Presents Check to FACT!!!

The Lehigh Valley Takeover Group Partied away the night at their annual holiday gathering at American Hairlines in Bethlehem in December! The extremely popular event has been away of bringing the community together and celebrate the holidays! This year was bitter sweet in that a regular attendee of Takeover events was no longer with us. Robert Burton, who was FACT's Vice President, passed away suddenly in November. The Takeover Group, presented FACT With a Check for \$300. as a contribution to the Robert Burton Memorial Fund. This surprise contribution was a wonderful way to remember Robert, who's loss is still felt by our board and his family. We are grateful to Lehigh Valley Takeover and the good work that have done for our community.



Michael of Lehigh Valley Takeover, Presents a check to Bryon Reynolds, FACT treasurer, for the Robert Burton Mem. Fund

KRAZY KARAOKE At DIAMONZ IN BETHLEHEM!!!

Sunday, May 16, 2010, Bethlehem will be rocked by the sounds of Krazy Karaoke! This is a joint fundraising event co-sponsored by FACT, LVGMC and PDN! The evening will be hosted by Brian Marks of the LVGMC, Liz Bradbury of PDN and Pearl E. Gates of FACT! The fun filled musical evening will involve contestants who will be judged for best soloist, duo and group. There will also be an award for worst rendition! In all, the event will be a lot of fun for everyone. This is the second year for this event which raised over \$1100. for the three groups! FACT is most grateful to Lenora and her Staff at Diamonz hosting this event again this year and for her efforts to help make it a success! Admission to the event is a donation of \$10.00 and includes a buffet meal and your first drink free!

Other Events On Schedule For 2010!

May 16, 2010, Krazy Karaoke At Diamonz in Bethlehem.
June 26, 2010, inner city health fare to be held at Dubbs Memorial Church Allentown from 9-3pm.

Spring Bowling event! Watch your mail for more details!

August 16, 2010: Pride in The Park –FACT Bingo
September 12, 2010: FACT 25th Ann. Summer Games
October 3, 2010: AIDS WALK 2010 will be Sunday,
December 5, 2010: FACT Snowball

New Board Members Wanted!

FACT is always looking for new members to serve on our board! If you would be interested in serving on the board of FACT, please contact Carl Mancino at the FACT office at: 610-820-5519. He will explain to you what would be necessary and how much time would be required. You will be asked to submit a general copy of your resume or a summary explaining to the board who you are and why you would like to come onto the board. The FACT Board is an all volunteer working board. It is an awesome way to give back to your community and make new friends in the process!

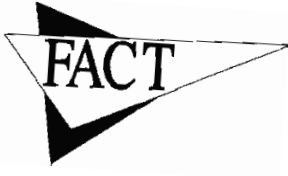
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

We need your help!!! As you can see, we have had a very busy spring and now summer! We can not possibly accomplish what we need to 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 a mailing, or staff an information table or any other areas, please contact Bryon Reynolds at FACT: 610-820-5519 or contact him through our website at: www.factlv.org. Currently, FACT is in great need of volunteers for The 25th Annual FACT Summer Games! If you would be interested in selling raffle tickets or would like to help out on the day of the Summer Games, please Contact Bryon Reynolds!

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.



Fighting AIDS
Continuously Together
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Watch for our Upcoming Events



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Don't Forget to Renew Your FACT Membership for 2010!!!!

There will be many great things happening in celebrating our 25th year!!!

For a general donation of \$15.00 members will receive advance notice of all our F.A.C.T. sponsored events and benefits for one year. You will be added to our mailing list, and receive quarterly issues of our newsletter, Intentionally, F.A.C.T. does not offer items of value to it's members in exchange for membership so that 100% of your donation is tax deductible.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

- New Membership
- Renewal
- \$15.00 General Membership

Patron levels of membership

- \$25.00 Topaz
- \$50.00 Amethyst
- \$75.00 Sapphire
- \$100.00 Ruby
- \$500.00 & up Diamond