Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

E-news - For Supporters and Friends **March 2011**

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CREW VOLUNTEERS WANTED - Friends For Life Bike Rally

Are you available July 24-29 this summer? Why not donate your time to PWA's largest fundraiser the Friends For Life Bike Rally. Your time and support makes the Bike Rally possible!

If you are interested in participating in this exciting event, as a valued Crew member, please contact Katherine at khampton@pwatoronto.org or call her at 416-506-1400 ext. 238!

What it means to be a registered charity

PWA is a Canadian registered charity - # 13111 3151 RR 0001. As

Hello friends,

Time has sprung forward which means, the warm weather is just another couple steps away and the Friends For Life Bike Rally training rides are only a couple weeks away as well. In April, the first Bike Rally training rides will commence, which anyone is welcome to participate in (you don't have to be registered for the 2011 Ride). If you would like to learn more about the training rides, the routes and details, visit: BikeRally.org

Have a great day, from all of us at PWA!

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments about PWA's monthly e-news, please contact us at **info@pwatoronto.org** or at 416-506-1400 ext. 239.

CLIMAX - May 15 2011

CLIMAX 2011 - Presented by PROUD FM featuring Jully Black, Richard Ryder, Jeffrey Straker and Miss Conception in support of PWA on May 15th at 1pm at the National Ballet School (400 Jarvis St.) Join us for the second annual CLIMAX!

HOST BAR and LIGHT BRUNCH included in the ticket price, $75.

To Purchase your ticket(s) online, click here!

If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets over the phone, call Kristen at 416-506-1400 ext. 239 or email donate@pwatoronto.org.

March Food Drive

Organized by Mr. Spearhead 2011, Dwayne Bryk for PWA's Food Programs, please drop off non-perishable foods at the following locations: The Black Eagle, Steamworks and Priape. Each site will be drawing for a Priape Basket valued at $100!

Thanks to Mr. Spearhead for organizing this Month of March Food Drive, in support of PWA's Essentials Market, the only food bank in Toronto, exclusively for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In Other News... Treatment Access News

such PWA is registered with the Canadian Revenue Agency and is entrusted with issuing charitable tax receipts for donations made for fulfilling our mission, of providing practical direct support services for all people living with HIV/AIDS.

If you are interested in learning more about your unique tax situation and how to calculate your charitable tax credits, visit the Canadian Revenue Agency website at How To Calculate My Charitable Tax Credits

PWA is the largest provider of practical direct support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada and is also the sole provider of a medication access program. People who cannot access HIV medications can receive help from our Treatment Access Program through Llewellyn, PWA's Treatment Access Coordinator. Through the program, *PWA works with HIV doctors and pharmaceutical companies to help people receive short-term access to medical care and medications.* This program also provides referrals and advocacy to help establish long-term access to medical and drug coverage through government assistance programs, such as the Trillium Drug program.

While the program is available to any person living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario who faces barriers to medications, it is especially valuable to people from countries where HIV is endemic. These individuals who are engaged in the immigration/refugee process, are not yet covered by any drug plan and are unable to finance HIV medications privately.

Update on HIV criminalization

A message from the co-chairs of the Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure.

On behalf of the Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure, we are very pleased to provide an update on the campaign urging Ontario's Attorney General to undertake a process to develop guidelines for criminal prosecutors in cases involving allegations of non-disclosure of HIV status. The campaign calls on the Attorney General to ensure that people living with HIV, communities affected by HIV, legal, public health and scientific experts, health care providers, and AIDS service organizations are meaningfully involved in the process to develop such guidelines.

We are very happy to report that the Attorney General has begun to heed the concerns of the over 900 organizations and individuals that have thus far endorsed the campaign - the Working Group recently received confirmation that the Ministry of the Attorney General is engaged in a process to develop guidance materials for Crown prosecutors in the area of HIV-related prosecutions.

We applaud the Attorney General for taking this step. However, the timeframe for the issuance of the guidelines and the consultation process that will inform the development of the guidelines are unclear. The Working Group is waiting for a response from the Ministry on these issues.

While waiting for a response, the Working Group is planning province-wide consultations on this issue. The consultations will take place over the next two months in all regions of the province, and will involve people living with HIV, communities affected by HIV, legal, public health and scientific experts, women's sexual assault service providers and women's criminal justice advocates, and AIDS service organizations. In addition, we will be conducting an online consultation, open to everyone. Further information regarding the consultations will be forthcoming.

We urge you to continue gathering endorsements to ensure that guidelines are issued in a timely manner and that meaningful consultation informs development of the guidelines. Please encourage your contacts to endorse the campaign, at www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca/clhe

Thank you very much for your support.

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Co-Chair, Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure
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ABOUT PWA

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation is the largest provider of practical direct support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada.

People living with HIV/AIDS play a crucial role in the governance and operation of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, but, most important, are its heart and soul. PWA's response to HIV/AIDS is,

more than anything else, inspired by the voices and experience of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you for your support and interest in Toronto People With AIDS Foundation's work.

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Charitable Registration Number - 13111 3151 RR0001

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