

**INTERFAITH AIDS
MINISTRY OF
GREATER
DANBURY
39 ROSE STREET
DANBURY, CT 06810**

**203-748-4077
FAX-203-748-2841**

**WWW.DANBURY.
ORG/INTERFAITH**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 5-9, 2007
CT. AIDS BIKE TOUR**

BACK TO SCHOOL

**OCTOBER 19, 2007
3RD ANNUAL
NIGHT OF
BRAZILIAN MUSIC**

**ADOPT A FAMILY FOR
THE HOLIDAYS**

Funding Sources:

- City of Danbury-
- Department of Public Health-
- USDA-
- FEMA-
- United Way-
- Community Development Block Grant-
- Broadway Cares-
- Individual Donors-
- Corporate Donors-
- Congregations-

***IAM* Newsletter** FALL 2007

IAM offers unconditional physical, and emotional support for people and their families affected by HIV/AIDS, *IAM* also performs critical AIDS education in the Greater Danbury Area area

Letter from the Executive Director — Lucy Clementi

It is with sincere and heartfelt thanks that I write this greeting to all our friends and supporters of *IAM*. I have been in the not for profit world for over 18 years and have never felt so welcomed, challenged and fulfilled as when I am here at *IAM*. Changes has been part of *IAM* for quite some time and change continues. I am delighted to report these changes have made *IAM* a more efficient and effective organization in the community offering much needed educational and nutri-

tional services in Greater Danbury. Our office is located at 39 Rose Street and the Living Pantry is still downstairs. The Living Pantry is operating effectively and providing food and education to those in need impacted by HIV/AIDS.

As you know, the face of HIV/AIDS has changed since the founding of Interfaith AIDS Ministry. Our friend and families we serve are living with, not dying from AIDS. This gift is laced with the chal-

lenges of dealing with a long term disabling illness. Interfaith AIDS Ministry continues to be committed to educating and assisting people impacted by AIDS.



Direct Services — Michael Greene

THE LIVING PANTRY -Our goal is to provide nutritional and enjoyable food to our clients. The pantry offers food for food and education to those in need affected by HIV/AIDS. We provide fresh produce, dairy, meat, bread, eggs, along with canned foods, pasta, cereal, juice, personal hygiene items, and many other food items to each client and their families.

The hours of operation are from noon to 4 pm Wednesday and Thursday every other week. (Call for our schedule.) We give the opportunity for each customer to shop at their leisure, to find what they need from our shelves. Each week the pantry shelves are stocked from the Connecticut Food Bank through grants, FEMA, and donations from generous individuals, companies and places of worship. With funds we receive from Ryan White

Title I, FEMA, Broadway Cares, Altria, and generous donors we are able to purchase the fresh foods.

Meal Planning and Nutritional Education is provided by our Nutritionist, Peggy Zamore, funded by UCONN.

We encourage those who have a need for our services to contact us and become one of our clients. We have volunteers make limited home delivery for homebound clients.

We need your help for all these vital programs—programs vital to the well-being of our clients. Please volunteer or become one of our clients and partake in our many services.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS — ADOPT A FAMILY—

We provide families with Thanksgiving meals and December Holiday meals. We also provide Holiday gifts for the entire family. In operation now - Donations requested

BIRTHDAY IN A BOX—

We provide children of our clients the makings of a Birthday Party including candles, cake, a very cute stuffed animal and a variety of party items.

BACK TO SCHOOL—

We provide children with supplies to start the school year. Backpacks are filled with the necessary school supplies.

EMERGENCY FUNDS—

We all can use a helping hand, when all other resources have been exhausted. We often can help with requests for special assistance.

Iampowerment Project - Education and Prevention Services - Alaor Gontijo and Silvio Soares, Jr.

We all know that stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing rates of unprotected sex among young gay/bisexual men, continues to be a challenge. Many people, especially young gay/bisexual men, who most need effective HIV prevention and education services, never show up at the doorsteps of AIDS service organizations. This young men population of Greater Danbury, no longer miss these important and relevant HIV Prevention Services, thanks to the IAMPOWERMENT PROJECT. Over the last eighteen months, Interfaith AIDS Ministry has been offering to our community, this great innovative program that mobilizes young gay/bisexual men to shape a healthy community for themselves, building a positive social connection, and supporting their friends to have safer sex. The

The Mpowerment goal is to reach and focus on the entire community, using peer education. Young gay and bisexual men educating themselves and passing on the prevention message of safer sex and healthy sexual behavior to their friends in the neighborhood.

Some of the principle guidelines of this innovative program:

- Personal and community empowerment
- Diffusion of new behaviors through social networks
- Putting HIV prevention with in the context of other compelling issues for young gay/bisexual men
- Community building
- Peer Education
- Using gay positive attitudes

Our model of Mpowerment relies on five integrated activities:

Outreach; targeting young gay/bisexual men in our community; one on one, street outreach, gay bars, events, etc...

Condoms distribution: Stationary baskets of safer sex material placed in several commercial establishments in the community.

M group: single session meetings where a small group of young gay/bisexual men get together to share information about prevention, education, etc.

Promotion: publicity campaign attracting young gay/bisexual men through newspapers, advertisements, web sites.

Day Retreat: once a year, all the participants get together to celebrate, discuss and review prevention issues in the community.

Youth Reacting to AIDS - YRTA — Miozotis Galarza, MA

Happy Fall 2007! It is with great enthusiasm that I announce to all our IAM supporters that our youth peer education program, Youth Reacting To AIDS or YRTA, is starting again this fall. Thanks to a two year grant from United Way of Northern Fairfield County, Interfaith AIDS Ministry will be running this successful program to provide HIV/AIDS education to local schools, youth organizations and community agencies in the greater Danbury area.

Even more exciting, is the fact that we hired a new youth peer educator, Allie Clement, to work with the teens in YRTA. Allie is a senior at Newtown high school who wants to be an infectious disease doctor.

Last summer, Ally went to Ghana where she worked at an orphanage. After this extraordinary experience, for which she raised over \$5,000, she became more aware of the issues affecting children in Africa such as poverty and HIV/AIDS.

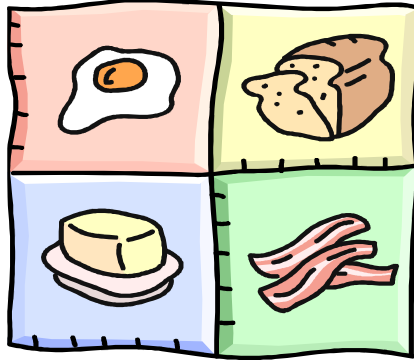
Allie is also a member of the CT Department of Public Health youth community planning group. Through her participation in this committee, she wants to have a voice in the decision making process in the public health arena.

YRTA meetings will be taking place every Monday at Wooster School starting September 17, 2007. I am so happy to work with such a talented young woman and I am looking forward to all the upcoming YRTA activities. Please join me in welcoming Ally and all the students that will be participating in this award winning program. If you want to contact YRTA, please call me at (203) 748-4077 or email at miozotisgalarza@sbcglobal.net.

Focus on Food and Nutrition—Peggy Zamore

The mission of the Living Pantry nutrition education program is to improve our clients' health through nutrition experiences and information. Our nutritionist provides on the spot nutrition education by shopping with our clients to help them choose the best foods for their situation. By tasting new foods or prepared recipes in the pantry and by sharing information during nutrition lunch and learn programs, we all share new ideas and look at old habits that might be in need of change to promote health.

Our food store tours provide on the spot decision making tools for better food purchases. Behaviorally focused, personalized nutrition education through learning experiences aims at increasing the likelihood of making healthy food choices and keeping our clients healthier, in general.



Staffed by a state certified dietitian/nutritionist and funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Stamp Program, the nutrition education program for IAM is targeted to enable our clients to use their food stamps most efficiently, for nutrient dense foods.

University of Connecticut's Cooperative Extension Service administers the program, through its Food Security Program, and a collaboration with food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters to improve staff and recipients' food and nutrition knowledge, food safety and preparation skills, food choices and shopping skills. The goal is to improve dietary quality through food resource management.

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL

IAM NEEDS YOUR HELP
IAM—39 ROSE STREET— DANBURY, CT. 06810

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$25. _____ \$50. _____ \$100. _____ \$250. _____ OTHER _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

IAM RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO HELP KEEP ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OPERATING.

IAM WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT AT ANY LEVEL.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER— WOULD YO LIKE TO ADOPT A FAMILY FOR
THE HOLIDAYS -
PLEASE CONTACT US

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Executive Director

Michael Greene-
Director of Operations/
Pantry Manager

Peggy Zamore –
Nutritionist

Miozotis Galarza ,MA-
-YRTA Director

Alaor Gontijo — AIDS
Educator

Silvio Soares Jr.—
AIDS Educator

Tracy Little—

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Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury —IAM

IAM offers unconditional physical, and emotional support for people and their families affected by HIV/AIDS, **IAM** also performs critical AIDS education in the Greater Danbury area.

As a not for profit agency, **IAM** relies on volunteers and contributions to help keep its programs and services operating. **IAM** welcomes your support at any level.

Our Web Site: www.danbury.org/interfaith

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Check out our Web Site Update!!

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IAM Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury

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Mission Not Impossible!

Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury, Inc. (IAM) offers critical support services to families faced with the nutritional, physical and spiritual challenges of living with HIV/AIDS while providing vital education programs that respond to the greater community.

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