

SAMARITAN MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2011

Another New Partnership

MAGNOLIA AVE. UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

We are always looking for new ways to engage the Christian community in HIV/AIDS awareness and support for those living with HIV. Recently we began offering rapid HIV testing at Magnolia Ave. United Methodist Church, a church located in the inner city part of Knoxville. This church is pastored by a bright light in our community, Rev. Van Sanks.

Our testing is offered through a partnership that we have with Helen Ross McNabb Center (a local not-for-profit) and the Knox County Health Department. Since we began testing a few months ago, Rev. Sanks has been asking a lot of questions and we are currently exploring new ways to serve the HIV community.



LESSONS...

A recent visit to the Names Project Foundation in Atlanta, home of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and two recent deaths, are reminders that this virus is still a killer.

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BILLY HARGROVE: THE ROCK STAR



BILLY SELLS IT: At the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Tampa, Billy worked the Samaritan Ministry booth. At 85 years young, Billy is our best sales person, telling everyone who will listen (and some who don't really want to!) about Samaritan Ministry and HIV/AIDS. Billy and his church in Middle Georgia have been long time supporters of our work. After CBF, Billy traveled to Alaska for fun, and to Africa to work. Something about a "bucket list".

Touching Lives - Case Management Ramps Up

MEETING CHANGING NEEDS

God has presented us with opportunities and challenges over the years, and these last few months are no exception to this rule. In the Spring we received word that the Knox County School Superintendent will no longer allow outside agencies to present sex and sexuality programs to Knox County students. This seemed to us a foolish and harmful decision. Since 2004 we have presented a comprehensive HIV awareness program to about 1600 sophomores each year, and for this to stop, well, is just not good.

At the same time, however, we began to see a real need for more individual work with our clients, known in the HIV biz as Individual Level Intervention, or ILI. This involvement with clients is time consuming. Many of the people we serve are in crisis, and need us. Where would we find the time and resources? Hmmm.

As you might guess, our absence from the schools has not given way to idle time, but instead has allowed us

to focus on this other very pressing need. Included in this "case management" structure are three distinct levels of need. At the lowest level are emergency case by case needs, usually revolving around a rent, utility bill, or medication co-pay. These needs are usually met quickly using funds provided by our funding partners.

At the second level are needs that require more time, usually engaging a client through a more involved event, such as a family or health crisis, or a

reentry into society due to incarceration or homelessness.

The third level, called Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services or CRCS, provides clients with long term, goal oriented support and is effective with more complex issues that need concentrated time and effort.

We are not out of the education business by any means, but we are grateful for the new opportunities to serve.

MONTHLY TOUCH



The 4th of July gift was a big hit!

* Monthly gifts, created by a Girl Scout for her Gold Award Project, are delivered by our volunteers, and supported by "adopters" at Central Baptist.



OUR QR CODE: ARE YOU READY?



If you know what this is... use it to gather contact info on your smart phone. Amazing.

Don't you be thinking we are behind the times!

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LESSONS LEARNED



by **Wayne Smith**
Director

Again in July, we lost another of our friends to AIDS. Bobby in June and Juanita in July. Sadness abounds within our tight knit group, and I find myself in a funk asking myself questions. Does what we do make a difference? Should we have done more for these two. Would another visit or call have staved off this conclusion? Did we do enough?

Ultimately, I think I do know these answers, and I shouldn't "should on myself", but the hole is still there and they are gone from us.

I can report that our great group of men & women came together, with wonderful support from our church, for a Memorial Service that was poignant and real. I can report that, for many, our faith gives us peace and hope. I can report that once again, our East Tennessee Baptist Church gets it... that Love is what God IS and that our CHRISTIAN response to this epidemic continues to be simple... Love.

But for all of us there are lessons in these losses; truths that need to be explored and heeded. What can we learn?

1. **"HIV is not for sissies."** This quote from a client is profound. HIV/AIDS is serious business. It is not to be taken lightly, not to be ignored. We can talk about HIV as a "manageable disease", but it's a booger.
2. **This is a disease of personal responsibility.** Many became infected due to a failure to be responsible, but LIVING with HIV is also about personal responsibility. It is not your case manager's job or your doctor's job. It is not about what Ryan White programs can do. Surviving HIV happens when infected people take charge of their health and their health care.
3. **AIDS still kills.** Yes, it does. Right here in the good ole USA.
4. **Taking your HIV medication matters.** The meds are good, but like breath mints and condoms, they don't work if you don't use them.
5. **Support is a must.** We learn from each other every day how important this is, and there are many out there with little or no support. This is everyone's responsibility.
6. **Stigma issues played a big part in Bobby's life and in Juanita's and contributed to their deaths.** Bobby was

1. **HIV is Serious Business**
2. **This is a Disease Personal Responsibility**
3. **AIDS Still Kills**
4. **Taking Your Medications Matters**
5. **Support is Critical**
6. **Stigma Still Impacts**
7. **We Must Share the Message Effectively**

mistreated and Juanita shunned. Standing up against fear and fighting for social justice are as important as any drug cocktail. Silence kills.

7. **Bobby and Juanita never really understood this virus.** As much as we talked and taught, still I wonder if they really got the message. This makes me wonder how we can talk and teach so no one misunderstands and misses out.

We can't forget Bobby and Juanita and what they have taught us. We remember and we learn. We must spread the word and STOP this virus.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"Our church should be a beacon of light and hope, by way of Christ, to anyone who suffers from or has family or friends who suffer from this disease."

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**Samaritan
Ministry**

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Our Matching Grant from Equitas Group

A NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Equitas Group, a local charitable organization has offered matching funding for Samaritan during this fiscal year. This will allow all of our donations to be doubled, up to \$7500. This is a great opportunity to expand our funding base and we want you to be involved. Please consider a gift to Samaritan Ministry, especially if you are a first time donor. Remember, checks should be made to Central Baptist Church of Bearden.

WHO KNEW

Our budget is made up from a eclectic group of funding organizations that

span the HIV/AIDS world AND the Christian world. Who knew this was even possible. We are always amazed at the confidence that you put in our church organization to faithfully serve the community using the model set for us by Jesus himself.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We want you to notice, listed to the right, the wonderful, faithful, group of granting partners that help us do our work, year-in and year-out. Thank you, thank you. Without you, Samaritan Ministry doesn't exist.

1. Central Baptist Bearden
2. MAC AIDS Fund
3. Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
4. East Tennessee AIDS Fund
5. FISH of Knox County
6. City of Knoxville
7. State of Tennessee
8. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Tennessee CBF
9. Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
10. Beulah Baptist Church
11. Knox County Community Development