

The Common Thread

Phone: 610-820-5519

Fax: 610-820-8363

The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Fall Edition ~ 2009

www.factlv.org

P.O. BOX 1028

ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

IN THIS EDITION!

In Memory of Robert Burton

FACT Summer Games

AIDS Memorial Quilt

FACT House Party and Presentation

Board Member Honored

AIDS WALK

FACT General Membership Meeting

FACT BINGO!!!

Snowball

assisting any board member who needed it. His gentle nature and willingness to come to the aid of those who needed help stretched not only from his involvement in FACT, but also to involvement in the Pennsylvania Diversity Network and membership in the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley. Robert's care and concern even stretched toward the and care of rescue of many animals again reflecting his care and love for all of God's creation.



FACT Mourns The Loss Of Vice President, Robert Burton

It is with great sorrow and loss that the board of FACT announces the death of our Vice President and dear friend, Robert Burton. On November 2, 2009, Robert Burton, 39, of Bethlehem, died in Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg, very suddenly as a result of complications from a medical procedure.. He was the husband of Harry A. Abel they were married 11 years. Born in Allentown, he was a son of Margaret (Elvin) Burton and Howard P. Burton. He was a dialysis technician for Easton Kidney Clinic. He was vice president of F.A.C.T for the past year and prior had served as secretary and a board member and volunteer for several years. His kind heart and sense of responsibility to be involved in the community were a way of life for Robert. The impact he made on FACT as a whole will be greatly missed and the void left by his absence will be felt for sometime. Robert along with his husband were responsible for raising several thousand dollars through house parties they hosted over the years and most recently raised \$1600 at a party they had just held in September at their home. Over the last several years Robert could always be found working at fundraising events such as the FACT Summer Games, FACT Bingo, Snowball and

Robert is survived by his beloved husband, Harry Abel; mother, Margaret Burton; father, Howard Burton; sisters, Linda A. Burton and Maria Burton; brother, Donny Burton; son, Daniel H. Abel; daughters, Tiffany K. Lapp and Sarah E. Abel; grandchildren, Jadon Lapp, Gavin Abel, Isabella Lapp and Owen Abel; aunt and uncle, Mae and Jim OBrien; aunt, Patricia Elvin; niece, Jessica Morales; cousin, Susan Gonzalez; nephews, Stephen Morales and Sean Primer. He also leaves to mourn many friends and colleagues. He was preceded in death by a nephew, Colin Primer. Funeral services were held in Bethlehem on the evening of November 5, 2009 in the Herron Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that contributions in Robert's memory be made to FACT or to an animal shelter of your choice.

FACT SUMMER GAMES 2009 Another Success!!!!

Once again the weekend rains gave way to a bright sunny day for the 24th annual FACT Summer Games 2009, which took place on Sunday, September 13, 2009, at Rainbow Mountain Resort in the Pocono's! A crowd of over 400 people came to cheer on the 6 teams that competed this year. Throughout the day with the aid of co-host Tinsel Garland, everyone was entertained by various acts and performances by area celebrities. Great food and opportunities to bid on items from a silent auction as well as a called auction also added to the excitement of the day.

Free HIV testing was also available. Four blocks of panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt were also on display. This year's display contained many panels of loved ones from our own community. At 3:00 p.m. a moment of silence and reading of names of our friends who have died from HIV/AIDS or helped in the fight were read in a moving ceremony accompanied by the playing of Amazing Grace by James Ruhf on the bagpipes.

Of course the focus of the day was on the teams participating in the events organized by the co-chairs of the Games. When the events were over, Diamonz Bar in Bethlehem, once again won first place and retained the trophy. The Stonewall in Allentown won second place and Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley won third place! This year the Games raised \$13000. A debt of thanks is owed to Rainbow Mountain Resort and their staff who have hosted the FACT Summer games since the beginning. Their dedication and willingness to help FACT makes the work of running the games every year much easier. When you visit Rainbow Mountain, please let them know how much we appreciate their generosity!



Teams participate in drag race.

Visitors enjoy the day!



AIDS Memorial Quilt Displayed during the FACT Summer Games.

AIDS Memorial Quilt Display At the FACT Summer Games 2009.

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 Summer Games. There is opportunity to have new panels dedicated on the day of the Summer Games each year. 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 the quilt display was under written by donations made by the Long Funeral Home, Bethlehem; Ashton Funeral Home, Easton; Kohut Funeral Home, Allentown; Downing Funeral Home, Bethlehem and Bensing Funeral Home, Bath. We are also grateful to Long Funeral Home for receiving and sheltering the Quilt during its stay in the Lehigh Valley prior to the Games. If you would like to be a sponsor for next year's display please contact Lou James at FACT, call 610-820-5519.

FACT House party Includes a Special Presentation!

On Sunday, July 26, 2009, a house party to benefit FACT was held by Lou James at his home in Hanover Township. The theme "A Summer Afternoon with Friends" proved to be just that, as friends of FACT new and old, came together for a relaxing afternoon filled with food, libations and fun! \$600. was raised during this event. At the end afternoon it was announced that 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. Michael presented the check to FACT's Vice President, Robert Burton. Long Funeral Home has partnered with FACT in securing grants to fund the Angela Melendez Fund, which FACT administers. during the last 18 months, Long Funeral Home has secure over \$3000. in Grants for FACT. We are grateful to Michael Long and his staff for their generosity.



Robert Burton accepts check from Michael Long

FACT Board Member / Past President Honored

On October 20, 2009, FACT Board member and past President, David Moyer, was honored by the Allentown Human Relations Commission and awarded the Lauren Giguere Award of Distinction which is their highest honor the Commission presents. This honor was given to David for his many year of volunteerism not only to FACT but to our community. The awards ceremony took place at the Palace Center in Allentown. FACT is truly blessed to have David working with us. His years of experience working that the Allentown Health Bureau and his knowledge of infectious diseases have helped to educate our Board, as well as create good working relationships between the HIV/AIDS service organizations. David is also a Chairperson of the Lehigh Valley AIDS Walk and is instrumental in putting this event together each year. David congratulations on your award!



Senator Brown presents David with a citation

FACT LEHIGH VALLEY AIDS WALK 2009

FACT Lehigh Valley AIDS Walk, took place on October 4, 2009, beginning in the Bethlehem Rose Garden at Eighth Avenue. \$17000. was raised this year as an estimated 200 people walked the 5 kilometer course. A silent auction also provided opportunity for participants to raise money and bid on items of interest! The Red Ribbon Lady's were present to help man tables and organize the walkers. will Confidential HIV and STD testing was provided by the AIDS Service Center. Bethlehem Mayor Callaghan was also present and spoke to the walkers to encourage and thank them for their efforts! Barbara Bash of Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, gave the opening benediction. Food for the walkers after the walk was donated by Armondo.s on 7th Street in Allentown. The money raised by FACT's AIDS Walk, helps the area HIV/AIDS Service agencies in their work with those for whom they care for.

FACT General Annual Membership Meeting!

The annual general membership meeting of FACT will be on Monday, November 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at the FACT office, 245 N. 12th Street, Allentown, PA. Board elections and adoption of the 2010 budget will be on the agenda.

FACT BINGO!!!!

Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 1:00p.m. FACT will sponsor BINGO at the Rainbow Room Bingo Hall, 2413 Sunshine Road, Allentown. The event will be hosted by Sylvia Silverberg! The doors will open at 11:00 a.m. This event is BYOB! An ATM machine and Refreshments will also be available. Come out and join FACT for a fun day of BINGO! For more information call FACT at 610-820-5519.

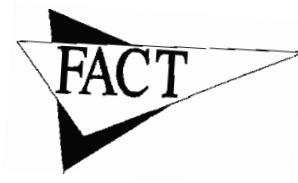
23rd ANNUAL FACT SNOWBALL!

The 23rd Annual FACT Snowball, will take place Sunday, December 6, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel Bethlehem, Main Street, Historic Bethlehem. The FACT Snowball is a major fund raising event for FACT. The theme of this years Snowball is **Roaring 20's!** The event is a black tie/period dress optional, dinner dance held each year as a fund raiser for FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together). The donation this year to attend the event will be \$60. per ticket This year attendees will be treated to a lavish cocktail hour (Cash Bar), scrumptious dinner and entertainment. A silent auction is also taking place throughout the evening. 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. We are expecting an estimated 250 people for this evening so reserve your tickets early! For more information please call Carl Mancino at 610-730-9155.

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.



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Watch for our Upcoming Events

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FACT BINGO November 15, 2009
November 16, 2009 ~ FACT General Membership Meeting
December 6, 2009 ~ Snowball

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