

The Red Ribbon

Review

McKinley Grand And Amadeus Spa team up with The Red Ribbon Connection to make **PROM NIGHT** a success



TRRC's Mission:

To provide services, education and awareness to the HIV/AIDS infected and affected community.

TRRC's Vision:

To lead our HIV/AIDS community to a healthier tomorrow.

TRRC's Philosophy:

TRRC strives to ignite the community with a passion to realize the necessity of education and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

That's right, besides giving us the exceptional service and "A List" treatment, the McKinley Grand is offering overnight stays the weekend of the prom (March 27-28) at \$82.00 per single and \$89.00 for double occupancy PLUS a free breakfast buffet! (You must tell them you are affiliated with TRRC when calling for reservations 330-454-5000) The McKinley Grand will donate 10% of the room rate back to our organization.

Also, they will donate 10% of the bar tab back to the organization as well! (this includes the bar at the lounge, so PLEASE, when ordering there, let them know you are with TRRC!)

When Tim Kolopus, owner of Amadeus Spa found out about our great cause, he wanted in on the action as well! Amadeus Spa now has massages available at the McKinley Grand. Amadeus will donate back \$10.00 to TRRC for ANYONE booking a massage March 27-29 at the hotel location. (You must call the hotel front desk to book your massage; advance reservations, please!) Tim is also donating spa services for our silent auction. TRRC would like to publically thank both of these fine establishments for their support and hope you continue to support them throughout the year!

After Prom — Join Us

Just like the old days—no one wants the party to end. That is the exact reason we will be holding an AFTER PROM following the PROM. We are moving the DJ out into the lounge of the McKinley Grand. We will have munchies and continue the fun into the wee hours or however long you wanna stay and a portion of the drink costs goes to TRRC—so you are still supporting the cause.

There will be games and door prizes and a special surprise performance you won't want to miss. SEE YOU AT THE AFTER PROM!

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The Red Ribbon Review

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Every time we raise
HIV/AIDS awareness,
we lower the possibil-
ity of its spread.

From the Pen of the President

Today as I write to you, it is a blustery, rainy, 45° day in February, tomorrow, a high of 20° and a chance of snow! The one consistent thing about Ohio weather, its inconsistency! Even though life is full of inconsistencies, some things must remain constant: our mission, our goal, OUR PASSION to wipe out HIV!

The Red Ribbon Connection is working diligently to spread the word about HIV/AIDS. We are taking awareness and education to the next level by our distribution of free condoms throughout 20 plus establishments in Stark County. The monumental effectiveness of this should not be taken lightly! We have distributed over 20,000 condoms in a six month period. We are hoping to double that in the next six months. This can not be made possible without you. We are teaming up with RAG (Regional Advisory Group) and are sponsoring “National Testing Day” in June. We are sponsoring “Awareness Days” throughout the year. We continue to support the clients of 5 C.H.A.P.S with food vouchers; there is no mystery as to where our funds are going! We are asking that you continue your generous support by attending our events, the latest being “Prom Night”. Please understand, we take our positions seriously and want to provide great, quality, affordable entertainment for you. Many of us have been together for a long, long time, so we decided to change theme a bit. We wanted to give you a chance to kick up your heels, and quite possibly, experience prom as you have always imagined it, being with the one you CHOOSE to be with, not the one you were EXPECTED to be with! PLUS!!! You can legally drink and get lucky if you choose to with the great rates the McKinley Grand is giving us! (Be sure to pick up your free condoms! LOL!)

Trust me, I know times are tough, things are not easy for the majority of us, but we are still here! We just can’t afford to let all of “our” hard work fall by the wayside. You KNOW where your money is being spent with TRRC and we continue to rely on you, now, more than ever before. Please do not ever think we take your hard earned money for granted. You are the backbone and spirit of TRRC; you are literally saving thousands of people’s lives every time we fill a condom dispenser or sponsor a program. Words can not express our gratitude.

I hope to see each and every one of you on “Prom Night” 2009! Who will our King and Queen be? Get your reservations in.....

As always, I wish you peace and many, many blessings,

MeLissa M Franjesh, President

> > > > PROM MENU < < < <

London Broil • Champagne Chicken
Tri colored tortellini alfredo • Au gratin potatoes • Caribbean vegetable medley
Tossed salad, rolls and butter
Assorted plated desserts and coffee bar

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PO Box 9050, Canton, Ohio 44711
 PH: (330) 455-3835 FAX: (330) 232-9695

Order Form

NAME: _____
 COMPANY: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ FAX: _____
 EMAIL: _____

OUR 9TH ANNUAL THEME EVENING – PROM NIGHT

ORDERING BETWEEN 02/28 & 3/15 NUMBER OF TICKETS @ \$45 DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT \$24.00

ORDERING BETWEEN 03/16 & 03/28 NUMBER OF TICKETS @ \$50 DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT \$29.00

If you wish to be seated with someone, it is best for all reservations to be submitted at the same time. If you are unable to submit at the same time, please list names below and we will do our best to honor your request (tables of 10 people) if you are purchasing a table or multiple tickets, each persons name is needed so that we can prepare bid numbers for each person: (Your name listed above)

UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WISH TO SEND A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO SHOW MY SUPPORT \$ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS TOTAL \$ _____

CHECK/CASH ENCLOSED VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ SECURITY CODE: _____ (2 DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD)

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS MAILED THIS YEAR
If you wish to confirm that we received your reservation and payment please give us a phone number here and one of our staff will call you. PH #

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!
 THE RED RIBBON CONNECTION IS A 501(c)(3) CHARITABLE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 DONOR'S GIFT(S) IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.
 THE RED RIBBON CONNECTION RECOMMENDS THE DONOR CONSULT WITH A TAX ADVISOR.

Testing:
 Canton City
 Health Dept
 420 Market Ave N
 Canton 44702
 330-489-3322

Tuesdays
 8am
 to
 10:30 am

Wednesdays
 1:30pm
 to
 3:30pm

Fridays
 8am
 to
 10:30 am

Testing:
 Alliance City
 Health Dept
 537 E Market
 Alliance 44601
 330-821-7373

Thursdays
 Walk-ins from
 8:30 am
 to
 11:00 am

Also
 By
 Appointment

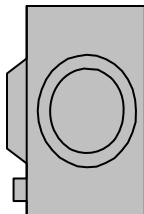
5 C.H.A.P.S. CAN USE YOUR DONATIONS OF HYGIENE PRODUCTS
 TOILET PAPER • SHAMPOO • LAUNDRY DETERGENT • TOOTHPASTE • BAR SOAP • DEODORANT

DONATIONS (MONETARY & PRODUCT) MADE TO 5 C.H.A.P.S. THROUGH
THE RED RIBBON CONNECTION
 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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“What should I wear to THE PROM?!?”

We have been asked by many do they “have to wear a gown or tuxedo to the prom?” Absolutely not! This is YOUR prom! Some will be in gowns, others in pantsuits...we want this to be your dream prom and if you are more comfortable in khakis and a polo, go right ahead! We just want you there!



**REMEMBER YOUR NIGHT AT THE
PROM WITH A PICTURE.**

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER WILL BE THERE
TAKING PICTURES OF YOU OR YOUR GROUP.

4 x 6 COLOR PHOTOS \$10.00

Dear Royalty Elect:

Missed being voted prom king or queen in school? Still want that crown? Here is your chance to wear it, and if you do not win by popular vote, then you can buy it this time! Start collecting your votes even before prom night in the form of \$1, \$5, \$10,...simply fill out the simple entry form and mail to TRRC @.....and you are in the running. Continue to collect “votes” including @ the prom and @ 8:30pm on prom night we will crown the winner-of course that is determined by the amount of “votes” (cash) you raise for TRRC. Man or woman can vie for either crown, just remember....does that tiara match your tux???

PROM KING OR PROM QUEEN ENTRY FORM:

MY NAME IS: _____

I AM ENTERING MY NAME IN THE CONTEST FOR
_____ **KING** _____ **QUEEN**

I UNDERSTAND THE WAY I GET IS ELECTED IS TO SOLICIT DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE BOTH BEFORE AND DURING THE PROM NIGHT CELEBRATION.

THE PERSON GOING FOR KING WHO RAISES THE MOST MONEY WILL WIN THE KING'S CROWN AND THE PERSON WHO IS GOING FOR QUEEN THAT RAISES THE MOST MONEY WILL WIN THE QUEEN'S CROWN.

PLEASE EITHER MAIL THIS ENTRY TO PO BOX 9050, CANTON, OHIO
44711 OR

SEND AN EMAIL WITH THE ABOVE INFO TO
JDREYER@THEREDRIBBONCONNECTION.ORG

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AWARENESS — Let's get the word out!!!

Awareness is defined as: having knowledge or cognizance.

In the 2009-2010 year, The Red Ribbon Connection is going to be working on AWARENESS. During the year there are 8 known AWARENESS days. They are as shown in the box on the right hand side of this article. TRRC is going to be taking on as many of these days as projects to get the word out to the different communities within our area.

We have plans already for a few of these days and hope to add plans for the rest of them as our schedule and time allows.

TRRC has taken on the task of organizing and supporting National Testing Day, which is June 27th. We are in the planning stages of this event and coordinating with the Canton City Health Department and the Stark Regional HIV Prevention and Education Planning and Advisory Group to make this year a success, as the past years have been, and hopefully test more people than we have previously.

TRRC has also engaged two members of the Latino community to help plan a great event for National Latino AIDS AWARENESS Day, which will be October 15th. We hope this event as all events will help increase AWARENESS.

For the week surrounding World AIDS Day TRRC is in the midst of putting together a human AIDS ribbon. We will be enlisting the help of many groups to bring this undertaking to a reality. We have been planning this for over a year and want to make it a success and again help increase the AWARENESS in our community and everywhere.

TRRC will continue to strive to make each of these AWARENESS Days an event in itself as well as making everyday an AWARENESS Day. This is too important to slow down!

The Condom Connection — an update

The Condom Connection which was launched in September of 2008 is moving forward by leaps and bounds. To date we have placed 23 Dispensers in establishments throughout our community. These range from bars (Gay, Straight, African American, Biker, Club, etc) to tattoo parlors, to Art Galleries, Retail Establishments, Educational Venues and more.

We have received some of the greatest calls from establishments that have our dispensers saying that they feel it is a personal victory when they see people taking these free condoms and protecting themselves against a wide range of STD's. It is great to hear the excitement in the voices of the people that call to have their dispenser refilled saying that they did not even imagine that this would go over so well.

The Condom Connection is just in the process of ordering supplies, so that we may again increase the number of places that we have these dispensers. If you know of a place that would be willing to put one of our dispensers or if your place of business would allow a dispenser, please contact us immediately at 330-455-3835 or email jdreyer@theredribbonconnection.org and we will make arrangements to get a dispenser delivered.

Annual AWARENESS Days:

February 7th
National Black
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

March 10th
National Women
and Girls HIV/
AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

March 15th
National Native
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

May 18th
HIV Vaccine
AWARENESS
Day

May 19th
National Asian &
Pacific Islander
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

June 8th
Caribbean
American HIV/
AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

June 27th
National HIV
Testing Day

October 15th
National Latino
AIDS
AWARENESS
Day

December 1st
World AIDS Day

HIV MYTH

HIV is the same as AIDS

In fact this couldn't be further from the truth. HIV is a virus and AIDS is a collection of illnesses. Knowing the difference between the two is a very important part of understanding both.

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Positive Connections — Local HIV/AIDS Support Group

This group named, Positive Connection, is an opportunity for those people who have been infected by HIV/AIDS to meet in a **confidential** environment, share the trials and triumphs of this disease, shed a tear, spread a smile, make a friend. We want to let you know that you *can* cope with the disease and that you are not alone.

We want to help you deal with HIV/AIDS and the issues it brings. We work together without judgment to ► encourage each other ► build self-esteem ► promote education ► provide information ► offer support by others with “been-there-done-that” types of experience.

The Support Groups are facilitated by a licensed professional clinical counselor at no charge to you. A brief, confidential interview is required before attending your first meeting.. Call 330-489-3322 and ask for Joy Dougan for more information.

Healthy Relationships

Healthy Relationships is a program for small groups of men or women living with HIV/AIDS. Knowing that the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS are stressful, the program aims to build coping skills to reduce stress.

These skills involve: ► solving problems ► making decisions, and ► negotiating choices

The skills are applied to three life areas: ► disclosing HIV status to family and friends ► disclosing to sex partners ► building healthy and safer relationships.

The next Healthy Relationships program will be held at the offices of The Red Ribbon Connection

For more information on Healthy Relationships please call Jen Bigrigg at 330-454-7066

Never be **BORED...** just be on **BOARD**

The Red Ribbon Connection is petitioning for additional board members to fulfill the needs of its current plans of expansion.

Please consider giving a small amount of your time for a big return on your investment.

The value of your time given back to the community = *priceless!*

TRRC begins with YOU!

WE HAVE SPACE!!

IF YOU KNOW OF A GROUP THAT NEEDS SPACE TO MEET—BE IT ONCE OR ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS PLEASE LET US KNOW. OUR FACILITY IS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT NO COST FOR POSSIBLE USE.

WE HAVE A SHORT APPLICATION WE ASK TO BE FILLED OUT AND A ‘USE OF FACILITIES AGREEMENT’ THAT WE ASK BE SIGNED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 330-455-3835 OR EMAIL JDREYER@THEREDRIBBONCONNECTION.ORG

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UPCOMING EVENTS

HIV/AIDS Testing

After much time in negotiations and getting the logistics worked out, The Red Ribbon Connection in partnership with Planned Parenthood of North Eastern Ohio will be offering testing at the TRRC offices at a time that testing has not been available before to the community. The 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5:30PM until 8:30PM testing will be offered. This starts March 10th, 2009.

We understand that people are not always comfortable going to one of the present test sites and sometimes are afraid of being seen entering or leaving these sites. Our site allows people to have the ability to be tested at a neutral place and at a time when it is more convenient to many schedules.

We are so excited about this undertaking and hope that if you know of anyone who wants to or needs to be tested that you alert them to our new schedule.

KNOW YOUR STATUS — YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW

HIV 101 & DIVERSITY/SENSITIVITY CERTIFICATION

On February 28th the board went through a course called “HIV 101.” This is a course offered by The American Red Cross. The course covers the basics of the disease and other subjects that have been determined to be of importance by The American Red Cross and The Centers for Disease Control. After this course some of the board members will attend the follow-up course which better prepares them for being able to go out into the community and educate on HIV and AIDS. Others will use this course as building block to getting certified as a Pre & Post HIV Test Counselor.

As the board of The Red Ribbon Connection Continues to try and increase its’ board education, many of the board members have begun attending Diversity and Cultural Sensitivity seminars and as each is completed the attending members are issued a certificate of completion. We have attended the first seminar offered and will be attending the upcoming ones as they are scheduled.

TRRC strives to continue the board education to make our organization better armed for “Eliminating HIV/AIDS Together”

Friends of the Red Ribbon Connection:
The 2008 Holiday Gathering in December was a success! Even through economic fear haunted the season, supporters were able to put that out of their minds for an afternoon to enjoy great food, entertainment & auction items.

Your support of our event continues to be much appreciated.

Michael Morris, Vice-President, TRRC

The Red Ribbon Connection

PO Box 9050
Canton, Ohio 44711

Phone: 330-455-3835
Fax: 330-232-9695
E-mail:
admin@theredribbonconnection.org



TRRC

begins with you:

WHERE IS THE RAGE?



HIV
IS
INFECTING & AFFECTING
OUR
KIDS - FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS
HELP MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

WWW.THEREDRIBBONCONNECTION.ORG

**WE NEED YOUR
DONATIONS
PLEASE SEND ALL
DONATIONS
TO
THE RED RIBBON
CONNECTION
PO BOX 9050
CANTON, OHIO
44711**

**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS & UPDATED REGULAR INFORMATION.
WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND SAVE ON POSTAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
PLEASE EMAIL YOUR INFORMATION TO UPDATE@THEREDRIBBONCONNECTION.COM**