



The Newsletter
of Caracole

Living

March 2015

Walk. Run. Fight AIDS this Spring!

Caracole's 5K for AIDS: Sunday, April 19, 2015



Spring is just around the corner - we promise! As we anticipate the days of warmer weather, we are also looking forward to Caracole's second annual 5K for AIDS on **Sunday, April 19th!** Please join us in the lovely Spring Grove Cemetery starting at 9am - you can run or walk! The 5K will be followed by a post-race celebration and awards ceremony.

Make sure to pre-register as the price increases the day of the event. T-shirts will also be available for purchase.

Overall male and female winning runners will receive \$100 gift cards. Overall male and female winning walkers will receive \$50 gift cards. First male and female in each division will be recognized. Please do NOT bring your pets to Caracole's 5K for AIDS, as Spring Grove Cemetery will not allow it.

There are 6,600 steps in a 5K Route. Make the first step by registering today!

Last year, we were joined by more than 300 runners/walkers and more than 65 volunteers for our first ever 5K for AIDS - it was a great success! This year, we hope to make the event even bigger! We're asking YOU to join us as a runner, walker or volunteer to gather as a community to show support for those individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Registration is open! Visit our website at www.caracole.org for a link to registration or go to the site directly at www.runsignup.com and search for Caracole. General pre-registration is \$25 (no shirt) or \$35 (with shirt) and student pre-registration (with valid ID) is \$15 (no shirt) and \$25 (with shirt.)



Left: Megan Green bestows John Gillespie with a medal for finishing first in his division. Middle: Midge Hines and William Carson dance during the post event festivities. Right: James Smith and Paul Groneck pose for a picture on the Race Gator! Photo credit: Jacob Rebholz

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSOR

Caracole is seeking sponsors that will benefit from major marketing promotions as a part of our 5K for AIDS event.

RUNNER/WALKER

Visit www.runsignup.com and search for "Caracole" and sign up as an individual runner/walker! Compete against your friends for the fastest time or take a casual stroll through Spring Gove.

FORM A TEAM

Then, recruit your friends to join your team! Have the largest team at the 5K. Increase your impact even more by setting a fundraising goal and getting family and friends to sponsor you and your team!

VOLUNTEER

Help with registration, race set up, race tear down and much more!

Call Megan Green @ 513-619-1483
or email mgreen@caracole.org



Volunteers from Procter & Gamble's Young William Cooper Proctor Society take a break from the action at Caracole's First 5K for AIDS last April. Photo credit: Jacob Rebholz

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As you read this newsletter, you may notice how busy we have been. We are proud to share the many activities, successes and challenges that came our way in the last several months.

As I write this letter, we are in the midst of planning for our second annual 5K for AIDS, our Annual Meeting and Party in Plaid and Paisley. It will be a busy spring and summer with lots of opportunities for our friends to have fun and support our mission.

As you know, our events are never dull!

Sadly, during the last several months, we have served a record number of individuals living with HIV. We continuously see new clients seeking services every week. As with many AIDS service organizations across the county, we are seeing younger people in need of support. Our primary goal is to connect people to health care, remove barriers to continuous care and provide access to life-saving medications.

Over the past year, our case managers have helped countless individuals maneuver the healthcare landscape and sign up for the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. We are hopeful that the availability of insurance will positively affect health outcomes for those with HIV/AIDS. We have also initiated pharmacy services (more about that on the next page) through a federal program that allows us to purchase medications at a reduced rate and pass those savings on to clients by way of co-pay forgiveness. Over the next year, we hope to have positive outcomes related to these initiatives!

Thank you for your continued support of our mission whether it by attending an event, participating in one of our (many) toilet paper drives, volunteering or advocating for those living with HIV/AIDS. I continue to be astounded by the generosity of this community and your continued concern for our clients.

Linda Seiter
Executive Director, Caracole

MAKE A DONATION TO CARACOLE

Thank you for being a part of the spirit of Caracole. Friends like you who surround this agency - the volunteers, supporters, advocates, donors and friends who stand with us at every turn - along with our hard working staff and Board of Directors are the reason we are able to continue our mission - and to do it so well. Caracole has had steadfast support from the beginning - from friends like you who work to ensure that no one living with HIV is alone or without support and resources.

We are honored to be working with all of you and thank you for your support of Caracole and our mission.

To further your support, we ask that you please consider joining Caracole

Caracole provides case management to clients in all of our programs at a yearly cost of \$1,200 per person.

and make a donation to help our mission of providing housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. The work we all do together has made, and continues to make a difference to those we serve.

To make a donation to Caracole, simply fill out the enclosed envelope and return it in the mail today. Or you can make a donation online by visiting our website, www.caracole.org and clicking the "Donate Now" button.

If you have already made a donation of money, time or talent, please know that we are truly grateful. Thank you for being a part of Caracole.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE EVENTS!

80's Pop Rocks!

Saturday, April 4, 2015
Southgate House Revival

Caracole's 5K Run/Walk for AIDS

Sunday, April 19, 2015
Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
Fifth Third Convening Center at the United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Party in Plaid and Paisley

Saturday, August 15, 2015
Cincinnati Masonic Center

Looking to Volunteer?

Please contact Megan Green, Community Investment Coordinator, if you would like to help with the events listed above as well as alternative volunteer opportunities by emailing mgreen@caracole.org or by calling 513-619-1483.

Personal Care Items Needed!

Personal care items like toothpaste or toilet paper cannot be purchased with food stamps. With the majority of our clients living with less than \$15K a year, we collect donations of the items listed below so that our clients do not have to use their limited incomes to purchase these essential products.

We are always looking for organizations and companies to conduct monthly, quarterly or one-time donation drives. If you are interested in learning more about how your group can help Caracole or to make donations, please contact Megan Green at 513-619-1483 to arrange for a pick up or to drop them off at our office.

- Toilet paper
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Razors and shaving cream
- Deodorant
- Body lotion
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning products
- Soap and body wash
- African-American hair care products
- Combs and brushes (New)
- Mattress covers (New)

CARACOLE EVENTS

DINING OUT. FIGHTING AIDS.

More than 25 restaurants participated in Dining Out for Life® 2015 in Cincinnati! Caracole supporters gathered at eateries all over the area from Northern Kentucky to Hyde Park to West Chester on Tuesday February 3rd to support our mission! With the help of numerous restaurant hosts and ambassadors, Dining Out For Life® 2015 was a wonderful success with good laughs, good friends and most importantly - good food! We would like to send a shout out to our founding restaurants Arnold's Bar and Grill, Below Zero Lounge, Blue Jay Restaurant in Northside, Buz, Green Dog Café, Kitchen 452, Unwind Wine Bar and Washington Platform Saloon & Restaurant! We are so lucky to have great friends in our community!

Left: Caracole supporters gather at Bella Luna for some Italian dishes in February for Dining Out For Life® Photo credit: Toni Morris



Caracole Board President Rick Kay and Executive Director Linda Seiter pose with Drag Queen Penny Tration and check from The Cabaret at Below Zero for Dining Out For

POLKA DOTS HELP TO RAISE \$100,000 FOR CARACOLE. PAISLEY IS NEXT!



Above: 2014 Party in Plaid Co-Chair Kent Shaw is joined by Presenting Sponsor William D. Stenger and event committee members Jeff Thomas and Jerry Freed. Below: Minnie Mouse (a.k.a. David White) and committee member Meghan Ferguson are proud to show off their polka dots! Photo Credit: Liam O'Connell Photography



What do you get when you mix plaid and polka dots? \$100,000! Caracole is VERY PLEASED to announce that our second annual Party in Plaid and Polka Dot fundraiser successfully raised \$100,000 for our mission of providing housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. We are grateful to everyone who helped to make this happen - our terrific co-chairs, Jim Kelly and Kent Shaw, our amazing event committee, our generous sponsors, including William D. Stenger, the Presenting sponsor, our plaid and polka dot-clad guests and our very deserving honoree, Moe Rouse. This was the most well-attended event in the history of the agency - with more than 500 guests all supporting those living with HIV/AIDS.

And... if you thought that was a good time, you are going to LOVE what we're doing this year - it's Party in Plaid and Paisley! Get shopping now for the August 15th event at the Cincinnati Masonic Center when we honor our good friends Carol Boymel and Mary Gimpel who have been involved with our mission since the beginning and have helped to shape our fundraisers into the successful events we host today. We are proud to honor and thank them for all of their contributions to the agency and our mission!

Please join co-chairs John Gillespie and Sean Guilfoile, their talented committee and Master of Ceremonies Clyde Gray for the plaidest party in town (now with paisley!)



Moe Rouse, the 2014 Party in Plaid and Polka Dot honoree thanks everyone for their support of Caracole. Photo credit: Liam O'Connell Photography

PET VET DAY FINDS A NEW HOME

On June 21st, the Lockland Pets in Need Clinic opened its doors for 26 clients of Caracole to participate in our fourth annual Pet Vet Day. Throughout the afternoon, local veterinarians Dr. Jane Goecke, Dr. Beverly Ramos and Dr. Karen Kowalski provided care to 36 cats and dogs free of charge. Dr. Goecke, Assistant Director of the Vet Technician Program at UC Blue Ash, had 12 vet tech students assist for the day as well. The pets received free vaccinations donated by the Pets in Need Clinic and the UC Blue Ash Vet Tech Program. Thanks to generous donations from Tina Manning, Pet Supplies Plus in Blue Ash and Fedders Feed and Seed, all of the clients were able to leave with food and toys for their pets. Contributing to the success of the day were six volunteers who drove clients and their pets to and from appointments. We were so glad to see our clients' pets leave happier and healthier and are thankful to all of the contributors who made the day possible!



Students from the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash Vet Tech Program pose at Pets in Need Clinic. Photo credit: Megan Green

CARACOLE'S GREEN IS QUEEN!

In the heat of last July, Caracole staff members and supporters applied layers of makeup and wigs to their person as they dressed in drag for the second annual Miss Northside Drag Queen of the Year Pageant. Partnering with the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E., six brave Caracole staff members and supporters competed for the title of Miss Northside by

lip-syncing their favorite tunes and dancing on stage at the Northside Tavern. Defending her title, Charlamagne Dupree, Caracole's very own Midge Hines, performed several numbers before being defeated by Marilyn Monhoe, Caracole's newbie, Megan Green. Raising more than \$1,000, the Sunday evening event proved to be a marvelous success!

Join us as the fun returns on **Sunday, March 29th** for the third annual Miss Northside Drag Queen of the Year Pageant! Tensions are rising in the Caracole office, particularly between the former queen, Charlamagne and the current owner of the crown, Marilyn. "Charlamagne is greatly anticipating getting her crown back," says a close source. One thing is for sure: the 29th will be tons of fun!



Caracole's Midge Hines and Megan Green pose before their performances at the Miss Northside Drag Competition! Photo credit: Dean Clevenger

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE SALE



I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. members take a break from heavy lifting. Photo Credit: Megan Green

Caracole returned to the historic Findlay Market this past winter for the fourth year in a row to sell Fraser firs and Scotch pines during the holiday season! Friends of the agency travelled down to Over the Rhine to buy trees, wreaths and white pine garland from the best selection in town!

Special thanks to The Corporation for Findlay Market and the more than 125 volunteers who donated their time to help prepare 473 trees for their journey home. We are grateful to our friends from Toyota, GYRO, Ethicon, the Infectious Diseases Center, Miami University, Greenpeace and the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E for gathering troops to sell trees at the Market in all weather conditions!



Left: Team Members from GYRO take a break after a cold afternoon selling Christmas trees. Right: Employees from Toyota gathered together to display some of our best garland and small trees! Photo Credit: Megan Green



Current Empress of the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. Petty Cash prepares Xavier student intern, Allie Weiss for her performance at the Miss Northside Competition. Photo Credit: Megan Green

PLEASE JOIN US Caracole is proud to display the work of local artists in our main hallway on a rotating basis. Every three months a new artist moves in and spiffs up the place with their lovely work! Stop by and check out their offerings (and maybe buy some art!)
 Mary Jo McClain Jan 1st through March 31
 Connie Berkemeier April 1st through June 30th

CARING MORE AWARD

We are so pleased to report that Caracole's Clinical Supervisor, Brent Hartke was the recipient of the 2014 Crossroads Hospice "Caring More" Award in Cincinnati. As a Clinical Supervisor at Caracole, Brent oversees a team of 13 medical case managers. Alongside his team, Brent provides emotional support for clients and helps connect them to housing, medication and financial resources. The "Caring More" Award was launched by Crossroads Hospice to celebrate the hard work and tireless efforts of case workers who go above and beyond their roles. Brent's colleagues nominated him for this award.



Caracole's Brent Hartke receives the 2014 "Caring More" Award from Crossroads Hospice Executive Director, Cindy Tresslar. Photo credit: Mark Bowen

Brent has been a staff member at Caracole for three years. Prior to joining our team at Caracole, Brent served as a Medical Case Manager, Prevention Educator and Clinical Supervisor at AVOC/ Stop AIDS.

At a breakfast held in his honor, Brent received \$500 to donate to the nonprofit of his choice, which he presented to Caracole! Thank you, Brent for your hard work and "Caring" attitude!

CARACOLE'S PHARMACY SERVICES MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CLIENTS

In April of 2014, to enhance and extend our impact, Caracole added one more service to compliment our five programs: pharmacy services.

Caracole began this service via the 340B Drug Pricing Program, a federal program that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible entities at significantly reduced prices. As a Ryan White funded, nonprofit organization, Caracole received our designation as a covered entity from the Department of Pharmacy Affairs in mid-March of 2014 and began services on April 1st. Caracole elected to dispense 340B drugs to patients through contract pharmacy services with PharmBlue, a leading mail-order contract pharmacy under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

Through this program, Caracole has been able to offer eligible clients significantly reduced prices on alarmingly expensive specialty drugs used in the treatment of HIV and other health issues and pass those savings on by way of co-pay forgiveness. As of February 2015, 84 clients have participated in Caracole's 340B program by filling their prescriptions through PharmBlue. Caracole was able to extend co-pay forgiveness to all of these clients which totaled \$100,076. This service is certainly making a difference as 25% of the clients who have enrolled in Caracole pharmacy services were ineligible for any other type of medication assistance program.

UNUSED MEDS FIND A PURPOSE

Since 2011, Caracole has partnered with AID for AIDS International, an organization based in New York that collaborates with forty countries around the world to provide underserved people with free, life-saving medication, innovative educational programs and cost-effective prevention services that empower them in their fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic.



Quarterly, Caracole clients are given the opportunity to donate their unused medications at our office. In turn, volunteers ensure confidentiality is protected by removing all personal information from the medications and the packages of meds are then sent to the AID for AIDS headquarters. In the past year, our in-kind medication donation was worth \$12,658.93 which

helped to provide free treatment to people with HIV and AIDS in developing countries who have no other means of accessing this life-saving treatment.

SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

We are so pleased to report that Caracole's Transitional Housing Manager, Bob Keck was the recipient of the 2014 Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year Award which was presented by the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition during their 30th Anniversary Gala in December.

Every year the Coalition celebrates the accomplishments of its members, the community and supporters during this event and honors individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a strong commitment to helping to end and prevent homelessness.

The Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year is awarded to an individual or agency who has provided exemplary services to the Greater Cincinnati homeless population.

Bob was hired by Caracole in 1999 to create and manage the Caracole Recovery Community, a transitional



Bob Keck, the Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year.

housing program for homeless, HIV-addicted individuals. Said Suzanne Moore, Housing Services Manager of Bob Keck's service to Caracole, "Bob uses his fantastic sense of humor, his knowledge and his experience to better the lives of those around him. His compassion and dedication are immediately apparent. Bob has truly provided exemplary services to the homeless. Caracole is fortunate to have such a dedicated person leading our transitional community!"



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GO GREEN...

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CARACOLE HOUSE

has been offering transitional housing and case management services for homeless, low-income adults living with HIV/AIDS since 1988. The House is a community of two, four-unit apartment buildings that can accommodate up to 16 individuals, each with a private bedroom within a three-bedroom suite. Food, linens and supplies are provided. In addition, an evening meal is prepared for residents and food is supplied for other meals. Clients at Caracole House receive case management and referral services.

SHELTER PLUS CARE

serves more than 150 clients, caregivers and children, making it Caracole's largest housing program. It is a rent subsidy program offering a permanent housing solution for homeless individuals and families with an adult member living with HIV/AIDS. Caracole provides case management and supportive services to help these individuals and families find and maintain safe housing, stay together and live as independently as possible.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

is a rent subsidy program that serves HIV+ individuals who are considered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be 'unstably housed.' Similar to Shelter Plus Care, in addition to the rental subsidy, clients in our Permanent Supportive Housing program also receive comprehensive case management and referral services.

SHORT-TERM RENT, MORTGAGE AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE (STRMU)

is a short-term, needs-based intervention to prevent homelessness and promote housing stability for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in our region. The objective is to assist HIV+ individuals with housing costs and support during HIV-related financial crises.

MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

As part of our service-enriched programming, intensive case management services are provided to clients in all of Caracole's programs in order to help limit barriers to accessing care and stabilize and improve health and well-being while empowering clients to become independent and live with HIV/AIDS.

PHARMACY SERVICES

Caracole partners with PharmBlue, a mail-order pharmacy that provides HIV and non-HIV medication to all enrolled clients with a 24/7 pharmacy help center. Through this service established by the 340B Drug Pricing Program, Caracole offers co-pay forgiveness to all clients enrolled.

Caracole's mission -

To provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.