

# The Common Thread

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The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Winter/Spring Edition ~ 2016

[www.factlv.org](http://www.factlv.org)

P.O. BOX 1028

ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

## In Memory of A Founding FACT Member and Former Board Member.

Matthew John Stitzer, 58, of Allentown, passed away peacefully in his home on Thursday, January 21, 2016, surrounded by family and friends who have been caring for him.



Born in Mahanoy City, he was the son of the late H. Peter and Lois (Hinkle) "Kizzy" Stitzer.

A 1975 graduate of Mahanoy Area High School, he also received an AAS degree from Lehigh Carbon Community College and attended Kutztown University from 1985 to 1987. He worked for the Yogurt Factory in the Lehigh Valley Mall from 1976 to 1979 and then began his career in 1979, as a Microbiologist for Kraft Foods until his passing. Over the years he also worked part time at the Bayleaf Restaurant in Allentown and also as a bartender at the Stonewall Bar in Allentown. In the past he volunteered as a tour guide in Historic Bethlehem and served as a youth group coordinator and also served on the Festival Functions Committee for Mayfair in Allentown for several years. Matt, enjoyed acting in community theater the most and performed for PA Play House in Bethlehem, Theater Outlet and Civic Theater both in Allentown. In the early 1980's when HIV/AIDS began to affect people in the Lehigh Valley and many people whom he knew, Matthew, along with several other concerned individuals saw a need to do something and so began the first fundraiser, The Bar Games. This event was a fundraiser for people know in the community to be suffering from HIV/AIDS and were in need of financial assistance for rent, food,

utilities and for funerals. The Bar Games later evolved into the organization now known as FACT. Matthew, was proud to be a member of FACT and served on the board for over 15 years.

**Survivors:** He is survived by his twin brother, Mark Stitzer of Allentown, sister, Susan Ball and her husband George of Mahanoy City, nephew, Joshua Ball and his wife Allison, nieces, Vikki Buffington and her husband Craig, Amanda Stitzer Shepton and Noelle Stitzer. He is also survived by 5 great nieces and nephews.

**Services:** The Stitzer family will greet relatives and friends on Saturday, March 19, 2016, from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon in the Civic Theater, 527 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Allentown, followed by a Memorial Service at 12:00 Noon. Additional services will be held in Matthew's hometown of Mahanoy City, at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to JAMES FUNERAL HOME, 527 Center St. Bethlehem 18018. More Service info at [www.jamesfuneralhome.org](http://www.jamesfuneralhome.org)

**Memorials:** In lieu of flowers, contributions in Matthew's memory may be made to: Mahanoy City Public Library or to Civic Theater or to FACT C/O James Funeral Home.

## IN THIS EDITION!

*IN Memory of Former FACT Board Member  
30<sup>th</sup> Annual FACT Snowball  
Gail Hoover's Annual Birthday Bash  
Time To Renew Memberships!  
Spaghetti Dinner At Diamondz  
White Party!  
FACT Bus Trip To NY PRIDE  
FACT Summer Games  
Passing The Love Campaign  
Next News Letter  
Our Mission Statement*

## 30th Annual FACT Snowball

The 30th Annual FACT Snowball, will take place on Sunday evening, December 6, 2015, at the Silver Creek Country Club in Hellertown, PA. The annual event took place



**A group of friends gather for a photo op!**

in the main ballroom of the Country Club with a cocktail hour and silent auction taking place in the parlor adjacent to the ballroom. The event was a great success. It remains a black tie optional/Business Casual event. This year approximately \$4,000. Was raised for FACT.

Every year, FACT uses this event to honor individuals who have given service to the organization, the community and to an individual who has given of themselves for the support of the HIV/AIDS community. This year Skip Scheetz was awarded the FACT **Presidents Award** for



his tireless efforts and time given to FACT, as well as the community. On the left, Skip, thanks FACT for his award.

Novus Health Care Services of Bethlehem, under the supervision of Allen Smith, receive the annual **Rainbow Award**. Novus is the only medical practice specializing in service to the LGBT community and all who come to them. They provide a full range of STD testing and medical services and provide referrals for more intensive services. This year's **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Nancy Readinger of Aurora Essentials (Formerly Rob-Win Press). For many years now Nancy, has helped FACT with it's printing and Design needs, sometime working on paper and printing needs of FACT many hours on her own time. FACT is very grateful for the service and help she has provided to FACT and congratulates her on this achievement. Nancy as

well as the staff at Aurora Essentials/Rob-Win Press have always been there to help FACT and we are thankful for their help and dedication.



**Nancy Readinger receives the Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Also at this event the FACT Board of Directors for 2016 was announced and introduced. FACT is always looking for new board members. FACT is an all volunteer organization. No one is paid and at times there is a lot of work that needs to get done. If you would like to join the board of FACT, or just volunteer at events, please contact FACT at P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105 or call us at 610-820-5519. You can also talk to any current board member.



**2016 FACT Board of Directors**

## **GAIL HOOVER'S Annual Birthday Bash!**

Like a fine wine, as the years go by it gets better! Gail Hoover's annual Birthday Bash is scheduled for Saturday March 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at Mixx Night Club, 15<sup>th</sup> and Sumner Ave. Allentown. Tickets are \$35.00. For several years now, Gail, who is a FACT Board Member, has used her birthday as a way to give back to the community and those in need. This year her party will benefit "No Nonsense Neutering" in East Allentown and also FACT. This event will be a lot of fun and

a chance to mingle and also bid on baskets in the Silent Auction. Come and help Gail celebrate her birthday and help support her charities!

### **Have you renewed your 2016 FACT Membership?**

With the holidays over, the snow storm of the century behind us and with the coming of spring, it's time to renew your FACT Membership for 2016! By renewing your membership, you will receive our quarterly newsletter and be informed of all upcoming events and news first hand. Your membership donations help support FACT's vital mission of being there whenever someone is in need due to HIV/AIDS. Won't you consider renewing your membership today by sending your tax deductible donation to FACT, P.O. 1028, Allentown, PA 18105. Memberships begin at \$15.00, but you are always welcome to donate more. Remember, FACT is still here because we are still needed.

### **Spaghetti Dinner Night At Diamonz!**

On Sunday February 21, 2016, from 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. FACT will be holding a spaghetti Dinner at Diamonz Bar in Bethlehem. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

### **White Party!**

On Saturday evening, April 2, 2016, Diamonz Bar will be sponsoring a White Party to Benefit FACT. Doors will open at 9:00 P.M. with a Drag Show in honor of the late Gizelle, to Start promptly at 11:30 P.M. Admission will be \$7.00 for this event and a free buffet will be available! So come on out and celebrate the coming of Spring! Don't forget to wear white! This is a Smoke Free Event! So come on out and Celebrate Spring!

### **Bus Trip To New York Pride!**

FACT is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City Pride on Sunday, June 26, 2016. The cost is \$35.00 per person. The bus will leave the William Penn Highway Car Park in Bethlehem Twp. At 9:00 A.M. and will return at 9:00 p.m. These bus trips sponsored periodically by FACT are a lot of fun and a safe and inexpensive way to go to events in New York City. It's also a great way to make new friends and enjoy a day of fun. If you cannot make it on this trip, the Annual Christmas Bus Trip will be on December 18, 2016, so mark your calendars!

### **FACT SUMMER GAMES**

The FACT Annual Summer Games is moving to a new venue and making some new exciting

changes! Please watch your Email our website, FACEBOOK and the FACT News Letter for news of the new and improved FACT Summer Games!

### **Passing The Love Campaign!**

The face of AIDS has changed over the last 30 years and that, tragically, federal and local funding has been greatly reduced. What has not changed though is the need to help those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. The legacy that FACT supporters have created continues to help and enrich the lives of thousands of clients but to continue, FACT needs your financial support now more than ever. In celebration of FACTS 30 Year Anniversary, "Passing The Love Campaign" has a goal of raising \$30,000.00 during our historic anniversary year, so that we can continue our vital mission. Won't you consider a donation or pledge of \$300.00 to this campaign? Donations can be made in installments or as a lump sum. Please make your check payable to FACT.

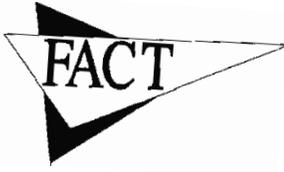
### **NEXT NEWS LETTER**

The next FACT News Letter will be out in June 2016. If you have an event that you would like covered or advertised in the news letter such as a raffle, a FACT House Party, a show or party where FACT will be the benefactor of donations, please let us know! Remember, not event is too small. Every dollar raised will help someone in need. Remember FACT is an all volunteer organization. There is no paid staff. Even though people are living longer and HIV/AIDS is not in the news as it once was, there are still people who are suffering from the effects of HIV/AIDS. Won't you help us continue the fight?

### **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  
P.O. Box 1028  
Allentown, PA 18105

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*Watch for our Upcoming Events*



**March 12, 2016 ~ Gail Hoover's Birthday Bash!**  
**April 2, 2016 ~ White Party at Diamonz in Bethlehem**  
**June 26, 2016 ~ FACT Bus Trip to New York Pride**  
**FACT Summer Games Location and event to be announced!!!**

