



### FOUR A'S TO START RAPID HEPATITIS C TESTING

Since the initiation of the Alaska Syringe Access Project, clients of the project have been asking for Hepatitis C testing. Alex Barros, Director of Prevention, has been working to make that a reality. This summer, Four A's entered into a collaborative agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Health, Section of Epidemiology to obtain the training and materials needed to initiate the project.

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness which can cause cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hepatitis C is usually spread when blood from a

person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. Today, many people become infected with the virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs.

Starting in October, the Four A's will offer the first FDA-approved, rapid HCV test. This pilot program will be available for free to 150-200 at-risk injection drug users and HIV-positive individuals.

The OraQuick HCV test is FDA approved for detecting HCV antibodies. The simple testing procedure enables staff to deliver an accurate diagnosis in 20 minutes. With clinically proven performance, OraQuick HCV is greater than 98% accurate.

### 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The Four A's Annual Meeting was held September 6, 2012 at the Credit Union 1 headquarters. The Annual Meeting serves as a wonderful opportunity to recognize those who have made a positive impact on the agency over the past year. Each year the Four A's presents an award to someone who has shown extraordinary philanthropic leadership, and an award to an individual or group who has demonstrated exceptional generosity through volunteerism.

This year, Corbett Mothe was presented with the 2012 Philanthropist of the Year award. For more than 20 years, Corbett has been a generous supporter of the Four

A's in addition to being a member of the Board of Directors for many years. As an *Evening with Friends* Four A's fundraiser host, Corbett has held numerous parties featuring his well-known Cajun cooking. The generosity shown by Corbett has made a tremendous impact on the Four A's, helping it to develop into a vital and respected statewide agency.

True North Church was presented with the 2012 Volunteers of the Year award. The last Friday of every month, True North Church provides a hot meal for our clients as part of the Friday Lunch program. Clients look forward to Friday Lunch because it's a time where they can sit down to a hot meal, chat with their case manager and be with others who also live with HIV, all in a stigma free setting. True North Church always goes above and beyond to ensure the clients have a nutritious and enjoyable meal.

Thank you to both Corbett and True North Church for your tremendous contributions!

#### 2012 PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR



Heather Harris, Board President (left) and Heather Davis, Executive Director (right) present the 2012 Philanthropist of the Year award to Corbett Mothe.

#### 2012 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



Heather Davis, Executive Director (center) and Heather Harris, Board President (far right), present the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award to members of True North Church- Aja Johannes (left) Cari Williams (2nd from left) and Shanay Doss (2nd from right).

## WELCOME HEATHER!

On July 2nd, Heather Davis assumed her role as the new Executive Director at Four A's. Heather comes to the Four A's with nearly 30 years of experience in the health and human services field – 13 of those years spent working in Alaska. For the last 4 years, Heather has been the Executive Director of Healthy Community Coalition of Greater Franklin County in Farmington, Maine, as well as acting as Senior Leadership for Franklin Community Health Network. While in Maine, Heather was on the Board of Directors for the Maine Cancer Consortium, the Maine Cardiovascular Health Council, the Maine Public Health Association, as well as, sitting on the Maine Public Health Statewide Coordinating Council.

Heather is excited to return to Alaska and her work in the HIV/AIDS arena. She previously worked in Alaska from 1995 - 2008. Much of her time in Alaska was involved in the HIV/AIDS field. This included volunteering for Four A's, and working as the Director of the Alaska Native HIV/AIDS Case Management Project which provided services in the Chugach region, on Kodiak Island, and in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation region.

Heather graduated with a Master of Public Health degree from Boston University (BU) with a concentration in health policy and management. While at BU, Heather also completed a certificate program in international health.

## WELCOME JOE!

Joe Clark is our new Jesuit Volunteer for the upcoming year. Originally from Vancouver, Washington, Joe attended Seattle University where he received a BA in Liberal Studies. After college, Joe volunteered for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) at JOIN in Portland, Oregon. The JOIN program supports those experiencing homelessness in their efforts to transition into permanent housing. Joe was the Immersion Coordinator leading groups of high school students around Portland to educate them on homelessness in Portland.



His duties at the Four A's include managing the Syringe Exchange, running the food bank, and performing HIV tests. In his spare time, Joe enjoys reading and playing music on the guitar and ukulele.

**THANK YOU**  
to the nearly 150  
people who picked,  
clicked, and **GAVE**  
to the Four A's for  
a total of more than  
**\$10,000!**



*Trevor Council, Mikel Wiles and Scooter Niessink, of the Imperial Court of All Alaska, are grilling up a delicious lunch for our clients.*

*“Everyone deserves compassion,  
everyone deserves dignity. Everyone,  
everyone, everyone deserves love.  
The AIDS disease is caused by a  
virus but the AIDS epidemic is not.  
It is fueled by stigma.”  
– Sir Elton John, June 23, 2012.*

**WORLD AIDS DAY  
DECEMBER 1st**



## THANKSGIVING BLESSING

The Food Bank of Alaska's Thanksgiving Blessings Project was created in 2004 to centralize and consolidate the distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets to those in need. In 2011, almost 7,000 families in Anchorage and Eagle River participated. Every year, the Four A's helps by volunteering on the food distribution day and by raising money to ensure a holiday meal not only for our clients, but for all those in need in our community.

This year, the Four A's goal is to raise at least \$1,000 to contribute to the project. Checks can be made out to Four A's, just include a note on the memo line that says "Thanksgiving Blessings" and send to Four A's, 1057 Fireweed, Suite 102, Anchorage, AK, 99503. If you would like to use a credit card over the phone, call Lilah at (907) 263-2046.



## From the Executive Director, Heather Davis

How honored I am to be the new Executive Director for the Four A's. And, how honored I am to work with an incredible staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers.

It goes without saying that we are the primary provider in the provision of services to people living with HIV/AIDS, but how well we provide these services is totally dependent on the day-to-day work of our staff, the Board who guides our organization, and our volunteers who so willingly offer their time. In my first two and a half months with the Four A's I have discovered a deep and visible passion that staff, board members, and volunteers all share. The quality of work they do, the dedication to our clients and programs, and the dedication to this community is strong and evident. And,

as I go around the community representing the Four A's, I see the wealth of support from our partners, donors, and our community members all who help ensure we meet our mission of providing supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families while also working to eliminate the transmission of HIV and its stigma.

I want to give thanks to all of you for the various ways you support the Four A's, and for making me feel so welcomed. I am truly fortunate to be leading this wonderful organization.

## THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS

### \$5,000 OR MORE

Middlecott Foundation

### BETWEEN \$1,000 - \$4,999

ConocoPhillips  
Support Services of Alaska  
Trevor Storrs & Stephen Smith

### BETWEEN \$500 - \$999

Jason Potasnik  
MJ Thim  
United Way of Southeast Alaska

### BETWEEN \$100 - \$499

Candace Bell  
Credit Union 1  
Dennis McMillian  
Eric & Jessica Wuttke  
Feinstein Foundation  
Heather & Josh Harris  
Janus & Daniel Reyes  
Joan Hoeler  
John & Tami Collins

Karen & Paul Jenkins  
Karen Rogers  
Lee Holmes  
Lee Powelson  
Michael Deel & Charles Luttrell  
Michael Janson  
Nancy & Michael Burke  
Robin Figueroa  
Salon DaVinci  
Wendy Isbell & John Farleigh

### LESS THAN \$99

Anonymous  
Allen Levy  
Anne Henry  
Bethann Hawley  
Chris Kowalczewski & John Gazaway  
Christine DeCourtney  
Gina Bosnakis  
Grady Frank Jenkins, Jr.  
Heather Davis  
Jamie Stevens  
John Weiner  
Jonathon Lack

Keian Dayani  
Krista Scully  
Lee Goodman  
Lilah & Nathan Root  
Linda Ann Billington  
Lorri Winchester  
Melinda Freemon  
Members of Credit Union 1  
Michael McLane  
Michelle Smith  
Monica Isabella  
Oscar Pittman  
Pam Lund  
Paul Reindl  
Raju Shankar  
Rick Miller & April Arnett  
Robert & Leslie Baker  
Sherrie Siverson  
Shirley Randal  
Terese Laughrey  
Vickie Dodge-Pamplin & Geoffrey Pamplin  
Vicky Sargent  
William Bobrick  
Yasushi Kakizaki

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

### DRAG QUEEN BINGO

Daphne DoAll LaChores & the DoAll LaChores family • Laile, Cindy, Aurora & the staff of Snow City Café

Art Services North • A Casual Encounter Catering

*And all of our wonderful Drag Queen Bingo Volunteers – Alexis Kellie, Shawn, Walt, Donna, Daniel, Mark, Joey, Jesse, Josh, Denton, Heather, Janeen, Julie, Paige, John, Doug, Marcin, and any volunteers we may have missed.*

### EVENING WITH FRIENDS HOSTS

Trevor Storrs & Jack Dalton

### FRIDAY LUNCH HOSTS

True North Church • Great Land Infusion Pharmacy • Credit Union 1 • Imperial Court of All Alaska  
Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • Pride

**Make your dollars go further in the fight against HIV/AIDS  
by utilizing your employer's matching gift program!**



Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association  
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Anchorage, AK  
Permit No. 536



**Our Mission:** To be a key collaborator within the state of Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of the transmission of HIV infection and its stigma.

**Anchorage Office**

1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 263-2050  
(907) 263-2051 (fax)  
aaaa@alaskanids.org  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

**Juneau Office**

174 S Franklin Street, #207 (Physical)  
PO Box 21481 (Mailing)  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-6089  
(907) 586-1089 (fax)  
1-888-660-2437  
aaaase@alaskanids.org

**www.AlaskanAIDS.org**  
**Statewide Helpline**  
**1-800-478-AIDS (2437)**

**Four A's Board of Directors**

Heather Harris, President      Karen Jenkins  
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Michael Janson, Treasurer      Robin Lutz  
Candace Bell, Secretary        Richard Miller  
Katy Branch                        Jason Potasnik  
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Christopher Carpenter        Devyn Reece  
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Proud to be an Agency Member of the  
United Way of Anchorage