

September 9, 2005 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Joins Other ASO's in Katrina Relief](#)

April 4, 2005 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Brings Nonprofit Business Ventures Training to Columbus](#)

February 1, 2005 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Awarded Grant to Expand Hunger-relief services for Central Ohio Residents Living with HIV/AIDS](#)

December 14, 2004 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Meets Better Business Bureau Charitable Accountability Standards](#)

December 15, 2004 [Chad McCoury Earns Certification as a Professional in Human Resources](#)

November 22, 2004 [CATF Selects New Board of Trustees](#)

November 22, 2004 [CATF Expands Development Department](#)

November 11, 2004 [CATF to host World AIDS Day \(2004\) event at Franklin Park Conservatory](#)

September 21, 2004 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Receives Grant for Resource Library](#)

June 23, 2004 [CATF staff member receives 2004 English Award](#)

April 23, 2004 [CATF Receives Grants to Continue HIV Case Management Services](#)

February 24, 2004 [AFL People's Choice Award Event](#)

February 18, 2004 [CATF Offers Rapid HIV Testing](#)

February 11, 2004 [CATF Announces Selection of New Board of Trustees](#)

February 6, 2004 [CATF Announces Aaron Riley as New Executive Director](#)

November 20, 2003 [World AIDS Day 2003](#)

November 5, 2003 [Ohio AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline Receives Grant from The Raymond John Wean Foundation](#)

September 17, 2003 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Receives Grant to Combat HIV Spread](#)

July 14, 2003 [Out in Columbus Presents 5th Annual Outie Awards; CATF to Benefit](#)

June 13, 2003 [National HIV Testing Day is Friday, June 27 – Free OraSure Bloodless Testing Available](#)

June 9, 2003 [CATF and the Columbus Health Department Co-sponsor Syphilis Education and Testing](#)

June 4, 2003 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Announces Move to New Location](#)

May 14, 2003 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Expands Prevention Education To Gay Men By Launching The Men 4 Men Project](#)

April 28, 2003 [CATF Announces First-Ever Film Festival](#)

March 31, 2003 [Aaron Riley Appointed Interim Executive Director](#)

November 18, 2002 [World AIDS Day 2002](#)

October 18, 2001 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Awarded SAMHSACSAT Grant](#)

June 21, 2001 [Columbus AIDS Task Force Targets Young Men at Risk in Gay Community With Public Awareness Campaign](#)

May 29, 2001 [20 YEARS OF AIDS IS ENOUGH](#)

March, 2001 [CATF Provides Free Safer Sex Information and Materials](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Aaron M. Riley, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
aaronriley@catf.net
614-299-2437

OHIO AIDS AGENCIES HELP HIV+ HURRICANE KATRINA REFUGEES

September 9, 2005 [Columbus, OH] - Ohio AIDS Service organizations, themselves struggling with limited resources, have come together to help people with HIV/AIDS who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. There are an estimated 25,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana and Mississippi. The agencies have begun accepting special donations from staff, board members and other supporters to go to the Montrose Clinic in Houston, that city's largest AIDS services and medical care organization. Displaced individuals from throughout the affected areas have or are making their way toward Houston, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS are availing themselves of the limited resources of this clinic. The Montrose Clinic is working to respond to basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and medication assistance.

The Montrose Clinic has also donated office space for the temporary headquarters of NO-AIDS, New Orleans' leading HIV/AIDS service and support agency, until the group can get back up on its feet.

So far, Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF), the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, the Ohio AIDS Coalition, Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, the Dayton-based AIDS Resource Center Ohio, the Community AIDS Network of Akron, Violet's Cupboard of Akron, the Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center of Greater Cleveland and AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati have all made commitments to collect funds for the Montrose Clinic. These commitments are new and not coming from designated funds meant for those locally served by these agencies. Each agency has determined routes to collect donations ranging from direct cash contributions to targeted on-line requests. One-hundred percent of the funds collected will be sent directly to the Montrose Clinic specified for hurricane victims affected by HIV/AIDS.

"Like many of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, those living with HIV/AIDS are the disenfranchised and least able to deal with the after effects of this tragedy," said Aaron M. Riley, Executive Director of the Columbus AIDS Task Force. Many of them have been without housing, proper rest, necessary medication, and have been exposed to dangerous health conditions. People living with HIV/AIDS, and other serious health conditions, are at extreme risk of contracting common illnesses that may become life-threatening very quickly."

"Ohio organizations are also well aware that cities across the state may experience an increase in cases as people with HIV/AIDS from affected regions begin to resettle, and we welcome them with open arms," said Riley.

"It is crucial for the continuity of care to be maintained for those ravaged by Katrina who are living with HIV/AIDS," said Michael Council, President of the CATF Board of Trustees. In order to make this happen there must be access for all to medical services and medications vital to managing their health. The Columbus AIDS Task Force is pleased to reach out along with HIV/AIDS service organizations throughout Ohio to do what we can for the constituencies we serve through the good work of The Montrose Clinic.

To assist in this effort, contact the Columbus AIDS Task Force at (614) 299-2437 or by e-mail to: rickharrison@catf.net. Checks should be made payable to: The Montrose Clinic and mailed to Katrina Relief c/o CATF, 1751 E. Long St. Columbus, OH 43203-2045 by September 26, 2005. For additional information or to make a donation by credit card on behalf of CATF go to their website at www.montroseclinic.org

Now in its twenty-first year of service to the central Ohio community, Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS

organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Aaron Riley, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299-2437

COLUMBUS AIDS TASK FORCE BRINGS NONPROFIT BUSINESS VENTURES TRAINING TO COLUMBUS

April 4, 2005 [Columbus, OH] - In these tough economic times—with government support for nonprofits declining sharply and with grants and contributions harder to get—your organization is probably looking for ways to diversify its funding base. One way may be to develop a business venture.

Your nonprofit can start a business and earn unrestricted income, making it less dependent on grants and donations. And it can do this legally and without sacrificing its tax-exempt status.

Since 1972, The Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) has trained tens of thousands of nonprofit and government personnel in grantsmanship, fundraising and enterprise development. In TGCI's New Business Ventures for Nonprofits Workshop, you will learn the basics of practical enterprise development for your own organization. You and your staff are invited to attend this intensive three-day workshop, hosted by **Columbus AIDS Task Force** on **June 6-8, 2005**. Since you are located nearby, this is an opportunity to take this exciting training program without incurring significant travel costs.

What is TGCI's New Business Ventures for Nonprofits Workshop? Combining personalized instruction with practical exercises, New Business Ventures for Nonprofits is a hands-on workshop that shows you how to plan, finance and develop a nonprofit enterprise. Topics include:

- How to turn your organization's strengths into business opportunities
- Financing options to start a venture
- How to develop realistic income expectations
- Tax implications and safeguarding your nonprofit status
- How to do feasibility testing and business planning.

The program is designed to help you sort through the issues involved in developing a new business, demystify the process, and let you decide if enterprise development is in fact appropriate for *your* agency. **Your trainer for this workshop is Andy Horsnell, a well-known expert on nonprofit enterprise who has produced over 20 income-generating programs as well as numerous practical publications, including *The Social Entrepreneurship Toolbox*.**

Who should attend? Executive directors, interested board members and staff with fundraising or program-development responsibilities will find this training especially valuable. Because enterprise development draws on the talents of many individuals within an organization, you may find it beneficial to attend in teams.

How do I register? TGCI trainers always give each participant personalized attention, so enrollment is limited to 30. The tuition for this workshop is \$575. To register for the June 6-8 workshop contact the TGCI Registrar at **(800) 421-9512**. Or you may enroll online at www.tgci.com.

Now in its twenty-first year of service to the central Ohio community, Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Aaron Riley, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299-2437

Lisa Gonzalez
Altria Corporate Services, Inc.
(917) 663-2144

COLUMBUS AIDS TASK FORCE AWARDED GRANT TO EXPAND HUNGER-RELIEF SERVICES FOR CENTRAL OHIO RESIDENTS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Funding from Altria Group will Help Provide Essential Nutrition Services

February 1, 2005 [Columbus, Ohio] – The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) today announced plans to expand its food pantry program that provides nutritious meals to area people living with HIV/AIDS.

With a new \$10,000 grant from Altria Group, Inc., CATF will purchase more nutritious, high-protein foods for the more than 900 people living with HIV/AIDS and their families served by the food pantry.

“Access to nutritious food is an essential part of maintaining the health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS,” said Aaron Riley, Executive Director of CATF. “For our clients, eating right helps prevent malnutrition, eases management of the disease, and reduces the often debilitating side-effects of medication. This grant from Altria will help us provide these essential nutritional services to our clients, which will give them the stamina necessary to manage complex medical procedures, financial hardships and care of their dependents.”

Currently, approximately 2,600 residents in central Ohio are living with HIV/AIDS. Across the country, approximately 816,000 Americans are living with HIV/AIDS and many more become infected with HIV every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The grant to CATF has been provided through Altria’s *Positive Helpings* initiative - a partnership with the Association of Nutrition Service Agencies (ANSA) to address the special nutritional needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. This year, more than \$1.4 million in grants have been awarded to 79 organizations, both in the United States and internationally. These grants provide meals to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS through food pantries, congregate feeding programs and home-delivered meals.

“More than 42 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS and Altria is committed to working with community-based organizations to find solutions to this crisis,” said Diane Eidman, Director, Contributions, Altria Corporate Services, Inc. “Through Altria’s *Positive Helpings* initiative, we offer critical support to organizations like CATF that are providing vital nutritional services to the victims of this disease.”

Columbus AIDS Task Force, founded in 1984, serves more than 9,400 meals annually to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in the central Ohio community. CATF is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations. For more information about CATF, please call Aaron Riley at (614) 299-2437 or visit www.catf.net.

The Association of Nutrition Service Agencies' (ANSA) mission is to enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses by strengthening the capability of community-based nutrition support programs. ANSA, which was founded in 1997, currently has over 120 member agencies that serve approximately 10 million meals a year to tens of thousands of men, women, and children, with HIV/AIDS. They also mobilize tens of thousands of volunteers who, every day, donate untold hours of precious time. For more information about ANSA, please call (202) 289-5651 or visit www.aidsnutrition.org.

Altria Group, Inc. (NYSE: MO) is the parent company of Kraft Foods, Philip Morris International and Philip Morris USA. For more than four decades, the companies of Altria have provided sustained and wide-ranging support of programs that help people in need, enrich communities and promote economic development. Altria companies' commitment to corporate responsibility and their communities remains strong, and since 1990 alone, they have contributed more than \$450 million in cash and food to hunger-relief organizations around the world. Additional information about the Altria family of companies' programs and partnerships is available at www.altria.com/media_programs.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

December 14, 2004Contact: Rick Harrison, Director, Institutional Giving
(614) 340-6744 (614) 299-2437
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus AIDS Task Force Meets Better Business Bureau Charitable Accountability Standards

Most charities are honest and ethical. But questionable solicitors are counting on the fact that you won't bother to check out the charity before you give. The Central Ohio

Better Business Bureau developed 20 standards for charitable accountability to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in public charitable organizations. The standards seek to encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, to promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations and to advance support of philanthropy.

The Central Ohio BBB published a Charitable Wise Giving Guide that lists local charities soliciting the public for donations and whether or not they meet the BBBs voluntary standards. Of the 382 local charities and organizations included in the guide, 62 met all of the standards in effect at the time of the evaluation. **The Columbus AIDS Task Force is one of the 62 groups to have met all 20 standards. This gives CATF the ability to use the BBB Charity Seal in our publications, solicitations and website that identifies the agency as in compliance with the new charity standards.**

"We are honored and pleased to be included in this elite list of charitable organizations, as it verifies our commitment to ethical standards, and provides assurance to current and prospective supporters of CATF that we are an organization that can be trusted," said Aaron Riley, Executive Director.

To view the entire Central Ohio Better Business Bureau Charitable Wise Giving Guide, go to: <http://www.columbus-ohbbb.org/PDFNewsletters/LWGG120804A.pdf>

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

December 15, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron M. Riley, Executive Director

Columbus AIDS Task Force

614-299-2437

CHAD MCCOURY EARNS CERTIFICATION AS A PROFESSIONAL IN HUMAN RESOURCES

Columbus, OH - Chad McCoury, Director of Human Resources for Columbus AIDS Task Force, recently earned certification as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR).

The certification, awarded by the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI), signifies that Chad McCoury possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the body of knowledge in the field.

"Certification as a human resource professional clearly demonstrates a commitment to personal excellence and to the human resource profession," said Susan Meisinger, SPHR, President and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

To become certified, an applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience. Nearly 2,000 human resources professionals in Ohio have this distinct certification. "This is an honor and distinction for both Chad McCoury and CATF. Mr. McCoury's achievement of this certification is one example of the competence and quality of employees that CATF has been able to attract and retain," said Aaron Riley, Executive Director.

HRCI is the credentialing body for human resource professionals and is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world's largest organization dedicated exclusively to the human resource profession. The Institute's purpose is to promote the establishment of professional standards and to recognize professionals who meet those standards.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

November 22, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron M. Riley

Day: 614-299-2437

Columbus AIDS Task Force Selects New Board of Trustees

(Columbus) – At the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF), Jody Scheiman, Senior Vice- President, UBS was elected to the Board of Trustees. Re-elected to a third term were Jason H. Calhoun, Attorney, Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation and Colleen Marshall, News Anchor, NBC 4.

Officers elected for the 2004-2005 fiscal year are: Michael Council (President), Stamp Corbin (Co-Vice President), Jose Rodriguez (Co-Vice President), Greg Baker, Esq (Co-Vice President), Ken Griffiths, M. D. (Co-Vice President) Carole Anderson, (Treasurer), David Hoover (Secretary).

Board members continuing their service include: M. Renee Bostick, Randy Carr, CPA, Janet Ferguson, Mike Gorman, Stephanie Hightower, Randi Love, Michael Para, M.D., Juliet Rowland, and Lou Venneri.

Board President Michael Council stated, “I am both honored and humbled to be elected to lead such a diverse and dynamic group of volunteer community leaders. It gives me great pleasure to be able to work with such dedicated individuals in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the inherent stigma and discrimination that people living with HIV/AIDS endure.

Aaron Riley, Executive Director of CATF shares Mr. Council’s feelings saying, “HIV/AIDS is a community problem that requires both community investment and community involvement to address and or solve.” Riley added, “I am looking forward to working in partnership with our newly and re-elected Trustees in addition to the newly elected officers as we begin a third decade of service to the Central Ohio community.”

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron Riley
Phone: 614-299-2437

CATF expands Development Department

(Columbus) Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is pleased to announce the selection of Richard P. Harrison, Jr. as the director of institutional giving, a new position at the agency. According to Executive Director Aaron Riley, "this position will be involved in leading CATF's efforts to further grow and engage our external constituency of supporters."

Harrison comes to CATF after a long career with Ohio University in Athens, Ohio where he served as assistant dean for development-student affairs, executive director of the Ohio University Alumni Association and associate director of alumni relations. Recognized as an Outstanding Administrator by Ohio University, Harrison served over the years as advisor to the Senior Class, Student Alumni Board, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and the Men's Crew Team. He also was quite involved with the Athens community having served as chair of the board of United Campus Ministry and member of the Planned Parenthood of Southeast Ohio Board of Directors.

Harrison said, "I look forward to working with CATF, who has just finished celebrating its 20th Anniversary serving the Central Ohio community, to complement already successful programs like Art for Life, with the expansion of our annual giving and foundation programs as well as developing endowment and planned giving opportunities. Private support provides the margin of difference that bridges the gap between government resources and the needs of the important work done by the agency. The Central Ohio community has been very supportive in the past and I hope to find ways to illustrate why the need unfortunately remains as great as ever. I look forward to working with Director of Development Sally Blue, the Board of Directors and a fantastically talented and committed staff."

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing comprehensive services, educational programs and an HIV testing program. CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45, a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers and a total budget of \$3.5 million. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

Press Release:

Candlelight Vigil on Dec. 1 in Recognition of World AIDS Day
Zimbabwe Artists-in-Residence at Franklin Park Conservatory Share Stories of
Country's AIDS Epidemic

Contact Person:

David W. Andrist, Director of Prevention & Education
Columbus AIDS Task Force
614-340-6730

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Many women and girls are vulnerable to HIV because of the high-risk behaviors of others. This year's World AIDS Day Campaign slogan, "**Have you heard me today?**" seeks to raise awareness about, and help address, the HIV and AIDS issues affecting women and girls. "**Have you heard me today?**" calls for action against the inequalities that not only put women and girls at risk but whole communities.

The Columbus AIDS Task Force in collaboration with Franklin Park Conservatory and the Columbus Regional Advisory Group (CRAG) will hold a World AIDS Day event at the Franklin Park Conservatory on Wednesday, December 1, 2004. HIV awareness activities will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Palm House with a candlelight vigil beginning at 7:00 p.m. to honor those who have been lost. Entrance to the Conservatory will be free after 5:00 p.m.

The Conservatory offers a very special environment for this year's World AIDS Day. The recently opened *Chapungu: Stories in Stone* exhibition features massive stone sculptures handcrafted by world-renown artists of the Shona tribe of Zimbabwe, a country that has been hard-hit by the AIDS epidemic. [Click here for a photo example.](#) Approximately one-third of the population of Zimbabwe has succumbed to AIDS, which has reduced the average life expectancy in Zimbabwe from 65 to 39 years.

Artists, who will be in residence at the Conservatory through June 2005, will join the World AIDS Day event to share stories and their perspective on what the epidemic has done to their country and their culture.

"This will be a truly special evening shared with artists from Zimbabwe who have been affected deeply by the AIDS epidemic and watched it take a serious emotional toll on family and community," says David W. Andrist, Director of Prevention & Education for the Columbus AIDS Task Force. "We will also have a candlelight vigil and a special memorial for friends and family."

To volunteer to read names or to submit a name to be included in the reading, call the Columbus AIDS Task Force at 614-299-2437 x 130, or visit www.catf.net

For more information about the *Chapungu: Stories in Stone* exhibition, visit fpconservatory.org.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

September 21, 2004
For Immediate Release
Contact: Aaron Riley, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
614-299-2437

Columbus AIDS Task Force Receives Grant for Resource Library

Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is pleased to announce a \$28,000 grant award from the William Greenville Pace Medical Research and Pauline and Cletus J. Corbett funds of The Columbus Foundation to support the HIV/AIDS Resource Library. Funds will go toward providing computer training, consultations, and new resources for patrons.

Established in 1996, the HIV/AIDS Resource Library is the only such collection in Ohio and one of the few in the country. The Resource Library serves diverse communities, including people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, health care professionals, educators, students, and the public. The collection features a wide selection of books, journals, videos, audio cassettes, and CD ROMS. Topics include medications and treatments, multicultural issues, addiction, mental health issues, the history of the pandemic, and international developments.

Funds from the Columbus Foundation will allow the Library to expand and update the collection by purchasing the most recent DVDs, videos, and pamphlets. Through computer trainings, patrons will learn how to access current, accurate HIV-related information and resources on-line.

The Resource Library is open 9-5 weekdays. For more information, call 614-299-2437 or visit the CATF web site at www.catf.net.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

The Columbus Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity created to serve a range of donors in central Ohio and around the nation. By helping donors help their communities through charitable giving, the Foundation has become the sixth largest community foundation in the United States. The Foundation supports projects of social importance in the community. The Columbus Foundation manages assets of \$740 million, and this year awarded more than \$63 million in grants to local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

June 23, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron M. Riley, Executive Director

Columbus AIDS Task Force

614-299-2437

Columbus AIDS Task Force Named Recipient of The Walter and Marian English Award

On May 14, 2004, Bonnie Baris, mental health therapist at the Columbus AIDS Task Force, received an English Award Grant for her outstanding achievements. Sponsored by The Walter and Marian English Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Columbus Foundation, the awards recognize and encourage excellence among professional and volunteer staff at United Way agencies in Franklin County.

Since 1976, The Walter and Marian English Foundation and the United Way of Central Ohio have partnered to grant awards to provide financial assistance for the personal and professional growth of United Way agency staff and volunteers. Ms. Baris plans to use the award to further her education by attending the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute at Wellesley College this fall. She will be studying Relational Cultural theory, which examines growth-fostering relationships.

Since 1992, Bonnie Baris, LISW, has been active in the field of HIV/AIDS. Four years ago, she joined the staff of the Columbus AIDS Task Force and currently provides psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and groups in Columbus, Zanesville, Lancaster, and Athens. Ms. Baris has presented numerous workshops on the psychosocial aspects of HIV/AIDS to other agencies and facilitated groups at the Healing Weekends organized by the Ohio AIDS Coalition and the United Methodist Church HIV Outreach Services. Actively involved with the National Association of Social Workers on both a local and state level, Ms. Baris has been selected as one of five Ohio delegates to the National Social Work Congress to be held in Washington, D.C. in March 2005.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs

serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

April 23, 2004
For Immediate Release
Contact: Aaron Riley, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
614-299-2437

Columbus AIDS Task Force Receives Grants to Continue HIV Case Management Services

Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) has received a \$162,639 Ryan White Emerging Communities grant and a \$325,000 Federal HIV Care grant from the Ohio Department of Health to support the case management program in the central Ohio area. The funds will provide seven case managers, the case management coordinator, and the fiscal coordinator. The project period began April 1, 2004 and extends until March 30, 2005.

Aaron Riley, CATF Executive Director, said, "case management is one of our core program areas and these funds primarily pay the salary and other expenses such as mileage reimbursement for seven of our case manager positions. We are most appreciative of the continued support we receive from the Ohio Department of Health's AIDS Client Resources Section."

The Ohio Department of Health is the Ryan White Title II grantee for Ohio. The AIDS Client Resources Section offers a spectrum of services designed to help people with HIV and their families. They are responsible for the oversight of the Ryan White Title II Emergency Assistance funds and the Title II case management services. In addition, the section also operates the HIV Drug Assistance Program, which provides medication to keep individuals healthier. Individuals living with HIV/AIDS may also apply to the Health Insurance Premium Payment Program, which assists individuals and their families to maintain private health insurance.

Case managers assist people living with HIV/AIDS with services such as: transportation, child welfare services, accessing medical/dental services, obtaining and maintaining housing, nutrition/food, rehabilitation and home health care.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total

budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of the programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

February 24, 2004
For Immediate Release

Contact: Jose Rodriguez
Day: (614) 580-5743
Pager: (614) 673-6237

**CATF & Art for Life Offer the People's Choice
"Art and Democracy Meet at Community Event"**

Columbus... Columbus AIDS Task Force, the community-based non-profit AIDS organization, will host the first event of Art for Life. "The People's Choice" offers Columbus art enthusiasts a chance to preview the auction pieces before they're sold to the highest bidder at Art for Life.

The People's Choice Award Party will be held at Global Living, located at 842 Goodale Boulevard, on Saturday, March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 and available online at www.nbc4columbus.com and www.outincolumbus.com, and at the door. NBC 4 News anchor Colleen Marshall will emcee the event.

All Art for Life submissions will be juried by an independent panel of art experts and placed in live and silent auction categories. Attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorite silent auction pieces. The three pieces that receive the most votes will advance to the live auction event.

"Art for Life organizers are thrilled to celebrate all the artists," said José Rodriguez. "Friends and community members can vote for their favorite pieces, which may enter the live auction. 2002 People's Choice winners were a huge success at the Art for Life live auction." Rodriguez co chairs Art for Life with fellow CATF board member Stephanie Hightower and longtime Art for Life co chairs Wayne Lawson & Jody Scheiman.

Art for Life 2004, scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2004, is a unique fundraising event held at the Columbus Museum of Art and the Columbus College of Art and Design. Activities include a reception, preview bidding, live and silent auctions and post party. Since its inception in 1989, Art for Life has raised more than \$2.5 million to support the Columbus AIDS Task Force. For information please contact Sally Blue at 340-6753.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily services the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region. However, some of our programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

February 18, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: David Andrist

Day: 614-340-6730

Columbus AIDS Task Force offers Rapid HIV Testing

(Columbus) The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) will offer OraQuick Rapid HIV Testing at 1751 East Long Street beginning Tuesday February 24th.

OraQuick testing will be offered on Tuesdays from 4 pm – 8 pm, Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm and Thursday 10 am – 2 pm each week. Director of Prevention and Education, David Andrist, announced “CATF is providing OraQuick Rapid Testing as a Pilot test site for the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) new HIV Initiative – Advancing HIV Prevention: New Strategies for a Changing Epidemic.”

Organizations that have largely concentrated on prevention and outreach to those who are HIV negative are being asked to increase their emphasis on testing and secondary prevention efforts. The CDC initiative was launched after public health officials found that the drop in AIDS deaths in recent years was not accompanied by a corresponding decrease in new HIV infections. Furthermore, as many as a quarter of the 850,000 –

950,000 people living with HIV infection in this country are unaware of their serostatus and do not know to seek treatment and avoid transmitting the disease.

According to Andrist “In order to remain competitive in the prevention arena, CATF has refocused its prevention outreach efforts to be highly targeted and skills-based. For over 20 years CATF has provided outreach education to many diverse communities in Columbus. Now all outreach staff are trained to provide HIV testing in conjunction with our program activities.”

The OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 Antibody Test is a screening for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. It detects antibodies to HIV in a fingerstick sample of blood. As with all HIV screening tests, a positive test result needs to be confirmed by another test procedure. In clinical studies by the manufacturer, OraQuick correctly identified 99.6% of people who were positive and 100% of people who were negative. With OraQuick, an individual will be able to receive HIV test counseling and their test results typically within an hour's time.

In addition to the on-site testing hours at 1751 East Long Street, CATF will continue to offer OraSure testing by appointment. OraSure is a bloodless, oral fluid test that requires being sent to a lab and the individual returning for results at another time.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region. However, some of our programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

More information about CATF can be found at www.catf.net

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

February 11, 2004

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jason Calhoun

Day: 614-644-9632

Evening: 614-299-8508

Columbus AIDS Task Force Selects New Board of Trustees

Expiring terms created new openings

(Columbus) – The Board of Trustees for Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) recently approved the addition of ten new board members. The new board members include:

Greg Baker, Esq. – Attorney, Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn
Jeff Byron – General Manager, Saks Fifth Avenue (Polaris Fashion Place)
Randy Carr, CPA – Accountant/Owner, Randy Carr, CPA
Janet Ferguson – Director of Marketing & Resource Development, Salesian Boys & Girls Club
Mike Gorman – President, Thomas W. Ruff & Company
Ken Griffiths, M.D.
Stephanie Hightower – Special Assistant to the President for External Relations, CCAD
David Hoover – Senior Director, Marketing Communications, OSU
Randi Love – Clinical Associate Professor, School of Public Health, OSU
Mark Sulzmann – Immunization Registry Marketing Consultant, Ohio Department of Health

Officers elected for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and other board members continuing their service include: Jason Calhoun (President), Carole Anderson (Co-Vice President), Michael Council (Co-Vice President), Colleen Marshall (Co-Vice President), Stamp Corbin (Treasurer), Jose Rodriguez (Secretary), M. Renee Bostick, Michael Para, M.D., Juliet Rowland, and Lou Venneri.

Board President Jason Calhoun stated, “the breadth of diversity, experience, dedication and knowledge of these new board members is incredible and compliments the skill set of our existing members.” He added, “we are honored and extremely pleased to have such a dynamic team of individuals join the board.”

Aaron Riley, Executive Director of CATF shares Mr. Calhoun’s excitement. Riley stated, “I am looking forward to working in partnership with this board. I am enthused by the energy and commitment that this board brings as we commemorate our 20th year of service to the Central Ohio area.”

The incoming board members replace Charlotte Allison, Ralph Amos, John Anderson, M.D., Randy Arndt, John Boxill, Rosetta Brown, Teresa Julian, Wayne Lawson, and Mary Major-Jack, and Jody Scheiman.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region. However, some of our programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

More information about CATF can be found on the web at: www.catf.net.

###

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

February 6, 2004

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Jason Calhoun

Day: 614-644-9632

Evening: 614-299-8508

Columbus AIDS Task Force Selects Aaron Riley As Executive Director

(Columbus) – After a 10-month search process, Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is pleased to announce the selection of Aaron Riley as the agency's Executive Director. CATF board president Jason Calhoun announced Riley's selection today.

Riley was appointed Interim Executive Director on March 31, 2003 following the departure of Sue Crumpton. Prior to that, Riley served as CATF's Director of Client Services since 2000. Riley had been directly responsible for the development, coordination, implementation and assurance of supervision of all programs – Housing, Primary Care, Recovery Services, and Case Management – provided by the agency to meet the needs of Columbus AIDS Task Force clients and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

According to Calhoun, "the transition to Riley as Interim Executive Director went very smoothly". He added, "Aaron was extremely successful in garnering the support of the agency's staff which resulted in minimal to no disruption in operations and service delivery". Some achievements under Riley's direction that bode well of his skills and leadership abilities were: the move of the agency to new office space, the establishment of an annual giving campaign, the addition of a Volunteer Services Director to the agency's senior management team and the initiation of a strategic planning process.

Prior to joining CATF, Riley worked for the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus, Community Shelter Board and United Way of the Mid-South.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region. However, some of our programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member

agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

More information about CATF can be found on the web at: www.catf.net.

###

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

November 20, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Aaron Riley, Interim Executive Director, Columbus AIDS Task Force
614-299-2437

World AIDS Day 2003

According to UNAIDS estimates there were 38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children living with HIV at the end of 2002, and during the year 5 million new people became infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. 95% of the total number of people with HIV live in the developing world. But HIV still remains a threat to people of all ages and nationalities.

Stigma and Discrimination is the theme of the 2003 World AIDS day. In many parts of the world, discrimination prevents people who are known to have HIV from securing a job or caring for their families. Discrimination can cause isolation and marginalizes people who have HIV and AIDS. This can prevent people from being offered or seeking the treatment which could save their lives.

In order for HIV to be effectively tackled on an international level, efforts need to be made to

- End the discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS.
- Educate people in safer sex and drug use, using appropriate media.
- Provide condoms freely to people in the developing world.
- Provide financial and medical assistance so that people with HIV and AIDS can be treated.

Started in 1988, World AIDS Day is not just about raising money, but also about raising awareness, education and fighting prejudice. World AIDS Day is also important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

On December 1, 2003 the Columbus AIDS Task Force will work with the Columbus Health Department (CHD) to commemorate World AIDS Day 2003. A special day of activities is being planned. Free OraQuick HIV Testing will be available for the first 100 people at CHD, 240 Parsons Avenue, as well as a resource fair with many local agencies on hand to provide information regarding their commitment and services to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Activities will take place from 8am –3pm.

Staff and volunteers from the Columbus AIDS Task Force will present an interactive seminar entitled “**Remember and Understand**” from 9am-12pm and again from 1pm – 4pm. This seminar will include information on the History, and Stigma of HIV/AIDS, viewing of the movie Common Threads and a discussion panel of people living with HIV.

Free OraSure Testing will be provided from 9am to 5pm at the Columbus AIDS Task Force 1751 East Long Street. Testing by appointment can be accommodated by calling 299-2437; walk in testing is also available during those hours December 1, 2003.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

November 5, 2003
For Immediate Release
Contact: Aaron Riley, Interim Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299-2437

Ohio AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline Receives Grant from The Raymond John Wean Foundation

Columbus AIDS Task Force is pleased to announce that The Raymond John Wean Foundation has awarded a grant to the Ohio AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline, the state’s only free and anonymous HIV/AIDS STD information and referral service.

Operated by the Columbus AIDS Task Force, the Hotline provides critical information about HIV and other STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) to thousands of Ohioans each year. By calling the Hotline’s toll-free number (800-322-2437), residents throughout the state can call for general information about HIV and STD transmission and prevention, statistics, and referrals to HIV test sites and social services in their areas.

Located in Warren, Ohio, The Raymond John Wean Foundation is a private foundation that supports health care, community development, education, the arts, and social service organizations. Funds will go toward advertising the Hotline number in telephone directories in north central and northeast Ohio, which is critical since the phone book is the number one source for callers. Advertising in local directories is particularly important in reaching rural populations.

According to Hotline Coordinator, Tyler Benack, embarrassment and lack of accurate information are two major obstacles to HIV prevention education. "The Hotline's anonymity allows callers to ask questions honestly without being judged," said Mr. Benack. "It also helps us link people living with HIV who are aware of their status with services and treatment."

For more information about the Hotline or volunteer opportunities, call 614-299-2437 or visit www.catf.net.

Columbus AIDS Task Force, a United Way agency, delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education.

-30-

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

September 17, 2003
For Immediate Release
Contact: Aaron Riley, Interim Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
614-299-2437

Columbus AIDS Task Force Receives Grant to Combat HIV Spread

Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) has received a \$22,000 grant from the Alice and Robert Estrich Fund of The Columbus Foundation to support its outreach offices at Neighborhood House and Just For Today. Both offices seek to reduce the spread of HIV often connected with substance abuse among African American adults. Announcement of the grant was made by the Foundation's Governing Committee.

Aaron M. Riley, CATF Interim Executive Director, said the funds would be used in establishing a network of community-based organizations that are collaborating with CATF to create and maintain a highly effective outreach component. "We are grateful to the Alice and Robert Estrich Fund of The Columbus Foundation for its support of this important program. Since substance abuse is a primary risk behavior for HIV infection, it is important to offer prevention education and treatment to those dealing with addiction in our community. This grant will allow us to meet people 'where they live' in dealing with substance abuse and the threat of HIV," commented Riley.

Now in its twentieth year of service to the central Ohio community, the Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full service, community-based, non-profit AIDS organization providing a full range of client services and a wide variety of educational programs with a total budget of \$3.5 million. In

fulfillment of its mission, CATF delivers comprehensive case management; support, medical, mental health, and housing services; advocacy for those living with HIV/AIDS; and provides prevention education. CATF now has a full-time staff of 45 and a volunteer base of approximately 500 volunteers. CATF primarily serves the 7 counties making up the Central Ohio region. However some of our programs serve Southeastern Ohio and other parts of the state. CATF is also a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

The Columbus Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity created to serve a range of donors in central Ohio and around the nation. By helping donors help their communities through charitable giving, the Foundation has become the sixth largest community foundation in the United States. The Foundation supports projects of civic and social importance in the community. The Columbus Foundation manages assets of \$650 million, and last year awarded more than \$50 million in grants to local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

July 14, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kevin Greenwood, Resource Development Director

Columbus AIDS Task Force

614-299-2437 x151

Out in Columbus Presents 5th Annual Outie Awards; CATF to Benefit

It's time once again for the Out in Columbus "Outie" Awards. Now in its fifth year, the 2003 ceremony will be held Sunday, August 10 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square (75 East State Street). The event will be a benefit for Columbus AIDS Task Force, Stonewall Columbus and the Columbus College of Art and Design. The doors open at 7:00 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Columbus' premiere showgirl, Mary Ann Brandt, will emcee and headline the event again this year. There will also be a silent auction of artwork provided by local artists to benefit student activities at CCAD.

The Out in Columbus Awards celebrate the best of Columbus' GLBT community, honoring those businesses, organizations and individuals who have made our city what some refer to as the "gay Mecca of the Midwest." In the style of the Academy Awards, the pageant includes 20 categories, ranging from "Best Community Service" to "Most Eligible Bachelor."

Winners are selected online at Columbus' premiere GLBT website, OutinColumbus.com. Ballots will be available online as members prepare to select their favorites in the various categories. All voting will be done by write-in only on OutinColumbus.com.

Tickets for this year's ceremony are \$20 per person at a table seating 8; \$15 per person for "cluster" (chair) seating or \$10 per person for standing room. Tickets are pre-sale only, with no tickets available for purchase at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at OutinColumbus.com, by contacting CATF or Stonewall Columbus, and at selected retail establishments throughout Columbus.

A local success story, OutinColumbus.com is the flagship sight of Out in America, a Columbus-based internet site that has quietly become the most popular GLBT internet site in the country. With 109 city sites ranging from OutinNYC.com to OutinScranton.com, Out in America now reaches an average of 3.5 million households every month. In the last year, Out in America has increased its membership by 350%. OutinColumbus.com reaches over 500,000 users in the greater Columbus community every month.

Don't forget to log on and vote for the best and brightest in Columbus' GLBT community!

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

June 13, 2003

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

David Andrist, Director of Prevention & Education

Columbus AIDS Task Force

614-299-2437 x 101

National HIV Testing Day Friday June 27th, 2003

The Columbus AIDS Task Force, in Collaboration with The Columbus Health Department, Abbott Laboratories, Stonewall Columbus and 2Co's Cabaret will be sponsoring Free HIV Testing Friday June 27th, 2003 from 10 am – 4 pm at 2Co's Cabaret, 790 North High Street.

Available Test Procedures

Anyone wishing to receive same day test results can choose to test with the new **OraQuick Rapid Test**. To perform OraQuick a finger-stick sample of blood is obtained

from the individual being tested. The blood is collected in a specimen loop that collects a precise amount of blood, and transferred to a vial where it is mixed with a developing solution. Results are available within an hour. As with all screening tests for HIV, a reactive OraQuick test result must be confirmed by another test. OraSure Testing will also be available. **OraSure** is a bloodless test that draws anti-bodies out of the cheek and gum. OraSure must be processed by a lab and results will be available at a later date. The OraSure test will be available from 10 am – 4 pm that day at 2Co's, the OraQuick Rapid Test will be available only from 10 am – 2 pm.

Counseling for HIV testing includes information about HIV testing and its importance, and specific counseling to help reduce risks for HIV. A very important part of counseling persons who have a reactive rapid HIV test result is to make sure they understand that the result is preliminary, and further testing must be done to confirm the result. Persons who have a negative test but have had a recent exposure are encouraged to get another test at least 3 months after the possible exposure to account for the possibility of a false-negative test result.

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) national human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention goals for 2005 include increasing the proportion of HIV-infected persons who know they are infected from and estimated 70% to 95%. The Columbus AIDS Task Force and The Columbus Health Department are working to assist the CDC in this endeavor.

For those participating in the Pride Weekend Events, the first 50 to be tested at 2Co's will receive free dog tags giving free access to the Stonewall Pride Holiday Festival.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

For immediate release:
Contact:
Sharon Deevey, CATF Librarian
Dept of Prevention and Education
614-299-2437 x124

Stop Syphilis Again!

The Columbus AIDS Task Force and the Columbus Health Department will be sponsoring monthly syphilis education and testing programs at CATF during the summer. The first is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th at 11:30. Lunch will be provided free to participants, and the first 15 people tested will receive a gift incentive.

Many people know something about the history of syphilis, and assume that it is no longer a threat. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, in which effective treatment for syphilis was withheld from African American men in order to document the natural progression of the disease, has become a metaphor for ongoing prejudice and cultural insensitivity in the biomedical community. In the United States, syphilis was common during WWII, but declined after the discovery of penicillin.

In the 1980's, syphilis reemerged in some communities. Gay men in Columbus stopped the spread of syphilis at that time because they learned how HIV and STD's are spread through sexual contact, and took precautions to protect themselves and each other.

In 2003 the Columbus Health Department reported a new outbreak of syphilis. The number of cases rose by 62% between 2001 and 2002. Sixty percent of those recently diagnosed with syphilis are men who have sex with men, and quite a few are also men living with HIV. The most important facts to know about syphilis are:

- 1) you can have syphilis without any symptoms
- 2) a blood test can show if you have the disease
- 3) syphilis is easily treated with antibiotics
- 4) untreated syphilis destroys health
- 5) you can be get syphilis again if re-exposed after treatment
- 6) syphilis progresses faster in someone living with HIV
- 7) syphilis is spread by sex and blood
- 8) oral sex without a condom may be a risk for getting syphilis
- 9) a person with a syphilis lesion is at higher risk for HIV

CATF offers the following resources in the Resource Library:

Gamble, V. M. (1997). Under the shadow of Tuskegee: African Americans and health care. *American Journal of Public Health, 87*(11): 1773-1778.

Jones, J. H. (1993). *Bad blood: The Tuskegee syphilis experiment*. New York: The Free Press. (Available in the RL and at 7 Columbus Metropolitan Library branches)

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

June 30, 2003
For Immediate Release:
Contact: Aaron M. Riley, Interim Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force

614-299-2437 x 200

Columbus AIDS Task Force Moving to New Location July 29th

After six years at its current Grandview address, the Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) has announced it is moving its headquarters to 1751 East Long Street, effective July 29. The new location provides greater access to COTA bus routes on both East Broad and East Long Streets and allows for ample parking for both clients and staff.

In sharing the news with clients, volunteers and staff, Aaron M. Riley, CATF Interim Executive Director, expressed his personal enthusiasm about the move: "This is a great opportunity for the Task Force and its clients. Our new location provides for both greater accessibility for our clients and a more spacious work environment."

Overseeing the move will be Scott Priddy, CATF Office Manager, who said that services at the current location are scheduled to end on Wednesday, July 23 and resume at the new location the following Tuesday, July 29. The closing will allow for a quicker and more efficient move, added Priddy.

While the agency's address will change, key contact numbers such as phone and fax will remain the same, although they may not be immediately available between July 24 and July 28.

Founded in 1984 as a grass roots response to the AIDS pandemic, the Columbus AIDS Task Force has evolved from a small group of people taking care of friends into a non-profit, community-based United Way agency providing vital services to those infected and affected by HIV disease. A board of trustees and a staff of forty-seven full time employees, along with a dedicated team of volunteers, supply the central Ohio community with a full range of client services and prevention education programs. For more information on CATF and its services, call 614-299-2437 or visit their website at www.catf.net.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

May 14, 2003
For Immediate Release:
Contact: David Andrist
614-299-2437

**Columbus AIDS Task Force Expands Prevention Education To Gay Men By
Launching The Men 4 Men Project**

The Columbus AIDS Task Force has recently expanded and revised its prevention and educational outreach programming to gay men in Columbus. The Men 4 Men Project puts into use adaptive, aggressive outreach and marketing techniques that seek to build community and slow the spread of HIV among gay men in Columbus. Our core beliefs center around being gay-positive and sex-positive at all times; recognizing the different cultures and tastes within our community; recognizing that slowing the spread of HIV is the responsibility of all of our community members, regardless of HIV status; meeting community members where they are, and encouraging those community members to engage in any behavior that will decrease the likelihood of contracting or transmitting HIV.

While the HIV epidemic has grown to be a concern to more than just gay men, HIV and AIDS are still very real problems in the gay community, especially in a city like Columbus where there are so many of us. Despite the fact that new drug regimens have drastically reduced the deaths due to AIDS in our community, we still run the risk of becoming a permanent underclass as far as our health is concerned. One of the biggest challenges we face is that of the gay and bisexual men in the nation who are HIV-positive, an estimated 70% don't know it.

Accordingly, the biggest emphasis in our outreach efforts will lie in HIV testing. Our staff is currently offering free, anonymous, and bloodless HIV testing regularly at many locations around the city. We have some regular testing locations, such as AWOL on the second Monday of every month. If you're in the Short North, you can find us at Downtown Connection on the third Thursday of every month, or at Union Station on the first or third Thursdays of every month. If you hang out on the north end of town, we'll be at Blondie's the first Tuesday of every month. Additionally, you'll be able to find us some Wednesdays at Pyramid and Wall Street, as well as some weekends at the Eagle and Flex. Our testing will likely be at other locations as we expand our efforts.

Upcoming programming will also include use of a method to identify you popular boys and girls who have a lot of friends. If one of us approaches you and asks you if you want to help protect your friends' health, take it as a compliment. It means that we can see just how popular you are!

Additionally, we have volunteer opportunities to help us with our outreach. Contact us if you are interested. Be sure to look for our float at Pride this year! We will not be hard to locate- our theme this year revolves around super heroes- "Truth, Justice, and the American Gay!" Feel free to join us in this year's parade.

If you want to get involved, get tested, ask questions, or just chat, please feel free to contact us at the Columbus AIDS Task Force at 614-299-2437. Just ask for the Men 4 Men Project!

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

April 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sean Moseley or Allen Dearborn
day: 299-2437

The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is thrilled to announce its First Annual Columbus AIDS Task Force Film Festival. This groundbreaking event will be held May 5th-7th from 7-9p.m. at the Columbus Museum of Art. The festival will showcase films capturing the struggle, passion, pain and humanity of three often overlooked communities living with HIV and AIDS.

May 5th:

The festival opens with Julian Schnabel's critically acclaimed *Before Night Falls*. In an Oscar-nominated performance, Javier Bardem portrays Cuban poet and novelist Reinaldo Arenas. Arenas joined Castro's revolution only to be persecuted for his writings, and his homosexuality, by the regime he helped put into power. Arenas narrowly survived Castro's persecution by escaping to New York where he spent his later years living with HIV/AIDS. *Before Night Falls* chronicles Arenas's remarkable journey with emotional precision and a poeticism that is fitting of its subject.

May 6th:

The second evening of the festival focuses upon a segment of the population with one of the fastest growing infection rates: African-American women. It may seem astounding that it took more than fifteen years into the epidemic before film considered AIDS as a women's issue, but it was not until 1994 that such a film was made. Led by Janice Jirau, an HIV+ African-American woman, *The Heart of the Matter* is an uplifting documentary that explores the far-reaching effects that HIV and AIDS has had upon women. Even today, many people still see AIDS as a homosexual, white, male disease. With its motto: "We're in a race between education and catastrophe," *The Heart of the Matter* is an obvious choice to denounce such a deadly myth. The CATF is proud to feature this Freedom of Expression Award Winner from the 1994 Sundance Film Festival.

The Heart of the Matter will be previewed by the short film *DiAna's Hair Ego*. This often humorous and poignant documentary heralds the grass roots effort of one hair salon owner, DiAna Diana, to educate, first, her patrons and eventually her entire state with the development of the South Carolina AIDS Education Network.

May 7th:

The final evening is dedicated to a second demographic with an alarming rate of new infections. *Bloodlines: A View Into the Souls of HIV+ Youth* and *Kids* both illustrate the devastating reality that the assumed invincibility of youth is no barrier to HIV infection. Infected as teenagers, Jennifer Jako and Rebecca Guberman directed and are featured in *Blood Lines*. Their brutally honest but ultimately hopeful short film personalizes the risk of HIV infection in young people and delivers a powerful message of awareness and prevention.

Perhaps, not quite as uplifting, but definitely powerful and jarring, Larry Clark's *Kids* is the final selection of the festival. Originally released in 1995, this film depicts a day in the life of New York city adolescents slam-dancing on the razor's edge of HIV infection. Reviled by critics and Tipper Gore wanna-bes alike, this film resonates because it is impossible to forget and impossible for the viewer to take their eyes off of the screen. Films like *Traffic* and *Cruel Intentions* are walks in the park compared to this nightmare of teenage precociousness envisioned by Clark. *Kids* confronts a society in denial with the fact that sometimes kids play harder than adults.

For more information please contact the CATF Prevention and Education Department at 614.299.2437 or send an e-mail to seanmoseley@catf.net.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

For Immediate Release:
Contact: Jason Calhoun
day: 644-9632
evening: 299-8508

Columbus AIDS Task Force Appoints Aaron Riley As Interim Executive Director

(Columbus) - The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Aaron Riley as the agency's interim executive director. CATF Board President Jason Calhoun announced Riley's appointment today.

Riley, whose appointment begins March 31, was CATF's Director of Client Services since 2000. Riley had been directly responsible for the development, coordination, implementation and assurance of supervision of all programs – Housing, Primary Care, Recovery Services, and Case Management – provided by the agency to meet the needs of Columbus AIDS Task Force clients and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Prior to CATF, Riley worked for the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus, Community Shelter Board and United Way of the Mid-South.

Riley also is a Board Member and Treasurer of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, a member of Central Ohio HIV Consortium, a member of the Ohio Department of Health's Ryan White Care Coordination Council and a former Board Member of Stonewall Columbus.

The Columbus AIDS Task Force, formed in 1984, was the first non-profit organization in Ohio to address the AIDS crisis. CATF provides direct services for those living with HIV/AIDS and their families; and serves 95 percent of Franklin County's diagnosed AIDS cases accessing services, as well as persons from rural communities and counties outside Franklin County. CATF's education department provides HIV/STD prevention education and training to schools, churches, workplaces, prisons, and universities. With an annual budget of \$2.6 million, CATF is a full-service, community based AIDS Service Organization (ASO) serving 900 clients a year with 39 full-time employees and more than 350 volunteers. CATF annually conducts educational programming and training for more than 30,000 Central Ohioans, handles over 10,000 calls to the Ohio AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline, and houses 225 clients and their families. More information about CATF can be found on the web at: www.catf.net.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

WORLD AIDS DAY REMEMBRANCE at the Columbus Museum of Art

(Columbus, Ohio) -The fifteenth annual World AIDS Day will be observed around the world and in Columbus on Sunday, December 1, 2002. Locally, The Columbus Museum of Art will collaborate with the Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) to host a time of reflection and remembrance for those in our community we have lost to AIDS. World AIDS Day is commemorated around the globe on December 1 with news and events to highlight progress made in the battle against the epidemic, but at the same time reminding people how much still needs to be done.

On Sunday, December 1 from 3 - 5 pm, the Columbus Museum of Art will have a memorial book in the Museum Lobby. Museum visitors may sign the book in memory of someone they know who has died of AIDS. CATF will provide remembrance cards on which individuals can write the name of their loved one. This 2-hour time of reflection will be unstructured to allow those in attendance to determine the course of their remembrance. At 5 pm there will be a candlelight vigil at Broad Street United Methodist Church, across the street from the Museum at 501 East Broad Street.

The Columbus Museum of Art is committed to helping the Columbus AIDS Task

Force increase awareness of AIDS education. Every other year, the Museum hosts Art for Life, a very successful art exhibition and auction to benefit the Columbus AIDS Task Force.

The Columbus Museum of Art, 480 East Broad Street, is an educational and cultural center for the people of central Ohio. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5:30 pm, and until 8:30 pm every Thursday. For additional information, call the Museum at 221-4848 or visit the Museum web site at www.columbusmuseum.org.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sue Crumpton, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299-2437

Columbus, Ohio - October 18, 2001 -- The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) has been awarded a targeted capacity expansion grant from the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT). The purpose of this grant program is to expand and enhance substance abuse treatment and HIV/AIDS services in African American, Latino/Hispanic, and/or other racial or ethnic communities highly affected by the twin epidemics of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

CATF will receive \$366,274, annually, for 5 years to enhance and expand its Recovery Services program and HIV/AIDS services in the African American community. This grant will also allow CATF to enhance and expand our efforts to reach African American Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Injection Drug Using and Non-Injection Drug Using at-risk MSM.

Only 15 to 20 grants were awarded nationally. This is CATF's first attempt to obtain a SAMHSA grant and we are very pleased that our first attempt garnered us an award. The Grant Review Process is extremely competitive for these grants, with hundreds of organizations applying nationally.

Last year, CATF's Recovery Services Program was certified by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) to provide alcohol and drug outpatient treatment. Since 1995, our Recovery Services program has provided a safe, structured, accepting and non-discriminatory

environment in which recovering drug and alcohol dependent people living with HIV/AIDS can gain and maintain sobriety.
The Columbus AIDS Task Force is a full-service AIDS Service Organization (ASO) providing education and prevention services and services to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sue Crumpton, Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299-2437

Columbus, Ohio - June 21, 2001 -- The Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF), the largest comprehensive AIDS service organization in central Ohio, today kicked off a hard-hitting public awareness campaign, specifically targeted to young men in the gay community who are at risk to contract the HIV virus.

The purpose of the campaign is to promote awareness, challenge current attitudes and perceptions and increase the visibility of the CATF as a practical and educational resource for men who have sex with men (MSM) in the gay community.

"70% of new HIV infections reported in Franklin County are among this target audience," said Sue Crumpton, executive director of the CATF. "There is a critical need to utilize different ways to reach this community at risk."

Nationally, 40% of new infections are within the MSM gay community and one half of all new infections occur in young people under the age of 25.

CATF in Franklin County has experienced a 35% increase over the past two years, in case loads of people becoming infected with HIV, clearly indicating a problem exists.

In Ohio, an additional 8,000 people are estimated HIV positive and have not reported or don't even know they are positive.

The campaign originated in San Francisco, California and is made possible with the assistance of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, with additional private support from individuals in the gay community.

Columbus, Ohio is the first city beyond San Francisco to launch the campaign. Other states are also considering the campaign.

The campaign combines the use of a strategically located billboard, posters and brochures, distributed throughout the community.

A billboard near gay-identified establishments in downtown Columbus will provide an appropriate medium to reach young gay men with a "How do you know what you know?" message, helping people at risk to understand HIV status is not something anyone can know about their partner with certainty.

The campaign message and graphic images used to support the message are supported by the Health Belief Model (HBM) in health behavior applications, which explains why people would or would not utilize health services. Additionally, a community needs assessment survey completed in the fall of 2000 by CATF also supports the need for a public information campaign of this magnitude.

"These messages are intentionally strong and direct in order to capture people's attention," said Randall Arndt, president of the CATF Board of Trustees. "Our message acknowledges that gay men are taking risks so rather than ignoring that fact, we are trying to educate them to reduce their risk."

June 5, 2001 marked the 20th anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS in the United States. Since then, the disease has spread globally, with 36 million people presently living with HIV -- 900,000 in the United States alone. It is the leading cause of death for African-American men ages 25-44. In Columbus, Ohio there are more than 3,000 reported cases; 1,300 deceased and a reported 1,666 are currently living with HIV.

Since 1984, CATF has been a pre-eminent community-based organization serving individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. CATF offers comprehensive HIV prevention/education, care and services to over 1000 HIV positive individuals and reaches 40,000 through targeted presentations each year.

The mission of CATF is to prevent persons from becoming HIV positive and care for those who are.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Lori Yosick, Interim Executive Director
Columbus AIDS Task Force
(614) 299 - 2437

June 5, 2001 marks the 20th anniversary of the first reported cases of a new disease, AIDS, in the United States. In those twenty years medical and pharmaceutical advancements have made HIV/AIDS more manageable for some, but a cure is yet to be found. Twenty years ago, the devastating impact AIDS was to have on the world could not have been imagined. On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published an article about five cases of rare pneumocystis pneumonia among gay men in Los Angeles. Since then, AIDS has spread globally, with 36 million people presently living with HIV, 900,000 in the United States alone. It is the leading cause of death for African-American men ages 25-44. 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S. every year. In Columbus, Ohio, there are more than 3000 reported cases, 1300 deceased, and a reported 1666 are currently living with HIV. In Ohio, an additional 8,000 are estimated HIV+ and haven't been reported or don't even know they are positive.

WHAT:

The Columbus AIDS Task Force, the largest comprehensive AIDS Service Organization in Central Ohio, along with key Health Department, Medical and Elected officials will hold a news conference to acknowledge the impact of HIV/AIDS over the last 20 years in Columbus and Central Ohio. Past and present challenges will be addressed, and solutions and action steps necessary to continue to fight this disease in the future will be discussed. "Prevent. Care. Remember. That's what we want people to do", said Lori Yosick, Interim Executive Director of the Columbus AIDS Task Force. "20 years of AIDS is enough. It has devastated this planet. We need to re-focus our efforts and not allow complacency to dictate the future.

WHERE:

Columbus AIDS Task Force
751 Northwest Blvd, 2nd flr
Columbus, Ohio, 43212
(614) 299- 2437

WHEN:

Tuesday, June 5, 2001 at 2:00pm

WHO:

Presented by the Columbus AIDS Task Force

ACTIVITIES:

A panel discussion of key medical, health and government experts in our community focusing on: Significant and effective issues in prevention and care, as well as Columbus' Plan for continuing to help fight in this battle.

Display from the Names Project-- a quilt panel from the NAMES Quilt commemorating someone who was HIV+

Since 1984, The Columbus AIDS Task Force has been a pre-eminent community-based organization serving individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. The current staff of 43 offers comprehensive HIV prevention/ education, care and services to over 1000 HIV+ individuals and 40,000 targeted individuals in presentations each year. Our basic mission is to prevent persons from becoming HIV+ and care for those who are.

We also join with advocates from the Midwest and the nation in an urgent appeal for \$307 million in new Ryan White CAREAct funds and \$233 million increase in HIV/AIDS prevention dollars. Despite 40,000 new infections nationally each year and a 15-25 percent growth in the number of cases in the Midwest, President Bush has proposed a budget that flat funds the CARE Act, the most important source of support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The united call for more funds will be made at the AIDS in the Heartland conference, May 30-June 1 at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Chicago. The HIV/AIDS epidemic is still fueled by stigma and discrimination. AIDS in the Heartland will look at the many ways that socio-political and cultural factors pose barriers to prevention, care and treatment services. The conference also will explore unique and innovating ways to respond to these challenges.

[\(RETURN TO TOP\)](#)

CATF Provides Free Safer Sex Information and Materials

For over 16 years the Columbus AIDS Task Force has provided barrier protection and prevention information to the Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) population of Columbus. Recognizing the need in the MSM community, CATF was the first agency to provide prevention education programming to a population that needed it the most. Over the years, CATF has expanded their prevention education to the minority and youth communities of Central Ohio and continually present to area businesses, schools, and correctional facilities.

As the epidemic changed, so too did CATF to include the services and education needed in the AIDS arena. Having met with apathy, intolerance, ignorance, and changes in the government, the Columbus AIDS Task Force has continually managed to provide the communities of Central Ohio with accurate, up-to-date HIV prevention material. Such materials include the distribution of condoms and other barrier protection and safer sex kits. This distribution ranges from health fairs and small businesses to area bars and nightclubs and community-level events. This service has always been provided free of cost to the public and will continue as such as long as prevention efforts continue.

Recently, CATF has become aware of situations where members of the public have been required to pay cash for barrier protection under the guise of a "suggested donation." The Columbus AIDS Task Force wants to reaffirm to the public that in no way does the agency ever sell the barrier protection provided and should an individual

encounter such a situation to please call CATF to report the incident. The Columbus AIDS Task Force can be reached at (614) 299-2437; please ask to speak with someone in the Prevention and Education Department.

CONTACT:

Tyler Benack, Youth HIV Prevention Specialist
Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF)
614.299.2437 ext.108 email: tylerbenack@catf.net