

The Eric Johnson House Newsletter



Spring 2008

New Jersey AIDS Walk Sunday, May 4th 2008

Make a difference in the lives of people living with HIV!

WHAT: A 10 Kilometer walk touring beautiful downtown and historic sections of Morristown (*an alternative 1 mile route is available*). Rest / water stops are frequent and volunteers provide plenty of encouragement along the way.

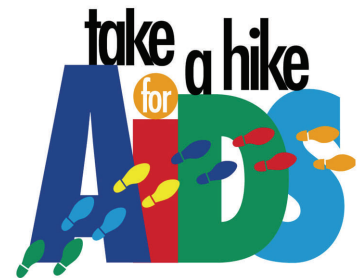
WHEN: Sunday, May 4th - Registration at 12:00 pm - Walk commences at 1:00 pm.

HOW: Tell everyone you meet that you are participating in The New Jersey AIDS Walk. Ask them to make a donation in honor of your effort. No need to pre-register as a walker. Simply submit your pledge form (see enclosed) and all donations on Sunday, May 4th.

Interested in Volunteering?

There are plenty of opportunities for individuals and groups. Please contact us at 973•326•9636 to register as a volunteer.

**Music and Entertainment
provided by:**



Are you interested in learning more about The Eric Johnson House?

Join Us For A Building Opportunities Tour: *An Open House Event*

This free one-hour open house is a great way to become familiar with our facility, meet our staff and learn more about our mission, vision and programs.

Wednesday, April 10, 2008 9:00 - 10:00 am

Thursday, April 16, 2008 9:00 - 10:00 am

Thursday, June 12, 2008 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 16, 2008 9:00 - 10:00 am

Witness first-hand the difference we are making in the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS!

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP by calling 973•326•9636 or email info@theericjohnsonhouse.org

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Staff Happenings

We welcome our new Mental Health Counselors, Ms. Tara Ely and Mr. Edward Jankowski.

Tara received her BA in Psychology and her Masters in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is licensed by the State of New Jersey as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

Ed received his BA in Psychology from William Paterson University and his Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW) from Fordham University. He is licensed by the State of New Jersey as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).



Left:
Case Managers deliver food baskets to Aftercare Clients for the holidays.



Above: *Case Management staff ringing the door bell of an Aftercare Client to deliver a hot meal.*

The Aftercare Program... A Success!

Client X was a graduate of The Eric Johnson House Transitional Housing Program. After he moved into his own apartment, he gradually lost contact with The Eric Johnson House. Feeling alone and isolated, he reverted to old behaviors. Through the outreach of the Aftercare Program, staff continued to try to contact him by phone, but he remained resistant and didn't return calls. The night before Thanksgiving, while Aftercare staff were delivering hot meals to graduates, they knocked on the door of Client X. Shocked and surprised to see them, Client X hurriedly accepted the food package. Taped to the hot meal was the phone number of The Eric Johnson House and a note from case management asking Client X to call when he was ready for help. Nine days later, the phone rang. It was Client X.... he was ready.

Through the intervention of the Aftercare staff he was able to get his health care needs immediately met and locate a healthier, safer living situation. Today, Client X is an active member of the Aftercare Program, attending monthly peer support meetings, participating in case management and personally understands the importance using a support system, like the one provided by the Aftercare Program of The Eric Johnson House.

The Aftercare Program follows our residential graduates as they transition back into the community and move into independent living. Services include monthly peer support groups, weekly phone contact, food basket distribution, substance abuse counseling, and mental health counseling. It provides the necessary supportive services that allow our clients to live independently, while knowing that help is always available as they navigate their way back into society.

The Eric Johnson House Fall Golf Classic

will be held on

October 13, 2008

at the

Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater, NJ

For more information
please visit the Upcoming Events
page of our website:

www.theericjohnsonhouse.org

Our Education and Prevention Programs

There is no cure for HIV!
So... what you don't know just might kill you!!

The Education and Prevention Programs of The Eric Johnson House aim to educate the community at large about the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis in America and to provide up to date information on prevention strategies, community impact and involvement and treatment options.

Youth Education:

The staff of The Eric Johnson House visit schools throughout the year to help educate youth about HIV/AIDS. A comprehensive presentation is given detailing the modes of transmission, risky behaviors and general HIV/AIDS facts. This is followed by an experiential presentation given by a client of The Eric Johnson house discussing their experiences living with HIV and what led them to The Eric Johnson House.

Community and Corporate Education:

The Eric Johnson House provides HIV/AIDS training to any corporation or community organization interested in scheduling a presentation. Staff discuss the modes of transmission, risky behaviors, and workplace issues related to living with HIV/AIDS.

To request a presentation call 973-326-9636.

Did You Know ...

- Thirty-six percent of those living with HIV/AIDS are females. Four out of five females living with HIV/AIDS are minorities.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of pediatric cases living with HIV/AIDS are minorities.
- New Jersey has the 5th highest rate of HIV infection; and yet was the last state to strike down legislation forbidding syringe exchange.
- Atlantic City began the state's first legal syringe exchange program on Nov. 27, 2007. Twenty people participated on the programs first day of operation.
- In 2007, two new agents in two new antiretroviral classes were approved by the FDA for use with treatment-experienced HIV patients.
- Seventy-four percent (74%) of those living with HIV or AIDS are 40 years of age or older.



Left:

Laurie Litt-Robbins and Joann McEniry conduct Community HIV/AIDS Education at The Eric Johnson House.

Our staff said "it was the best training they attended that was offered at our agency. All of the surveys were positive and all day afterwards people came up to me and complimented the wonderful job you did in explaining such a difficult topic."

— *Christa Utz, Dir. of Education & Empowerment
Mental Health Association of Morris County, Inc.*

This newsletter is dedicated in the memory of Veronica Capo and Willie McClendon.

The mission of The Eric Johnson House is to respond compassionately and responsibly to the HIV/AIDS crisis by providing supportive services, housing opportunities, prevention strategies, and community education in New Jersey.

The vision of The Eric Johnson House is to help create a community where the social issues related to HIV/AIDS are abundantly met.

Upcoming Events

<i>New Jersey AIDS Walk</i>	<i>5/4/2008</i>
<i>Building Opportunities Tours</i>	<i>4/10/2008</i> <i>4/16/2008</i>
<i>Fall Golf Classic</i> <i>at Raritan Valley Country Club</i>	<i>10/13/2008</i>

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