

The Red Ribbon Review



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.

National Testing Day



**We want you to
get tested!**

You Have A Right To Know

National HIV Testing Day

Free Confidential HIV Testing

Saturday, June 27, 2009

11:00am-7:00pm

Trillium Family Solutions

624 Market Ave. N, Canton



Refreshments & Door Prizes

(examples: cash, gas cards, grocery gift certificates)

Bonus Door Prize Entry
by donating products to 5 CHAPS Charity

(examples: paper towels, toilet paper,
toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant)

Educational information also available

Sponsored by

RAG-Stark Regional HIV Prevention and Education Planning Advisory Group
Alliance City Health Department * American Red Cross Stark County Regional Chapter * Canton City Health Department
Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church * Planned Parenthood of NE Ohio * Trillium Family Solutions
Volunteer Community Members * Phoenix Rising * Tri-County AIDS Coalition and The Red Ribbon Connection

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The Red Ribbon Review

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From the Pen of the President

From the pen of the President...

Today as I sit at my computer to write to you, many are at Memorial Day parades, cookouts, etc...all in honor of those who gave their lives for our country. Many of us purchase grave blankets and visit those who have gone before us at a cemetery or mausoleum. Many are just enjoying the day off work! (IF we are lucky enough to still be employed!) What a perfect day to reflect on those we have loved and lost to the complications of HIV. What a perfect day to thank the caregivers, the medical profession, researchers, who are tirelessly searching for a cure. **What are YOU doing?**

What will it take my friends? How many unnecessary infections due to carelessness, lack of protection, lack of awareness? How many more candles are we going to light at Vigils before we rise up and say "ENOUGH"!?! It is quite obvious that HIV/AIDS has never been a top priority in any administration and funds are continually cut, so where does that leave us? I don't know about you, but "I am angry"! I am angry at the people out there not wearing condoms because "they hurt", "you can't feel anything", "they're too big for a condom" (excuse me, have you ever blown a condom up, NEWS FLASH, you're not too big!) ENOUGH!!

We have to be out there educating, raising awareness, TALKING TO OUR CHILDREN about safe sex! I am so tired of dancing around this subject; we are a society that allows our children to view over 200,000 acts of violence on TV, 40,000 of them being murders by the time they are 18, but we can't talk to them about saving their own lives? WAKE UP FOLKS!!

I realize that most of the folks we are sending this to I am "preaching to the choir", but have we gotten complacent? When I started this journey in 1986, people were dying very quickly, we were SCARED! Guess what? We still need to be scared; the number of unreported cases of HIV in this country is staggering. Talk to your friends, your family, your co-workers, GET TESTED! You have the right to know!

TRRC is constantly searching for new ways to get the word out and we are succeeding, but it can not be done without your support. Yes, we need your money, but, we need your time, and your knowledge and expertise as well. We are in the process of putting together some educational forums and awareness days, if you or anyone you know is willing to assist in this area, please e-mail me at mfran-jesh@theredribbonconnection.org , thank you. Have a great, SAFE, summer! Looking forward to NOT seeing you on our non-vacation and definitely SEEING you at the Arcadia on July 21st!!

As always, I wish you continued peace and blessings,

MeLissa M Franjesh, President

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A Human Red Ribbon Connection

On Sunday, November 29, 2009 @ 3pm please set aside a short time to come out with The Red Ribbon Connection for what is sure to be a silent, yet loud and clear message to the community as well as the nation- ***We continue to support the cause.*** We want individuals, families, schools, churches, organizations, and anyone else who can be present for the creation of a Human Red Ribbon Connection. We will meet at the McKinley Monument at 3pm, and with the help of volunteer organizers, we will assemble in the lawn in front of the monument in the form of a huge red ribbon in honor of ***World AIDS Day 2009.*** We will provide a red garment to wear over whatever you have on and will be inviting local media to photograph, record and report to support what we continue to passionately battle.

After completing the Human Red Ribbon, we will have a time of refreshments and socializing on the grounds. We will have shelter, heat and facilities available. Please do not allow weather, holiday bustle, or any other reason keep you from supporting a historical moment for our community. This is sure to be an emotionally moving event.

Thank-you in advance for supporting the efforts of The Red Ribbon Connection. Your early confirmation of intent to participate would greatly help us better organize. Please tell your friends and organizations to join us, or email us at admin@theredribbonconnection.org or phone us at 330-455-3835 with any suggestions of groups/organizations to contact.

Free HIV Testing at TRRC offices!

Please remember, TRRC now offers evening testing hours the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5:15-8:00 pm. at 202 6th St. NW, Canton. We are asking that you help get the word out by letting people know. Our newsletter is designed to keep you in "the loop" of the continuing efforts of TRRC and part of our mission is education and awareness. The amount of people in 2009 walking around with HIV unbeknownst to themselves is shocking! We just want to help people "have the right to know" their status by making it as convenient as possible to be tested. If you or someone you know needs this service, PLEASE take advantage! Stark County has many different times and places this can be done; please check out the times in this newsletter or by going to www.starkcountycommunitycalendar.org

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

**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

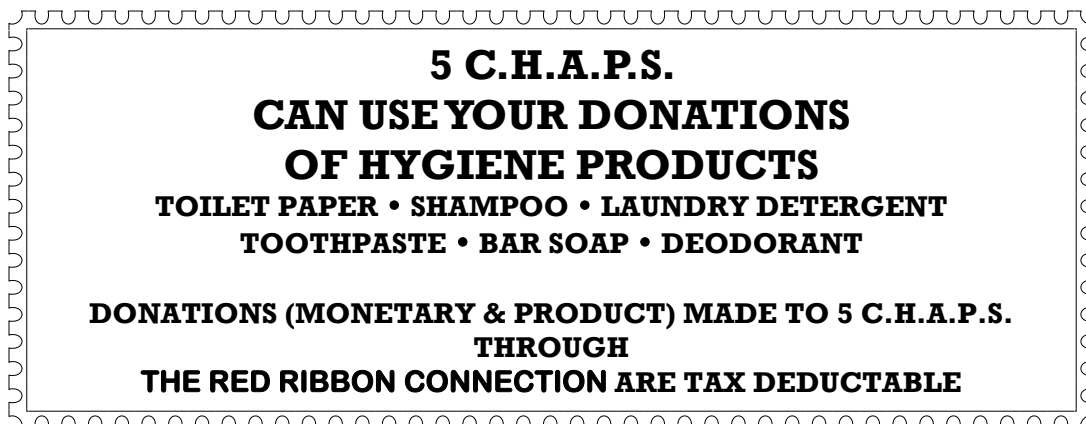
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The Condom Connection — a success story continues.....

Though it is hard to specifically quantify the success of The Condom Connection, but the responses we have received from establishments displaying our dispensers as well as people that have picked up our condoms at these establishments has already made it a greater success than we would have ever expected.

In the 23,000 condoms that we have given out, free to the community, there is no question that there have been many successes in preventing STDs, unwanted pregnancies and the transmission of HIV between sexual partners. Again, this more than makes the efforts worth it and makes our board and supporters glad we have undertaken this grass roots effort to increase the use of condoms.

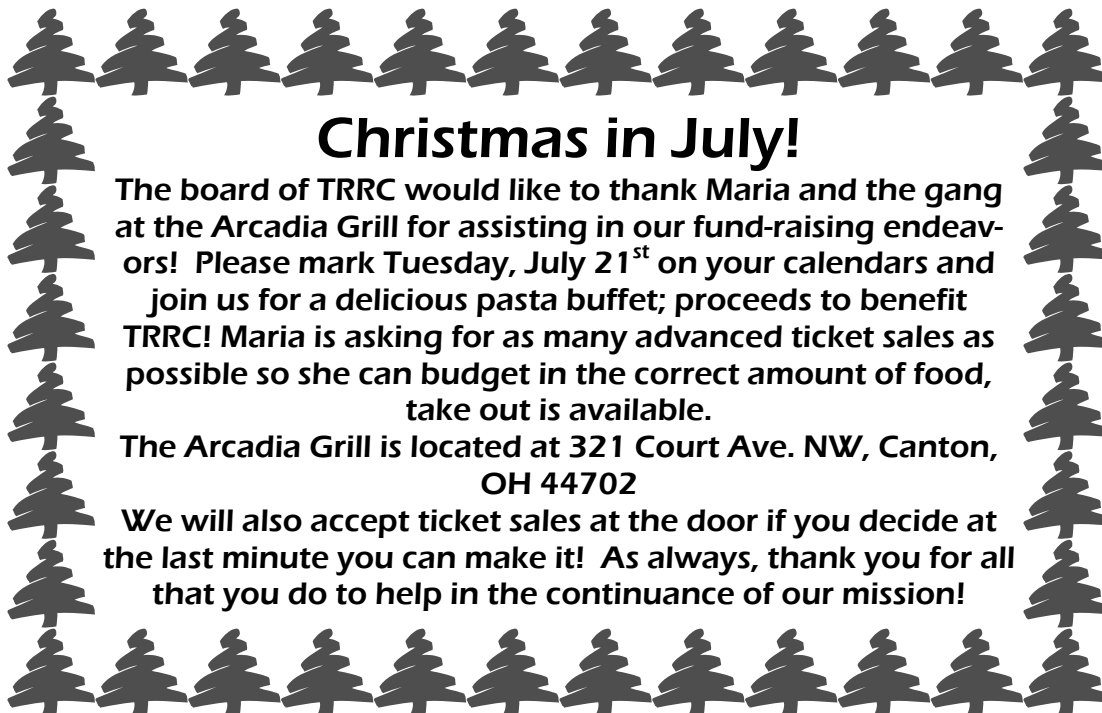
If you know of a place that would be willing to put one of our dispensers or if your place of business would allow a dispenser, please contact us immediately at 330-455-3835 or email jdreyer@theredribbonconnection.org and we will make arrangements to get a dispenser delivered.



Dear Community,

“Prom Night 2009” was a success! Even though numbers were fewer than we had hoped for, those who attended enjoyed a night of dancing, great food, socializing and the silent auction. Most of all, we continued to support the mission of The Red Ribbon Connection. As always, we appreciate your continued support in any capacity. As we look forward to the remaining 2009 and upcoming 2010 fundraising events, we continue to need your support to move ahead with the vital projects of TRRC. We strive to deliver quality events in tasteful venues that allow our diverse community to unite as one for a common cause. Partnering with you as a community unites us together in strength to survive this economic tragedy and not allow a silent enemy, HIV/AIDS, to gain on us.

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Christmas in July!

The board of TRRC would like to thank Maria and the gang at the Arcadia Grill for assisting in our fund-raising endeavors! Please mark Tuesday, July 21st on your calendars and join us for a delicious pasta buffet; proceeds to benefit TRRC! Maria is asking for as many advanced ticket sales as possible so she can budget in the correct amount of food, take out is available.

The Arcadia Grill is located at 321 Court Ave. NW, Canton, OH 44702

We will also accept ticket sales at the door if you decide at the last minute you can make it! As always, thank you for all that you do to help in the continuance of our mission!

Come Help Celebrate Christmas In July with



THE RED RIBBON
CONNECTION
"ELIMINATING HIV/AIDS TOGETHER"

And The Arcadia Grill

Tuesday, July 21, 2009 from 5PM—8PM

Buffett Menu:

- Rigatoni w/ meat sauce
- Rigatoni w/ red sauce
- Pasta primavera:
 - stir fry vegetables
 - with chicken over pasta
- Salad, Rolls, Butter

► Take Out Available ◀

- Suggested Donation: \$10/person \$6/10 & under**
- White Linen Tablecloth, China & Metal Silverware \$18/person
 - All the above and Table Service by Board of TRRC \$25/person
 - All the above and some special surprises for you!! \$30/person

◀ Pre-sales help in food prep amount ►

TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CALL
MELISSA AT 330-417-5329
OR EMAIL
MFRANJESH@THEREDRIBBONCONNECTION.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PROGRAMS OF THE RED RIBBON CONNECTION



Every time we raise HIV/AIDS awareness, we lower the possibility of its spread.

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HIV/AIDS Advocate—Person of The Year Award

At the 2009 Prom Night—The Red Ribbon Connection awarded its' first annual 'HIV/AIDS Advocate—Person of the Year Award' to Sandy Guist. The Board felt Sandy to be more than appropriate to be the first recipient with; her countless hours of volunteering her time to the RAG and all of its undertakings; her tireless work with Tri-County Aids Coalition; her working for a local Infectious Disease doctor who helped countless patients; and of course the most important, her own son's battle with HIV/AIDS.

The Board was proud, excited and honored to present her with the plaque at our dinner and she was completely surprised by the presentation as well. We thank her for all her efforts and know she will continue her good work.



WE **WILL NOT** BE ON AIRTRAN FLIGHT 207 ON FRIDAY JULY 3, 2009 LEAVING AKRON CANTON @ 2:30PM

WE **WILL NOT** BE STAYING AT THE HILTON TIMES SQUARE



WE **WILL NOT** TAKE A CARRIAGE RIDE AROUND CENTRAL PARK.

WE **WILL NOT** HAVE DIRECTORS SEATS TO THE BROADWAY SMASH MUSICAL 'WICKED'



WE **WILL NOT** SEE THE NEW ART EXHIBITS AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

WE **WILL NOT** BE ABLE TO SEE THE ROCKETTES PERFORM AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL



THE SAVINGS JUST KEEP ADDING UP

USING THE TECHNIQUES OF CREATIVE IMAGERY & VISUALIZATION YOU CAN SIT IN YOUR FAVORITE CHAIR, IN YOUR COMFORTABLE HOME, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND YOU ARE THERE ENJOYING ALL THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF THE CITY, JUST LIKE YOU WERE THERE. HERE ARE JUST SOME:

- SMELLS OF THE STREET VENDORS.....FREE
- THE ANNOYANCE OF THE CROWDS.....FREE
- NEW YORK CITY CAB DRIVERS.....FREE
- THE ALLURE OF KNOCK-OFF MERCHANDISE, AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT BUY.....FREE
- AIRTRAN FLIGHT TO NYC.....\$208.00
- ONE NIGHT HOTEL STAY AT HILTON TIMES SQUARE.....\$259.00
- CARRIAGE RIDE FOR 1 HOUR.....\$54.00
- MATINEE TICKETS TO WICKED.....\$85.00
- ADMISSION TO THE MET.....\$20.00
- TICKETS TO ROCKETTES.....\$51.00

THIS WHOLE NON-VACATION CAN BE YOURS FOR A DONATION OF \$25

SINCE YOU ARE SAVING OVER \$600 PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INCREASE YOUR DONATION, OR IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GIVE \$25 PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN.

"Eliminating HIV/AIDS Together"

2009 THE RED RIBBON CONNECTION NON EVENT RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

AIRLINE TICKET: FIRST CLASS COACH CLASS SEATING: AISLE WINDOW

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS: DELUXE SUITE KING BED 2 DOUBLE BEDS

DIETARY NEEDS: VEGETARIAN KOSHER MEALS LACTOSE INTOLERANT

PAYMENT AMOUNT: \$ _____ CHECK ENCLOSED VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP: ____/____ CCV: _____

All donations benefit the programs of The Red Ribbon Connection

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Going on Now—TRRC is gathering participants for the non-event, which this year is a non-vacation to New York. This non-vacation will NOT happen on July 4, 2009—just like it does not happen each year.

July 21, 2009 is the Christmas in July Buffet Dinner at The Arcadia see page 5 for details.

September 30, 2009—TRRC has been asked by Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Aids Coalition to sponsor one of the workshops at the upcoming Regional Event. This event will be directed at health professionals and will also offer Continuing Education Credits.

November 2009—TRRC is preparing our Annual Holiday Gathering and will have more information in our next newsletter—STAY TUNDED.

OUR FACILITY BECOMES MORE USER FRIENDLY

The Red Ribbon Connection is always trying to make our facility more and more accessible to those with handicaps. Our newest donations are a 27" Television, Apple Mac computer and wireless keyboard networked. This machine will allow someone who is unable speak to type using the keyboard; the information appears on the screen as they are typing, and then by pressing 2 keys the computer will voice synthesize the words through the television. This machine can also be used for someone who is unable to hear to be able to read the words as they are being typed on the screen. Once we are able to get high speed internet connection this same machine will allow people that are shut-in or in a hospital or other facility to video connect to meetings or support groups. The possibilities are endless and allow the groups who use our facility to better serve their participants.

TRRC still has one great obstacle to overcome in being handicapped accessible. That is that we are located on the second floor of the building we are in. By being on the second floor accessibility for the physically handicapped persons is very hard if not completely unavailable. Our present lease may not be renewed, therefore we are looking for possible locations in the downtown or surrounding area that are located on the first floor or handicapped accessible. Please feel free to contact us at jdreyer@theredribbonconnection.org with suggestions or comments.

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@THERE DRIBBONCONNECTION.ORG

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**