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"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

John Donne

These words of Donne, written in 17th century England at a time when disease and early death were the constant companions of men, echo across the years to inform us today. While many of us may be privileged to enjoy good health and access to medical care, there are also many among us who walk daily with disease and the despair that can result from confronting complex bureaucratic barriers when they seek help. Those who have HIV/AIDS all too frequently face the additional burden of shame or rejection imposed by those of us who are their neighbors and friends, but who choose to be ignorant about this disease and its many faces in our community.

The Board of Directors and Staff of Piedmont Care, Inc., is celebrating ten years of increasing awareness, treatment options, and prevention measures for those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. As you read through this booklet, I hope that you will be encouraged by the work that is being done in this area and challenged by what remains to be done. Most of all, I hope that you will come to realize, as I have, that there is no one in our community who is not affected by this disease.

Arnie Applebaum
President

Thank You

Abbott Laboratories, Inc.

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Executive Director's Remarks

Piedmont Care brings advocacy, education, care and prevention services to bear on the HIV epidemic. The organization has grown from a small grant in the health department – to a nonprofit with multiple funding sources, eight staff members, serving about 320 clients annually and addressing both care and prevention services. Piedmont Care was the leading advocate for increased funding to support expanded services in the infectious disease clinic. And, recently, we hired a health educator to implement an innovative prevention program. Piedmont Care is currently celebrating a decade of service. To mark this milestone we have partnered with the Hub City Writers Project to publish *Hidden Voices*, a book of creative writing and graphic art by people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Many things have changed at Piedmont Care over the last ten years, but our principles remain the same.

WE BELIEVE clients deserve quality, compassionate and affordable services delivered in a nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory manner.

WE BELIEVE in education and empowerment so people can make informed decisions about their lives and their care.

During 2004, in partnership with the Spartanburg Little Theatre, we celebrated *An Evening of Hope*.

HOPE IS...wishing for something with expectation...

We HOPE our jobs become obsolete and We HOPE for a world without AIDS. But until then, Piedmont Care is dedicated to fighting HIV/AIDS and the fear, stigma, and intolerance surrounding it.

Community Leadership

During the past year, Piedmont Care has spearheaded three community projects.

HIV and AIDS: A Spartanburg County Perspective, produced by the Spartanburg County Community and Economic Development Department on behalf of the Spartanburg County HIV/AIDS Committee, examines the impact of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) on Spartanburg County.

On behalf of the City of Greenville's Community Development Division, Piedmont Care created the *Housing Resource Guide*, listing housing resources in the Upstate.

In partnership with AHUM, A Healthy Union Matters, Piedmont Care created the Union County Directory of Services to facilitate referrals, prevent duplication of service, and educate citizens.

New Approach to HIV Prevention

5 years of planning came to fruition in 2004. Piedmont Care created an innovative HIV prevention program, *The 3Cs Approach to Prevention: Clients, Community, and Collaboration*. The Mary Black Foundation, the Spartanburg County Foundation and the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Foundation have responded to this new approach by supplying financial support. Our community partners responded with technical assistance and encouragement.

Why Positive Prevention? (Clients)

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, prevention programs for individuals who are already (HIV) infected are an important way to avert further infections. "A weakness in prevention strategies in many countries has been the failure to target intensive prevention efforts to people who have been diagnosed with HIV... The advent of new treatments for HIV infection heightens this need for positive prevention, with more people living with HIV than ever before... There are very compelling reasons for considering prevention activities that meet the particular needs of people with HIV. Firstly, because one positive person is involved in each case of HIV transmission; secondly, because people with HIV have the right to live well with HIV; and thirdly, because HIV prevention, treatment, care and support are all inter-related" (International HIV/AIDS Alliance, July 2003).

Why Community?

HIV knows no boundaries. HIV can infect men, women, and children of any age, race, or ethnicity. Although our target community is limited to a geographic area, the prevention needs of the population are diverse. In this world of global transportation, migration, and economy, we must care about the HIV epidemic worldwide.

Why Collaboration?

Collaboration between service providers is essential to the success of the community's HIV prevention Cooperative Plan. Funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and South Carolina have not kept pace with community trends and needs. Partnership means a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention can be developed.

Thank You

Jim Joyner

Jackson Family

**Junior League of
Spartanburg, Inc.**

Pam Kaplan

Barry Lytle

Chuck McDaniel

Mary Black Foundation

Milliken Foundation

Thom Moore

Lonnie and Sabrina Myers

Kris Neely

New Day Clubhouse

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**St. Matthew's
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**S.C. Center for Grassroots and
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Spartanburg County Foundation

Spartanburg Little Theatre

**Spartanburg Regional
Healthcare System Foundation**

Tammy and David Stokes

Betsy Teter

United Way of the Piedmont

Upstate Parrothead Club

P. Randall Wright

Alva Young

HIV KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

HIV can infect men, women, and children of any age, race or ethnicity. With the development of new medications, and increased knowledge, more HIV-infected individuals will live longer and fuller lives. If you or someone you know is living with HIV/AIDS and is in need of help or more information, please call us. All information is strictly confidential.

HIV TESTING & COUNSELING

Early testing is the key to staying healthy, so don't wait until you get sick to get tested for HIV. The Center for Disease Control estimates that one-fourth of people living with HIV in the United States are unaware that they are HIV positive. Free and confidential HIV testing and counseling is available.

Staff Update

It can be discouraging to think that the number of people living with HIV in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union counties continues to grow. However, it is encouraging to know that Piedmont Care has grown as well, to meet the needs of the people we serve. We recently added three new employees: Michelle Stapleton, Shawntae Moore and Jay Farr.

Growth doesn't occur solely with the development of a new program or the addition of new employees. Growth may occur within the hearts and minds of those who have spent a lifetime helping others. Carol Barry, Social Worker and Case Manager, has worked with Piedmont Care for the past four years, but has devoted a lifetime to helping others. Carol had the following things to say about her work at Piedmont Care:

The past four years I have worked as a Case Manager with infectious disease clients. These needy people faced and overcame seemingly impossible barriers. They have taught me how to persevere in the face of adversity and rejection. They have taught me patience in the midst of fear and panic. My job has been to equip them with the necessary resources to fight their battle and to cheer them on.



Tracey L. Jackson, Executive Director, was hired in 1998. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Clemson University and the University of South Carolina; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of South Carolina Spartanburg.

Kathy White, Case Management Supervisor, was hired in 2001 as a Case Manager and was promoted to her current position in 2003. She holds a Masters Degree in Counseling from Webster University and a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Winthrop University.

Carol Barry, Case Manager, was hired in 2000. She is a licensed Social Worker and obtained her Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Berry College.

Jay Farr, Case Manager, was hired in 2005. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of South Carolina Spartanburg.

Karen Gray, Office Assistant, was hired in 2001. Ms. Gray graduated from the System Support program at Spartanburg Technical College.

Shawntae Moore, Health Educator, was hired in 2004. She has a Bachelors Degree in Community Health from Johnson C. Smith University.

Michelle Stapleton, Case Manager, was hired in 2004. She is a licensed Social Worker and obtained her Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Warren Wilson College.

Noelle Waddell, Case Manager, was hired in 2002. She is a licensed Social Worker and obtained her Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Columbia College.

Focus Group Reflections

by Dr. Randall Wright

Our church, Fernwood Baptist Church, has had the pleasure of hosting several Piedmont Care Focus Group dinners and discussions. I've had the added blessing of facilitating the group discussions. Typically, the host of any event or gathering benefits as much or more than the guests. Such has been the case for me.

Other than enjoying a complimentary and very good meal each time the groups met, I made many new friends. What I have learned from these folks—and most of them are HIV positive—has become the most valuable benefit I have received. I learned that many of my new friends are not dying of AIDS. Typically, we who are not directly affected by AIDS or have much contact with those who are, have this dismal view—they are dying of AIDS. And we tend to feel great sorrow and regret.

What I have learned is that my new friends who participated in the Focus Groups are not dying of AIDS. They are living with AIDS. I've been humbled to learn of the vast difference between dying of AIDS and living with AIDS. One perspective is negative, depressing, hopeless. The other view is positive, uplifting, filled with hope. One view tends to isolate or reject. After all, who wants to be around someone who is dying? That makes one vulnerable. The other view helps us realize that we are all living with situations or events that are difficult but never hopeless.

Of course we all realize that we are dying. You know the old worn out saying about "death and taxes..." But I have learned from my friends who are living with AIDS and not dying of it, that I'm presently very much alive! I have been challenged to value each moment, each new opportunity, each reason for hope and joy. Also, I have experienced a deep gratitude for new friends and fresh reminders of lasting truths.

Ryan White CARE Act, Title Three Services

by Sachin Desai, Project Director

The Ryan White CARE Act Title III Program is located within the Regional Internal Medicine Clinic at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and is about to begin the third year of operations. The Health Resources and Services Administration of the federal government provides funding. The Title III Program provides comprehensive primary healthcare and HIV specialty care to uninsured and underinsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Medical care provided by four Infectious Disease physicians and a nurse practitioner
- Pharmaceutical assistance
- Oral healthcare services
- Mental health services provided by a mental health professional
- Nutritional counseling provided by a registered dietitian
- Transportation services
- Specialty care, through referral, for services such as neurology and dermatology

In addition to these services, a Piedmont Care case manager is available at the clinic. The Title III Program is proud to have Piedmont Care as one of the partner organizations and this partnership has been valuable in developing a more comprehensive system of care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Hidden Voices

by *Kris Neely*



A few months ago I was asked to serve as Writer-in-Residence for a book project entitled *Hidden Voices*. Sponsored by Piedmont Care, the Hub City Writer's Project, and the Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg, *Hidden Voices* will compile written and visual perspectives from members of the Spartanburg Community. This project will bring together voices from across the community to celebrate and honor Piedmont Care's Tenth Anniversary of quiet and consistent service.

When I was asked to help with this project, my first reaction was, "Why me?"

Piedmont Care, Inc. is the nonprofit organization serving HIV+ people and their families in our community. Most of what I know about HIV and AIDS is from pieces of sex education materials, academic writings, news magazines, and a few workplace training sessions about blood-borne pathogens provided by the American Red Cross. Is that knowledge enough to qualify my participation in this project?

The answer is no. I am qualified because I live in Spartanburg, S.C., USA, Planet Earth. I am a writer in residence here, where there is a hidden world of citizens that is getting larger, struggling against personal infection and public fear. There are families and friends who face this disease even while I have exercised my luxury to avoid dealing with it. I am qualified to participate, because I am directly affected by simply being here.

Hidden Voices is not really about HIV and AIDS. It is not about disease or despair. Those ideas might be a part of what we say, but *Hidden Voices* is really about everything else. This project is about life and our life together as a community. *Hidden Voices* is the chance for a pastor to try his hand at rap lyrics, for a widowed partner to grieve with hope, and the amateur photographer to capture the hands of a neighbor on film from a disposable camera. If this letter has reached you, you are a part of the community of affected voices we hope to hear, celebrate, compile, and publish.



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Mission Statement

The mission of Piedmont Care, Inc., an educational and advocacy organization, is to coordinate and provide medical, social, and psychological services for individuals and families affected by or at risk for HIV.

Piedmont Care is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to Piedmont Care are tax deductible.

You can designate your United Way contributions to Piedmont Care. For more information contact your Personnel or Human Resources Department.

An Evening of Hope

In observance of World AIDS Day 2004, the Spartanburg Little Theatre presented, *An Evening of Hope*, to benefit Piedmont Care. The event included music and entertainment affirming the joy of life. Musical selections, performed by local artists, included: *What I Did For Love, Tomorrow, and Climb Every Mountain*.

In addition to the performance, select panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt from the NAMES Project Foundation were on display. The AIDS Memorial Quilt was first sewn in 1987 consisting of 40 panels. Today, there are over 45,000 panels listing the names of over 88,000 people who have died from AIDS related illnesses.

According to Spartanburg Little Theatre Executive Artistic Director, Dennis Gleason: "We are a community theatre; as such we welcome all members of our community into our family, as does Piedmont Care, Inc. HIV-AIDS is not a gay or straight disease, not an old or young person's disease, not a disease of blacks or whites or even male or female...it is an affliction that does not discriminate and neither do we. On our stage this evening, and behind the scenes as well, you will find members of both genders, generations, ethnicity and sexual orientations coming together to offer hope; in fact, we are a pretty accurate representation of not only those who are affected by HIV-AIDS but also of those represented in the AIDS Memorial Quilt...we celebrate the coming together of our community to lift our voices as one to do all we can to fight this disease...remember to carry within your own heart that glowing candle of compassion that will help make the end of every day truly *An Evening of Hope*."