

# The Common Thread

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The Newsletter for *FIGHTING AIDS CONTINUOUSLY TOGETHER*

Spring Edition ~ 2009

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

P.O. BOX 1028  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

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## BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

The 8<sup>TH</sup> Annual FACT BINGO was held on Sunday, March 22, 2009, at the Rainbow Room BINGO Hall, home of Kim Mickey and Kevin Picht, located at 2413 Sunshine Road, Allentown. This exciting and fun filled afternoon Hosted by Durell Shelhammer and Carol Ann, consisted of all the great games and surprises that every BINGO player loves! There were many cash and gift prizes as well as food and refreshments. BINGO seems to be a Lehigh Valley favorite and we are grateful for the support of so many of you in making this event a success! Because of your support of this event, FACT raised \$4200.00! We thank all of you who attended and special thanks Kim and Kevin for welcoming us to their BINGO Hall and to Durell and Carol Ann who hosted the event. We are also very grateful for all of you who donated cash and prizes for the games. Your assistance in underwriting these expenses in these difficult economic times allows FACT to place more money raised into the needs of those who need our help. Another FACT BINGO is being planned for the Fall! Keep watching our website, the Newsletter and your mail for more details!!!



**BINGO Players intensely listening for their numbers!**



**Silvia Silverberg congratulates the winner of the basket of Cheer!**

## FACT Disco Bowl!!!!

Join FACT on Saturday, May 30, 2009 for a fund filled night of Bowling at AMF Parkway Lanes, 630 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Allentown. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. and Bowling begins at 6:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$20.00. Prizes and surprises will fill the night so come out and Disco Bowl the night away! Watch your mail for details!!! FACT Website will also carry information at [www.factlv.com](http://www.factlv.com).

## **Lee Gribbon's Sponsors Valentines Day HAVE A HEART!**

Lee Gribbon's on Main Street in Emmaus, took the opportunity to not only provide a fun filled night for the community, but a fund raiser for FACT by having a Pre-Valentine's Night event themed, *Have A Heart!* The gathering was held on Thursday, February 12, 2009. They raised \$300. for FACT. Lee Gribbon's, like some of the other area businesses, have been proactive in their efforts to raise money for FACT. We are very lucky to have the support of such businesses. When you go to Lee Gribbon's on Main, please let them know that their efforts are appreciated.

### **Is FACT Still Needed Today?**

In these trying economic times, contributions to charities are becoming harder and harder to come by. Many charities have the opportunity of receiving funds through government supported, fraternal or church related avenues. FACT, is always looking for opportunities for funding especially in this difficult time. Money raised in events sponsored by FACT goes directly to individuals and families in need as referred to us through the various HIV / AIDS service organizations throughout the Lehigh Valley and Pocono area. We are also grateful for the donations we receive from businesses and organizations you have remembered FACT. The dollars you donate to FACT help us to provide help where sometimes there is no other resource.

Not much is seen in the newspapers or heard on the news these days about HIV/AIDS. Since the Early 1980's and 1990's when the epidemic was at its peak, fear and misunderstanding of the disease, fueled prejudice and apathy against those who had contracted it. With the development of drug treatments and other medical protocols, people afflicted with HIV/AIDS are able to control the disease and are living longer and much more normal lives. However, along with these advances, HIV / AIDS has left the public eye and a new generation of individuals are under the misconception that HIV / AIDS has been cured and that there is no need to worry. Risky behavior and false understandings over how the disease is contracted have lead to a new resurgence of the disease. County by county HIV and AIDS infections rates were not available at this writing, but state statistics from 2007 were as follows:

*~ In 2007 there were 35,489 cases of AIDS reported in Pennsylvania, which accounted for 3% of cases nationwide.*

*~ Also in 2007 there were 1,030,837 cases of AIDS. These figures were cumulative since the beginning of the epidemic.*

*~ There were 1,750 new cases of AIDS (adult and adolescent) reported in Pennsylvania in 2007.*

*~ There were 19,236 individuals living with AIDS in Pennsylvania, according to the 2007 report.*

*~In 2007 there were also reported 3,694 new cases of HIV infection reported in Pennsylvania, which accounted for 6% of the 63,230 cases reported nationwide.*

*" These statistics were taken from the Kaiser Family Foundation - State Health Facts for Pennsylvania. "*

Given these sobering statistics, especially in the number of new HIV cases and AIDS cases in 2007 for Pennsylvania, it appears that the age of HIV/AIDS is not over. At this time and in the future, FACT will continue to be a resource for those in need. Perhaps even more than ever before as the unemployment rate rises, people continue to lose medical benefits, utilities rates rise and affordable housing become less affordable.

For these reasons FACT is still needed. It is hoped that your support will continue both financially as well as through volunteering. We continue to hope that one day, FACT will no longer be a needed organization. Until that day, let us continue Fighting AIDS Continuously Together.

### **Inner City Ecumenical Health Fair!**

An inner City Ecumenical Health Fair will be held on May 2, 2009, from 11-3 pm at the Cumberland Gardens Boys Club. FACT will provide an information table. Free and confidential HIV testing will be available as well as blood pressure, body fat index, Cholesterol and other free tests will be administered.

### **FACT SUMMER GAMES 2009!!!**

The FACT Summer Games 2009, will be here before you know it! The Summer Games will be held on Sunday, September 6, 2009 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 the opportunity for more teams will be available as well as, a 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 2009.

### **AIDS Memorial Quilt Display At the FACT Summer Games 2009.**

On May 11, 2009, a request will be sent to the NAMES Project, for 5 blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to be displayed at the FACT Summer Games 2009. If you would like to request a particular panel of a friend or a loved one that you would like displayed at the FACT Summer Games, please contact Lou James at the FACT office, 610-820-5519 or email him at [LJFD1997@aol.com](mailto:LJFD1997@aol.com) Please include the name of the deceased as it is written on the panel as well as the panel or block number if possible. If you know someone who has died from

AIDS and you would like to create a panel in their memory, you should also contact Lou at the above phone number and email address. 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. New panels will be dedicated and sent to the NAMES Project to be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The NAMES Project requires an honorarium for all displays of the quilt which help in it's storage and maintenance. If you would like to sponsor a portion of this honorarium, please contact FACT at 610-820-5519.

## **What Does FACT Haves Coming for 2009???**

FACT has many exciting events planned for the Spring, Summer and Fall of this year!

On May 17, 2009, a joint Karoke fundraiser with Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN), FACT and the Gay Men's Chorus, will be held at Diamonz in Bethlehem. It should be a great night of fun and excitement, as well as an opportunity to gather with your friends and support FACT, PDN and The Gay Men's Chorus!

May 30, 2009, FACT Disco Bowling! AMF Parkway Lanes, 630 S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Allentown.

As we begin the Summer Season in June when Takeover Lehigh Valley will sponsor a beach party themed Takeover Event at American Hairlines in Bethlehem! This event is expected to be one of the biggest events held by Takeover. There will be an admission donation as well as 50/50 raffles.

FACT Summer Games of Course will be September 6, 2009.

BINGO will be held in the late fall at the Rainbow Room, in Allentown.

AIDS Walk 2009, will be held in Bethlehem on October 4, 2009 beginning in the Bethlehem Rose Garden on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West Broad Street and Union Blvd.

Snowball 2009 will be held in December 2009. This event has always been a favorite of supporters of FACT and with the newly expanded planning committee for the event, a new and exciting theme and a possible new location are being explored! This years Snowball is promised to be even more fun and exciting that in the past, sow watch your mail for further information in the Fall!!!

Please watch your mail and quarterly newsletters for information, dates and times for these and more events that are in the planning stages!

## **How Can I help FACT???**

Anyone is welcome to help FACT! With the Spring and Summer upon us, one way to help FACT is by hosting a FACT House Party. All that is requested is that FACT be notified of the event and what it will consist of. A Fact

House Party does not need to be anything elaborate. Sometimes, just a simple fishbowl placed for attendees to place a donation or a set minimum donation is all that is needed. More elaborate events are also welcome! All you need is a little imagination! Holiday time or summer barbeques are great times to hold a house party as well! Remember, the money you raise for FACT may help to put food on the table, assist someone with a rent payment or pay for a life sustaining medication of someone infected/affected by HIV/AIDS Please contact FACT for further information or questions on how to hold a house party.

## **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 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](http://www.factlv.org) .

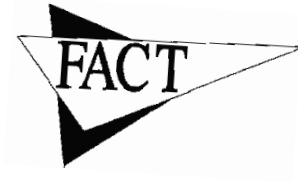
## **New Board Members Wanted!**

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 copy of your resume or a summary explaining to the board who you are and why you would like to come onto the board.

## **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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May 17, 2009 ~ Karoke Fundraiser at Diamonz

May 30, 2009 ~ FACT Disco Bowling!

May 2, 2009 ~ Health Fair

June 2009 ~ Takeover Event For FACT

September 6, 2009 ~ FACT Summer Games

Fall 2009 ~ FACT BINGO

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