



# Positive Press

The official newsletter of the Southern Colorado AIDS Project

## February 2012



Volume 4, Issue 2

“ If you judge people, you have no time to love them. ”  
- Mother Teresa

### Jane Fowler to Speak in Colorado Springs on March 9<sup>th</sup>

The public is invited to hear nationally renowned Jane Fowler speak about HIV and women at a noon luncheon held at the Antlers Hotel. The cost is \$10 per person. Jane will be presenting in observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 10<sup>th</sup>).



Fowler's story has been told, and her work described, by the national media on programs such as NBC Nightly News, 20/20, CNN, the Oprah Winfrey Show, as well as on CNN's prime-time special "Are You Positive?", on the PBS Second Opinion series segment "HIV in Middle Age," and on National Public Radio. Fowler's story has also appeared in print: Good Housekeeping, POZ, and People magazines, as well as in numerous metropolitan newspapers.

Fowler is a founding member of the U.S. Positive Women's Network. In late 2010, POZ magazine named her one the 100 most powerful, influential, and inspirational people working in the HIV/AIDS field in America today.

Jane's story is not just a cautionary tale to women and men who think they aren't at risk because of their age or their small number of sexual partners. Her story is also one of hope and the activism and volunteerism that have given Jane's life new meaning and purpose. RSVP is required, so call S-CAP to reserve your spot today!

### Lasagna Benefit on February 9<sup>th</sup>

A lasagna benefit dinner will be held in observance of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at The Metropolis Supper Club the evening of 02/09. This event is an S-CAP fundraiser and the cost is \$10 per person plus a can of food for the S-CAP food pantry. For each dinner purchased, The Metropolis will donate \$5 to S-CAP. For more information on this event, please see the Happenings & Notes section on page 3.



If there is something that you would like to see addressed in a future edition of The Positive Press or to receive the full-color newsletter electronically, contact Kevin at [ksullivan@s-cap.org](mailto:ksullivan@s-cap.org).

### People with HIV Living Longer in Colorado

According to the January/February issue of Poz.com, where you live in the United States has everything to do with how well you live with—and your odds for surviving—HIV. The article goes on to say that “people with HIV who live in the South are as much as two times likely to die prematurely than those living with virus in other states. The highest rates of mortality for positive residents can be found in: Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee” and several other Southern states.

Colorado is one of the states with the lowest HIV/AIDS mortality rates in the nation, along with Idaho, Connecticut, Utah, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The article concludes that “among the secrets of highly successful states: better testing and access to treatment, and more resources and services for people living with the virus.”



### Reminder for Medicare Part D Members

If you changed Medicare Part D plans during open enrollment in 2011, don't forget to let your Medical Case Manager know!



# S-CAP Bulletin Board

## Have you applied for LEAP yet?

We receive a high number of utility assistance requests during the winter months. As the payer of last resort, S-CAP is required to document that you have first applied for community resources before providing financial assistance. That said, LEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance) may be able to help you with your heating costs! In 2011, over 11,425 households requested LEAP assistance. This year, LEAP funding has decreased by 35% and the eligibility requirement has been reduced to 150% FPL. A non-US citizen will remain eligible if s/he has a US citizen as a dependent. Applications will be accepted until April 30<sup>th</sup>. The 2011-2012 application is now four pages. If you would like to apply, contact your Medical Case Manager.

## Flu shot: Have You Gotten Yours?

Influenza activity in the United States is low right now, making this the perfect time to get vaccinated! It takes about two weeks after vaccination for your body to develop an immune response. Get immunized now so that you will be protected throughout flu season. Ample supplies of the flu vaccine are now available. For more information, check out [www.s-cap.org](http://www.s-cap.org) or talk with your medical provider.

## Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP)

Please remember that CICP applications need to be renewed a year from the date of approval (not necessarily from your birthday). Please keep that in mind if you are using CICP services and check your card if you have any questions.

## Medicaid will expand to cover adults without dependent children

Colorado Medicaid will be expanding coverage to adults without dependent children on March 1, 2012. If you make between 0-10% of FPL (approximately \$91 dollars per month or lower for a household of one) and are currently uninsured, you may be eligible. Enrollment will be limited to the first 10,000 individuals who apply and are determined eligible. A waitlist of applicants will be maintained and eligible individuals will be automatically enrolled on a first come, first served basis. The Medicaid application will be available online as well as at other Medicaid enrollment sites. If you have any questions, please contact your Case Manager.

## Cooking Matters course to return to the Colorado Springs office in May

This popular course addresses the nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Each cooking session builds upon the previous week's lesson and focuses on nutrition and preparation techniques. A registered dietician and professional chef make this a fun way to learn to prepare nutritious, delicious meals affordably! Participants receive a bag of groceries to replicate the meal prepared in class every week. Participants also receive a recipe book with over 160 recipes. Keep your eyes peeled in future editions of *The Positive Press* for more details.

## S-CAP offers free HIV testing for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day


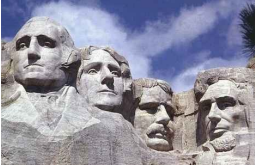
On February 11<sup>th</sup>, S-CAP staff will be at Oasis Barber & Beauty Salon and Xpressions Beauty Studio in Colorado Springs providing free HIV testing from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The theme of this year's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is "I am My Brother's/Sister's keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS."

HIV is a crisis in African-American communities, threatening the health, well-being, and potential of African-American men and women across the United States. While prevention efforts have helped to maintain stability in the overall level of HIV infections among this population for more than a decade, African-Americans continue to face the most severe burden of HIV and AIDS of all racial or ethnic groups in the nation.


The CDC states, "While blacks represent approximately 14% of the U.S. population, they account for almost half of people living with HIV in the U.S. (46%, or an estimated 545,000 people), as well as nearly half of new infections each year (44%, or an estimated 21,200 infections). An analysis by the Black AIDS Institute found that if black America were its own country, it would rank 16<sup>th</sup> in the world in the number of people with HIV—ahead of Ethiopia, Botswana, and Haiti." Please help spread the word about the importance of regular HIV testing!



# Happenings & Notes

- February 1** **Living Positively Synergy Group**  
S-CAP CS office boardroom  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
Support group for HIV+ clients only. Potluck-style dinner. Please bring a dish to share!
- February 9** **Lasagna Dinner Benefit**  
The Metropolis Supper Club  
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
  
This benefit will support National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Cost is \$10 per person plus a can of food for the S-CAP food pantry. For each dinner purchased, The Metropolis will donate \$5 to S-CAP. The evening will consist of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and live entertainment. RSVP is strongly encouraged, as there is limited seating. Call S-CAP to reserve your spot or visit our website to prepay online. The Metropolis is located at 1201 W. Colorado Avenue, 80905.
- February 14** **Pueblo Lunch & Learn**  
S-CAP Pueblo Conference Room  
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
This month's topic is HIV and Vitamin D. As an icebreaker activity, please bring a photo of someone or something that you love to share with the group! Lunch provided.
- February 15** **Living Positively Synergy Group: HIV and Cognitive Impairments**  
S-CAP CS office boardroom  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
Do you have trouble remembering? Can't focus well? This meeting will be led by professionals from The Brain Development Center and it is open to all. A light meal will be provided.
- February 20** **Happy Presidents Day!**  
  
Our offices will be closed on this date to allow our staff and volunteers to observe the holiday.
- February 21** **Grupo de apoyo (en español)**  
Sala de conferencias de S-CAP  
De las 5:30 a las 7:30 de la noche  
Grupo para personas infectadas con el VIH. ¡Vamos a festejar el Día del Amor y la Amistad! Si es posible, trae algún platillo para compartir. Si tienes preguntas, llama a Lupe a la oficina de Colorado Springs.

## -----Upcoming events-----

- March 03 – April 05** **Cooking Matters Course in Pueblo**  
The Cooking Matters course will be back in Pueblo every Thursday from 03/01–04/05! This course requires that participants commit to attending all 6 sessions. The cooking sessions build upon the previous week's lessons and focus on nutrition and preparation techniques. A registered dietician and professional chef make this a fun way to learn to prepare nutritious, delicious meals affordably! Participants receive a bag of groceries to replicate the meal prepared in class every week. Participants also receive a recipe book with over 160 recipes. RSVP to Linda in the Pueblo office.
- April 14**  
  
April 14, 2012  
The Ball is back! This yearly benefit supports individuals living with HIV & AIDS in southern Colorado and HIV prevention and advocacy activities. The event will take place at the Antlers Hilton Hotel and this year's entertainment will be Boogie Machine—the Super 70s Disco Dynamo! Check out our website for more details.

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## In the Spotlight:

### The HIV/AIDS landscape in 2012

Adapted from an article by Ronald Johnson of AIDS United

With all of the achievements, as well as some disappointments, of 2011 officially in the rear-view mirror, our attention now turns to 2012. This year is certain to be historic in the fight against HIV. Below, we preview some of the policy issues in 2012 that could turn the battle against HIV, for better or for worse.

**Affordable Care Act:** In 2012, 10 new provisions of President Obama's Affordable Care Act are set to be implemented. The provisions take important steps toward preventing fraud as well as changing the way that the government pays for health care. However, the highlight of 2012 is sure to be the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the ACA, with a focus on the individual mandate that requires all Americans to buy health insurance by 2014 or pay a penalty. The ruling is due by 2012, and it will be critical to determining the extent to which the ACA can be implemented in its original form. A second major highlight in 2012 will be working to develop the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) package. The EHB is one of the key provisions of ACA, as it guarantees that plans provide adequate benefits to those enrolled—benefits that will mirror the typical employer-sponsored plan.

**Appropriations:** The President will submit his Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 budget proposal to Congress no later than the first Monday of February. The FY 2013 proposal is expected to conform with the spending cap mandated by the Budget Control Act. The FY 2012 budget cut \$700 million from the Departments of Health and Human Services budget, though some notable HIV/AIDS programs were essentially able to maintain their FY 2011 funding levels, including the CDC's HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis Prevention programs; the Minority AIDS initiative; and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

**Deficit Reduction:** In 2011, debts and deficits drove fiscal policy and political rhetoric, and 2012 looks to be no different. Deficit reduction talks in 2012 will revolve around the Budget Control Act of 2011, the legislation that mandated Congress to develop a plan that would reduce the deficit by \$1.2-\$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Congress' deadline for approving a plan is January 2, 2013. If Congress does not reach an agreement, \$1.2 trillion will be cut automatically with 50% being slashed from defense programs and the other 50% coming from nondefense programs. Certain members of Congress have already called for defense programs to be exempted from the automatic cuts. The thought of any HIV/AIDS programs potentially being on the chopping block is a scary notion indeed.

**Elections:** Elections in 2012 will determine our President as well as the composition of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. The new Congress and the winner of the presidential election will be faced with reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act (which in large part funds AIDS service organizations such as S-CAP), implementing the major reforms of the Affordable Care Act, continuing the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, and determining funding for domestic HIV/AIDS programs. Additionally, a number of biomedical HIV interventions are already under development, and will require the financial commitment and vocal support of all of our political leaders.

**Syringe Exchanges:** In the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations, Congress reintroduced a ban on federal funding for syringe exchange programs (SEPs). Despite the fact the SEPs have been proven to reduce rates of HIV transmission in a way that is very cost-effective, the ban, which was originally instituted in the late 1980s and overturned in 2009, was reinstated. In 2012, HIV advocates and organizations will and must work to hold Congress and the White House accountable for this step backward in the fight against HIV.

**Biomedical advances:** The past couple of years have seen a flurry of biomedical advances that have given many hope that science is finally starting to turn the tables in the fight against HIV. In 2011, we saw encouraging results in trials that tested vaccines, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and the efficacy of ARV treatment in preventing transmission in serodiscordant couples. In 2012, the FDA will consider an application from Gilead Sciences, that requests that Truvada be labeled as an HIV PrEP in addition to its current label as an HIV treatment drug. In short, PrEP is the use of HIV medications to prevent HIV transmission. Gilead's request is based on findings from a worldwide study showing that PrEP containing Truvada reduced the rate of HIV incidence by 44%. Additionally, the Follow-on African Consortium for Tenofovir Studies (FACTS) trial is conducting a study to investigate the effectiveness of a vaginal microbicide gel containing Tenofovir. This study will test if Tenofovir is effective at preventing HIV and Herpes 2 transmission among women when used immediately before and after sex. Results are expected in 2013.

**International AIDS Conference:** For the first time in 20 years, the International AIDS Conference (IAC) will be held in the United States. Appropriately, the conference will be held in Washington D.C. The location and the timing of the conference (during an election year) will create an extraordinary opportunity for HIV activists to call for presidential and Congressional candidates to take a position on the numerous legislative policies that impact people living with HIV/AIDS.