

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Get Ready For This Year's ARS Events...



25th Annual Twilight Auction

Just like the precious metal silver, our 25th Annual Twilight Auction is shaping up to be a priceless evening! For the last 25 years this has been one of our largest and most popular fundraisers and we're hoping this year it will be a real milestone event! The Auction will take place on November 13th, 2010 at the new Residence Inn by Marriot located at 100 Deer Street. Both a silent and a live auction will include items such as merchandise, gift certificates, artwork and travel packages. Light appetizers and a cash bar will enhance the celebration which will begin at 4:00pm.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or donating an item, please contact our office at 603.433.5377 or info@aidsresponse.org



Epoch Restaurant in Exeter Holds Fundraiser for ARS

Please join us at the Epoch Restaurant and Bar at the Exeter Inn, 2 Pine Street in Exeter, NH on Monday, October 25th, 2010. Epoch will donate \$5.00 to AIDS Response Seacoast for every dinner entrée they sell. Every Monday night Epoch makes a donation to area Seacoast non-profits. Please come, have a great meal and at the same time help AIDS Response Seacoast. Call 603.778.3762 for reservations or book online at www.OpenTable.com.

Timeshare Raffle to Benefit AIDS Response Seacoast

ARS is excited to announce that it is raffling off a chance to win a Rangeley Lake Resort Timeshare in Rangeley, Maine. The timeshare, which is a gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2 full bathroom, fully furnished log cabin (with maid service available for a fee), is a deeded ownership and is located just steps from legendary Rangeley Lake.

The timeshare is for one week the third week in August and is good for odd years (2011, 2013, 2015 etc...). The owner of this beautiful timeshare will also have the ability to exchange their week at Rangeley Lake Resort for one of 1,800 luxury destinations world-wide with Interval International and Festiva Resorts. Additional nights may be possible by checking availability up to two weeks in advance. If available, the owner would pay a nightly rate of \$89.

The lodge at Rangeley Lake Resort provides breathtaking views, an indoor heated pool, hot tub, sauna, athletic center, and game room. Outdoor activities include downhill and cross-country skiing, boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, stargazing, and moose-watching. The charming town of Rangeley is within walking distance where you can enjoy dining, shopping and antiquing.

Tickets for this raffle are only \$50 each with a total of just 200 tickets to be sold. The drawing is going to be held on December 1st, 2010 at the offices of ARS. For more information call 603.433.5377 or visit our website at www.aidsresponse.org



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ARS CONNECTIONS

Is the newsletter of

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of ARS,

Tempest fugues, as we all know, and though you have not heard from us for a while we have been very busy working on the issues most important to ARS and serving those who need the assistance and services we provide. The past year has been an exciting, and often challenging, time for our agency with New Hampshire state funding being of the most concern to us for fiscal year 2011. Although funding had been provided for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 by the N.H. Legislature in 2009, budget shortfalls in 2010 threatened our funding for 2011 as the legislature and Governor Lynch worked to reduce the state's deficit. In the end, however, funding was restored for 2011 with the help of many N.H. Representatives and Senators, most notably Sen. Martha Fuller Clark, all of whom understand the importance of continued financial support for the state's five AIDS Service Organizations. Without this financial support we at ARS would not be able to provide many of the services we do for the men and women of the Seacoast region living with HIV and AIDS. Although we are "safe" for this fiscal year, which ends June 30th of 2011, the continued financial support from the State of New Hampshire for future years is uncertain and many feel in jeopardy.

On a brighter note, the Board of Directors is hard at work preparing for the 25th Annual Twilight Auction to be held on Saturday, November 13th at the new Residence Inn in Portsmouth. Please show your support for this milestone event by attending, and as they say..."bid high and bid often". There is more information about all of our upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter.

We thank you for your past support and are hopeful that we can count on you in the future. Please watch for our Annual Appeal which will be mailed in November. Your gifts will be more critical than ever. Please feel free to call or email me at any time. I can be reached at 603.533.5377 Ext. 2230 or by email at rwagner@aidsresponse.org.

Again, thank you for your support.

Richard Wagner

Volunteer!

For the Board... for the office... for data entry... for the auction - or whatever suits you and the time you have to give!

Email:

info@aidsresponse.org

ARS Now Offers Rapid HIV Testing Know Your Status

We are pleased to announce that AIDS Response Seacoast is now approved to offer OraQuick ADVANCE® Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Tests which detects antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2. OraQuick® provides results in 20 minutes, enabling individuals to learn their status in a single visit and allows HIV positive persons to be connected to immediate care. Detection is the first step in prevention. To schedule an appointment please contact Kristin Thole or Josh McSherry-Brown at 603.533.5377.

Letter from the President

I have always enjoyed gardening and this year has been no exception. Whether it is getting my hands dirty at the first sign of Spring or the continuous weeding, replanting throughout the Summer and Fall, the benefits are everlasting and memorable.

I buy seeds in January, heirloom plants at the first Farmer's market and turn over the soil as soon as the ground softens from the cold, winter months. I plant after the last full moon in May, because that is what I was taught. I look forward to the renewal of life and the change of seasons each and every year. Everyone does.

Then the fun begins as the garden shows signs of life! The ground breaks open with lettuce and radish seedlings, the birds feed on bugs and worms, the bugs feed on the new plantings and the critters scurry the gardens to find new holes to dig. It is never ending and never the same. But, in the end, my friends and family enjoy the delicious asparagus, raspberries, tomatoes, egg plants and lettuce that are bountiful to eat.

The challenges of gardening until harvest time are endless. There are always obstacles; the wild weather that we experience now and then, damaging the crops; replanting afterwards in a very short growing season and unforeseen things that no one can control.

ARS is like growing a garden. It started as a grass roots organization in 1987 and has always relied on someone to keep the foundation fertile, so that the people in need are fed the harvest, done by the hard work of the ARS Staff, Board and Volunteers. Everyday and every year, we plan for the next harvest. Whether it is a fundraiser, such as the AIDS Walk, Twilight Auction, Red Ribbon Ball, Dining Out for Life, or the Spring Garden Party, each are meticulously planned so that the annual budget can be fruitful and benefit the clients that ARS serves, everyday.

The clients rely on each and every one of us to survive, including sponsors, donors and volunteers who give back to the community through their available resources. Without the financial support and hard work of all, there would be no crops to harvest in the end and the garden would be taken over by weeds and fade away. The challenges are even greater this year, yet, if all of us work together, as we have in the past, the season ahead will be even more fruitful, bountiful and rewarding.

Richard Leigh, President
ARS Board of Directors

ARS Website Gets a Facelift!

We are very excited to finally have the opportunity to improve our website and be able to provide more up to date information and easier navigation to our clients, the Seacoast community and those around the country that are interested in the services we provide and the work that we do. Currently the site is 'under construction' but should be completed in mid September so be sure to check it out at www.aidsresponse.org and follow us on Facebook too!

Speaker's Bureau Update

The Speaker's Bureau continues to provide speakers for a variety of venues including schools, churches, community-based organizations, homeless shelters and crisis centers. If you're interested in having a speaker do a program, please contact Rachel at:

education@aidsresponse.org

ARS Client Services

Case management, provided by our Client Services Department, is available to people at all stages of HIV disease. Case managers work with clients to assist in the coordination of needed social and medical services, provide linkage to other area human services agencies, and help in the organization of a care plan. An important component of case management involves assisting clients through complex medical and social systems to access needed resources. Emphasis is placed on improving individual quality of life and supporting client-centered decision making. Case managers strive to provide current information and consistent support to the client, their partners and loved ones. Case management services include:

- Direct financial support for housing, fuel, transportation to medical appointments, mental health and substance abuse counseling.
- Education and information about HIV disease, transmission, and prevention.
- Linkage with direct service volunteers for practical support such as rides to medical and other appointments, housekeeping, daily chores or moving.
- Assistance with applying for Social Security, Disability, Medicaid and food stamps; and other eligible programs.
- Referrals for medical and dental/oral care and treatment; mental health services (individual and group support, drug and alcohol treatment); assistance with advanced directives and estate planning; emergency financial assistance for eligible persons; complementary therapies (acupuncture, massage therapy and others); vision care.
- Collaboration on referrals to medical professionals in the seacoast area.

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Please visit us online at
www.aidsresponse.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

EPOCH RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER IN EXETER, NH—OCTOBER 25, 2010

ALL HALLOWS EVE HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE YORK HARBOR INN—OCTOBER 30, 2010

25TH ANNUAL TWILIGHT AUCTION—NOVEMBER 13, 2010 AT THE RESIDENCE INN IN PORTSMOUTH

WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1, 2010

SPRING GARDEN PARTY AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN IN PORTSMOUTH—MARCH 2011

DINING OUT FOR LIFE® - APRIL 28, 2011

SEACOAST AIDS WALK—MAY 1, 2011

AIDS CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL—MAY 15, 2011

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