

Nitto Marquez

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA), joined by many voices at ACAS and within the broader community, mourn the loss of Nitto Marquez, cherished friend and colleague.

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Nitto Marquez, cherished friend and colleague. Nitto died April 29th, 2008 with his partner and sister present.

Nitto's community leadership included co-founding the Gay Asians Toronto in 1980 and co-founding the Toronto Chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence dedicated to the "promulgation of joy and expiation of guilt".

After his HIV+ diagnosis in 1996, Nitto looked for information and support from ACAS. His natural leadership, insight and passion for supporting others resulted in his involvement on the ACAS Board of Directors followed by 3 years as Chair.

"As time went on, my attitude of defeat and helplessness turned into one of empowerment against this disease..."

Nitto joined the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation in 2001, working in several roles including Intake Worker, Speakers Bureau Coordinator and Benefits & Assistance Case Manager. Throughout his community involvement, he touched many people and impacted HIV awareness by sharing his story publicly and in the media. The following quote from Nitto's story, shared in the ACAS 10th Anniversary Book, captures Nitto's passionate commitment to helping others, "As time went on, my attitude of defeat and helplessness turned into one of empowerment against this disease, and into a definite resolve to help others who are facing the same health situation."

This passion, perhaps more than anything else will define our memory of Nitto and the huge loss to our community.



Yes PWA is planning to move offices!

You may have heard the rumours that PWA is moving and yes that is the plan.

Our lease runs out in October and this is a perfect opportunity for us to respond to issues identified in our strategic plan. Accessibility and creating a more physically welcoming space where people can connect are key directions we want to respond to.

Over the years, we have grown considerably. And so has our Food Bank! It has always been a challenge that the Food Bank is in the basement. We see our clients struggling to get their bundle buggies up the stairs so one of our moving criteria is that the Food Bank be more accessible.

We hope to stay as close to the existing office as possible to maximize access for many clients and volunteers and also to strengthen our ability to create key partnerships with other agencies.

We're very excited and will let you know when we know more!

Help make the Pie bigger.



"By telling my friends about Pie in the Sky, I feel like I'm doing them a favour," said one pie peddler about selling pies in this important fundraiser for PWA's food programs. The exciting event has attracted chefs from such celebrated restaurants as Mildred Pierce, the Four Seasons and Scaramouche to bake pies that volunteer pie peddlars sell in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.

Pies are the Thanksgiving dessert par excellence. And rather than feel guilty about not baking your own, you might feel guilty for not participating in Pie in the Sky. Especially, since a \$35 pie can bring a meal to ten people with HIV/AIDS — maybe the only nutritious meal they get.

Every 15 minutes of every day, PWA provides a healthy meal to a homebound man, woman or child whose long term survival depends on proper nutrition. And that takes a lot of pies.

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Please join us — especially if you belong to a group you could involve (like the Fraternity) or a company where you could approach your colleagues. As a committee member commented last year, "one man sold over 50 pies to his colleagues at a bank with just an e-mail." It can be as simple as just sending an e-mail to your friends and colleagues. And as important as supporting the lives of people with AIDS. This year's goal is to bake and sell 1,500 pies!

And dessert has never been sweeter. Especially for the more than 500 people who depend on our food programs every month. Last year we provided over 30,000 meals, and statistics show that this need for meal support will continue to grow.

To get involved — selling pies, organizing the event, approaching bakers etc. — please contact Stephen at sjohnson@pwatoronto.org

With your help, the sky's the limit.





SPOKESFOLKS

THE BIKE RALLY CORNER

Bike Rally Celebrates as we pass our \$5-Million Fundraising Milestone and our tenth year!

The Friends For Life Bike Rally is ten years old and we are celebrating our contribution to the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation! We are celebrating:

- ten years of funds raised;
- ten years of awareness raised for PWA Toronto;
- ten years of awareness raised for HIV/AIDS; and
- the volunteers, donors and supporters who have helped us become such a success.

For our tenth year — we are raising more awareness, more money and engaging more volunteers, donors and sponsors than ever before (including Scotiabank who have signed on as our presenting sponsor.) With close to 350 riders and 120 crew, we are on target to raise over \$1 million this year and we were thrilled to have been voted the Honoured Group at Pride Toronto 2008.

The Bike Rally is a small mobile community that travels from Toronto to Montreal — we have grown to become the second-largest fundraiser benefiting an HIV/AIDS organization in Canada.

We also have a new slogan: As Long As There's A Reason... There's A Ride

The new slogan teases people when they hear about the Bike Rally to enquire as to the reason — and we are more than happy to tell the story of PWA.

Ten years ago, the Bike Rally started as a brave challenge between a dedicated PWA board member, David Linton, and an enthusiastic supporter, Danny Nashman. Neither was an avid cyclist, though they imagined it was possible to bike from Toronto to Montreal within a week. They initiated that challenge, brought together people who would support them, and started a fundraising tradition that has grown tremendously in such a short period of time.

In the first few years of the Bike Rally, rider and crew populations were small. In fact, it started with only 23 riders and six crew members. Challenges were dealt with on the road and on the fly; discovery and organization came with each new hurdle. Crew and riders cooked their own food and worked with a small squad of a borrowed van and a truck.

As our population grew, and awareness of the event increased, so too did the need for big logistical management. Today the ride employs the services of a catering company, a volunteer professional health and wellness team as well as a mechanics team, and when it comes to a nightly rest, we fill up entire wings of campsites along the journey.



The evening of the fifth day of the event is possibly the most memorable. On the banks of the St. Lawrence River we hold a candlelight vigil to pause to reflect on why we are participating in the Bike Rally. Our crew and riders share or listen. The shared stories are always emotional, they range from stories of loss to the stories of those who are living — and fighting HIV/AIDS. They are the reason — they are the Love of the Bike Rally.

As Long As There's A Reason... There's a ride.

Claudia's Story

I met my husband when I was 15, we were best friends for four years and it just made sense to get married. We married at 19 and 21 in 1991. Our plans for the future were focused around our faith; he was going to be a minister of the Presbyterian Church. I wanted to have our own church, our manse, a white picket fence and 4 children; all of those plans changed when I was diagnosed HIV positive in 1994.

I was infected by my husband who was living his life in the closet and having sex with men. He grew up in a very religious family, and he felt that if he talked about his attraction to men to anyone he would lose everyone he loved, including me.

The next two months were horrific. A new mother and father, awaiting the test results for our baby boy, who we discovered was HIV negative. I spent the next 2 years struggling to come out of a very deep clinical depression. I couldn't just snap out of it for anyone.

The depression began to subside. When I came to grips with the fact that I was HIV positive, I didn't count myself in to the equation of HIV because I was a woman, I was a Christian, a mother, a straight woman and I wasn't a victim — I began to see clearly. It took time but I eventually forgave my husband; I came to understand how difficult it must have been for him being raised by a Salvation Army officer and hiding this secret from everyone who was close to him. Although we are not together anymore we are very good friends and co-parents to our amazing son.

People test HIV positive because they don't factor themselves in, they don't think it can happen to them. It can. I did not factor myself into the equation of HIV/AIDS. I have met many women whose stories are similar to mine. They say "I haven't slept with enough people to be worried about HIV". My husband was the second person I had sex with; until society grasps that HIV can happen to anyone we will still continue to see high rates of HIV infection.

I have to say that my life changed for the better after testing HIV positive, my eyes were opened to a whole new world but the transition was difficult. I had to quit my job and start the process of Long Term Disability and I had to figure out how to survive financially.

Then I came to PWA. Having that support during such a difficult time really meant the world to me. I remember a time when I didn't have money for groceries and relied on the food bank to feed my family. I know how much their services mean to clients because I relied on it at one point in my life.

I became involved in the HIV/AIDS community: I joined the PWA Speakers Bureau and really found myself through the process of speaking about my life regularly.

The experience gave me the courage to enter the workforce. I got a job at Voices of Positive Women and after 3 years came to PWA to work as The Speakers Bureau Coordinator and now I'm a Benefits and Assistance Case Manager. I am grateful that PWA was a part of my life experience to grow and overcome my fears of living with HIV. Thank you, PWA .

Community Events

TICOT (The Imperial Court of Toronto) has named PWA to receive proceeds from all its fundraising activities. TICOT is famous for its support of local charities.

Her Most Imperial Sovereign Majesty, The New Look, Maple Leaf Empress, Empress XXI Bitsie Vanderbelt has chosen the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, Food For Life meal delivery program, as the recipient of all fundraising activities for 2007/2008! Please show your support for PWA by attending TICOT's upcoming events:

July 13th — Patio Show at Zelda's Restaurant and Bar on Church Street from 6-8pm

July 13th — Empress' Retreat & Barn Show at Cedar's Campground

July 27th — Patio Show at Zelda's Restaurant and Bar on Church Street from 6-8pm

Aug 10th — Patio Show at Zelda's on Church Street from 6-8pm

Aug 24th — Patio Show at Zelda's on Church Street from 6-8pm

Oct 11th — Coronation Ball 2008
"The Springtime in Paris Ball" at Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel at 525 Bay Street

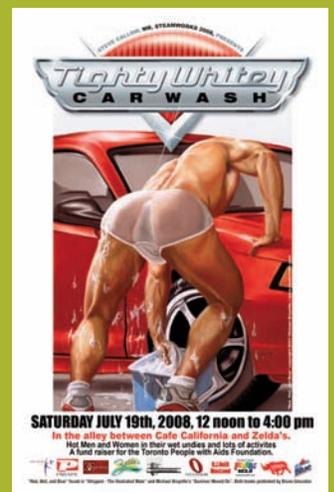
Priape has partnered with PWA for 2008. At its grand opening on Sunday May 11th, Priape donate 15% of all sales, over \$800 to support the Friends For Life Bike Rally. We look forward to more events at the new store!

Tighty Whitey Car Wash

Hot guys and gals clad only in their underwear will join Steve Callow, Mr. Steamworks 2008, for his Tighty Whitey Car Wash.

July 10 & 18 —
Tighty Whitey pre-event & shows at Woody's (465 Church Street)

July 19 — Tighty Whitey Car Wash from noon to 4 in the alley between Café California and Zelda's restaurant



PWA's new B&A Case Manager

Please welcome Wendy Robbins into the position of Benefits and Assistance Case Manager. Wendy has been an important staff member of PWA since February of 2005. In her role as the Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy came to know and work with many of our clients and volunteers. She has helped strengthen PWA's Intake and Reception volunteer programs, and PWA's volunteer orientation, training and appreciation processes.

Wendy brings to the role of B&A Case Manager over 13 years of experience in the HIV/AIDS sector. In addition to her time at PWA, she worked for 10 years at 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations as both the Palliative Care Project Coordinator and as Care Team Coordinator. In her roles there, she provided case management and advocacy to Aboriginal PHAs. In all her work, Wendy brings much compassion, dedication and a wonderful sense of humour. We are excited to have Wendy be a part of the B&A team and know that she will carry on the tradition of excellent client service that Nitto brought to the position.

Wendy will be starting her new position on September 2, 2008 in order to provide uninterrupted support to her volunteer programs until a new Volunteer Coordinator is hired. Until then, Bill Handley will continue to provide contract support to clients. PWA thanks Bill Handley for his ongoing support during this transition period.

The Ninth Annual Home + Style Studio Tour and Sale September 18 – 21



The Home + Style Studio Tour is proud to showcase its annual EXCLUSIVE ACCESS SALE — Presented by Direct Interiors. Walk away with great buys on fabulous quality furniture and accessories for your home — all new, all current, and all chosen for this special once-a-year event in support of the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation. Start your holiday shopping early to benefit this worthy cause! Now at the Toronto Fall Home Show. September 18–21, 2008. Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place. Toronto.

Once again show visitors from across the GTA and beyond can shop at the sale to raise funds and awareness for the Toronto People with AIDS foundation (PWA). Last year the floor-model sale raised \$14,000 to provide critical programs and services to all people living with HIV/AIDS.

This year, Direct Interiors is generously donating all new brand-name furniture featuring the latest trends! Knowledgeable on-site staff will be available throughout the show to assist you with your purchases and a few of your favourite Home + Style celebrity faces will be on hand to answer your personal design questions!

Opening night festivities will also feature a Silent Auction offering up fabulous designer items for you and your home! And if you purchase your show tickets online, remember to click "donate \$2.00 to PWA".

It's an event that makes you feel good about getting a great bargain and giving to a very worthy cause. For information updates visit studiotouronline.com

Thank you to our Corporate and Foundation donors

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Thank You for making a positive difference!

*Donations of \$100 +

20th Anniversary Finale

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation wrapped up its 20th Anniversary with the Finale at the Betty Oliphant Theatre on January 20th.

The evening's entertainment began with Samba Squad, an innovative, 16-plus-member 'percussion posse' group entertained with the street-feel of the drums of the Afro-Brazilian Samba tradition.

The centerpiece of the evening was the play "Men Like Trees" by Craig Barron. The play was directed and produced by Kevin Sheard who had directed "The Normal Heart"; the very first fundraiser for the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation.

Our esteemed host, PROUD FM's Deb Pearce brought her light hearted personality to the evening and good friend and supporter Denny Young was our special guest. The audience was treated to a brief testimonial from 3 of our dedicated volunteers Luis, Jim and Esther who told their stories of how PWA had helped them.

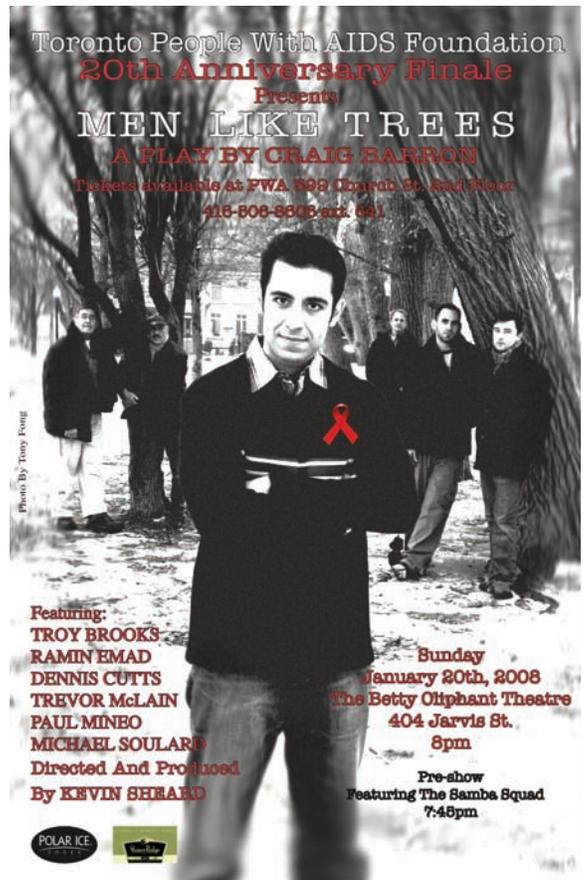
While there was no ticket price, the evening was a pay-what-you-can event, Denny encouraged the audience to give generously. Together, we raised almost \$20,000 to support PWA's essential programs and services.

Thank you to Denny Young & Deb Pearce, Luis, Jim and Esther, Donna Doher, Rory Doher and Mildred Pierce, Tony Fong, Krista White, Marilyn Calleja, Karol Carstensen, Samba Squad, Polar Ice, Stoney Ridge Estate Winery, Angel Torres, PWA Staff and volunteers and last but not least, our talented performers Troy Brooks, Dennis Cutts, Ramin Emad, Trevor McLain, Paul Mineo and Michael Soulard and Kevin Sheard.

PWA Annual General Meeting

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation will mark another exceptional year — Please join us. Light refreshments will be served

Oct 2nd from 6:30 — 8:30pm
Oakham House 55 Gould Street
(at Church Street).



MISSION:

The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation exists to promote the health and well-being of all people living with HIV/AIDS by providing accessible, direct, and practical support services.

Have you considered a Giving Certificate?

What a great idea for a gift for those very special people. The Giving Certificate is an ideal way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or just to show you care. Or you can make a memorial tribute. You will be providing much needed support for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS who are facing many struggles and difficulties in their lives.

Send or phone in the information on the Giving Certificate and we will mail the recipient a card indicating that a donation has been made to the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation in their name. You receive a charitable income tax receipt in the amount of your donation. The Giving Certificate is the perfect opportunity to honour someone special while helping those living with HIV/AIDS.

Please send in the information below, or call 416 506-8606 x641.

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Enclosed is my gift in the amount of: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: _____

Name _____

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I have enclosed my cheque made payable to PWA.

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