UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1  |  World AIDS Day Remembrance Ceremony
Noon  |  River Garden, 157 Main Street, Brattleboro

December 10  |  Holiday Drag Show with the Ladies of the Rainbow
A benefit for APSV  |  VFW, 40 Black Mountain Road, Brattleboro

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org
Jeanne White-Ginder is sick of reading AIDS statistics. “People kind of forget,” she says, “the figures have real faces.” Real names, too. Back in 1984, her 13-year-old son, Ryan, was diagnosed with the disease after a blood transfusion. Doctors gave him six months to live. But that didn’t stop his Midwest neighbors from arguing whether they felt safe around him, sparking the attention of the national press and such high-profile supporters as Elton John and Elizabeth Taylor.

“I was just a mom — I’m still just a mom,” White-Ginder recalled during a recent Keene State College showing of the exhibit “Why We Fight: Remembering AIDS Activism.” “I just wanted my son to live.” Her son would do so five years longer than predicted — dying just weeks before his high school graduation and just months before Congress passed the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act that, a quarter-century later, helps pay for the work of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

White’s legacy also lives on through the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which stitches together nearly 50,000 names as worldly as film star Rock Hudson and as local as former Guilford state Rep. Ronald Squires. The latter two men were noted during a fall benefit performance of “Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens” at Brattleboro’s Latchis Theatre, where a cast and crew of 36 presented stories and songs inspired by the quilt.

Squires’ mother, Shirley, sat in the audience. But like White-Ginder, she isn’t a bystander. At the start of the show, the AIDS Project honored the 86-year-old Vermonter with a Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award for raising more than $300,000 at its annual Walk for Life since her son’s death in 1993.

As the great-great-grandmother received applause, the grandson of the legendary Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi was speaking just up the street during the Brattleboro Literary Festival. “We are all interrelated and interdependent,” Arun Gandhi said. “We have to become the change we wish to see in the world.”

Threaded together in a common cause, Shirley Squires and Jeanne White-Ginder understand. “Ryan said if you don’t know about something, you’re going to be afraid,” his mother says. “That’s why we have to keep educating people.”
9th Annual Barbecue and Garden Party at Frog Meadow

Close to a hundred men came out to support the AIDS Project and enjoy the delicious food, beautiful gardens, swimming pond, lawn games, and the chance to win fabulous prizes in the Chinese auction! The AIDS Project applauds Scott and Dave on all the work they put into making this event a success, raising over $5,000 to support HIV prevention efforts in southern Vermont. We truly appreciate their efforts and generosity!

Thank you to our event sponsors:
West River Family Dental, Against the Grain Gourmet, Fieldstone Lodge, Thom Dahlin, Mountainside Campground, and Rock River Preservation

Thank you to the donors of the amazing array of marvelous raffle prizes:
Against the Grain Gourmet, Aunt Sadie’s Candles, Beacon Light Guest House, Bloomin’ Antiques, Blue Moose Restaurant, Bouffard Associates, Dennis Bushey & Bruce Benett, Fieldstone Lodge, Four Columns Inn, Fulcrum Arts, Gay Outdoors, GAY-TANTRA, Heart Centered Touch, Jasmine Day Spa, Jeff Ross, Michael Kelly, Moose Creek Adirondack Chairs, Moose Meadow Lodge, Mountainside Campground, New England Center for Circus Arts, North End Butchers, Outryders Ski/Snowboard Club, Paul Quin, Peter Havens Restaurant, Saxtons River Distillery, Shankara Studio, TJ Buckley’s Restaurant, Wayne Lapinski Shiatsu Therapeutic Bodywork, Williamsville Eatery, Windham Wines, and Winter Rendezvous.

And thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with the event!

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Are you excited by the work of APSV?
If so, please consider joining our board.
For more information, please call 802-254-8263.

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“I was honored to be invited to join the Board! After so many years connected to the Project — from volunteering over the years since ’89 to working at the Men’s Program for eight years — it feels like a great place to be, supporting the organization that has in so many ways sustained me over the years.”

— Alex Potter

The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

The mission of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is to provide direct services to those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, to offer education to help prevent its spread, and to promote understanding within the communities served.

AIDS Project Board of Directors Welcomes Alex Potter

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At the AIDS Project we count among our supporters a pool of wonderful volunteers that offer their time and camaraderie to facilitate our work. Volunteers pitch in individually or in lively group gatherings to help out when hands are most needed. There is no need for on-going commitment, most of our volunteer work is event based, so emails go out to the group as needed.

If you are interested in donating your time, join the fun, we’d love to have you! Contact Diane at apsvadm@sover.net or give us a call at (802) 254-4444.

APSV volunteers keep the work flowing and spirits high! This year we are looking to add a few more helpers to the roster.

Baking!
Cookies for the annual APSV Holiday Cookie Drop, and cupcakes for Cupcakes and Condoms Gallery Walk events.

Mailing Parties!
Several times a year an enthusiastic group of volunteers pitches in to address, stuff, stamp and seal envelopes for mailings. To get the job done, we gather around the table with snacks, conversation and music.

Event Helpers!
We appreciate help preparing materials, and manning tables at events throughout the year.

Picnic Prep!
Always messy and always fun: Volunteers lend their hands to cutting up watermelons and shucking corn for a picnic fundraiser.