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or at <http://www.aidsprojectoftheozarks.org/>

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Fall Edition

November 2017

Life lines

Please Join Us for Our Annual World AIDS Day Concert Celebration!



Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, or participated in our 24th annual AIDS Walk.

It was a wonderful rainy fall day where we walked together to raise funds and awareness for our community. Together we were able to raise around \$13,000 for this year's event.

A huge thank you to our sponsors for their support, MAC Cosmetics who generously matched your donations, our wonderful volunteers, and all of our vendors who made the event a huge success.

Thank you for your support and your dedication to those living with HIV/AIDS in our community. Together we will step forward for life!



Mark your calendars, you do not want to miss this!

Doors open at 6:00pm

Show starts at 7:00pm

Watch our Facebook page and website for emerging details!

**You can find us online at:
www.apo-ozarks.org**

Get out your love for music and tune in for one spectacular evening! We will be "Rocking the Red" once again!

On Friday December 1st, 2017 APO is partnering with our dear friends at the Historic Gillioz Theatre and iHeart media to bring you a sensational concert in recognition of World AIDS Day. This years World AIDS Day celebration will be hosted by KOLR 10's very own Jeremy Rabe and Kelly Smith.

This event will be free, family friendly, and open to the public. It will feature several bands including the amazing and talented Detectives, a 50's & 60's rock cover band, Papa Green Shoes a band rooted in modern electric blues with touches of soul and rock, and 83 Skidoo which offers old-tyme re-imaginings of your favorite eighties and nineties hits.

Your Legacy Starts Now!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Consider the 5% solution. Where we all commit to leaving 5% of our estate (no matter the size) to the betterment of our communities. It is a great way to see your work and passions carried on long after you have gone. The Community Foundation is urging all Missouri residents to leave 5% of their estates to charitable causes. If all Ozarkers did that, it could mean an additional 118 million a year for charitable causes in ten years and a staggering \$1.4 billion a year in 50 years.

To learn more about transfer of wealth please visit the community foundations website. www.cfozarks.org/transferofwealth.



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I asked, "Why doesn't somebody do something?" then I realized I was somebody.

Enclosed is my: _____ Donation _____ Annual membership dues of \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My donation is in honor of: _____ (Optional)

Complete and mail to AIDS Project of the Ozarks* 1901 E Bennett, Suite D, * Springfield, MO 65804

Contributions are tax deductible. All services to clients are provided in strict confidence. APO's mailing list is kept confidential

APO Testing: Moving Forward!

By Danica Wilson, Prevention Specialist

Greetings from the new testing lab at APO! We are excited to be in our new space, where we can continue to provide quality testing

APO continues to focus on STIs which are the most common and/or problematic. Presently, testing is available for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, HIV, and Hepatitis C, at no charge. HIV and Hep C results are provided the same day via rapid tests, while all others are provided via on-site collection and off-site processing, with results typically back in 2 weeks.

Additionally, APO Prevention staff is

excited to offer the Alere Determine HIV Rapid Test! Where our Clearview kit will detect HIV infections as early as 3 weeks, the Alere Determine can detect an acute HIV infection in as little as **2 weeks!** The Alere kit will be used for special circumstances and at the discretion of testing staff.



Testing: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9am-noon and 1pm-3pm

APO Main Office

services within a fresh, confidential environment. If you weren't able to make it to our Grand Opening ceremony or haven't yet been in to get your follow-up testing, please swing by to take advantage of our free services, such as testing, one-on-one risk/harm reduction discussions and safer sex supplies.

Grand Opening Ceremony: Ribbons, Excitement, and Memories with Friends



It was a wonderful moment to watch the ribbon drift to the ground with one quick cut of the

scissors. In that moment the shears touched the ribbon it brought back all the wonderful memories and stories of countless individuals who have paved the way to get to where APO stands today.

It wasn't too long ago when we were in the process of coming together and



we at APO are beyond grateful that we were able to open our new building to our friends, family members, and amazing partners within the community. We are ecstatic that we were able to share our excitement with around 300 individuals who were in attendance at our open house ceremony on October 26th.

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out and visit us and for your continued support



throughout the years. APO would not be able to be where we are today without individuals like you!

Save the Dates!

- December 1st—World AIDS Day
- December 1st—Worlds AIDS Day concert at the historic Gillioz
- February 7th—National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 10th—National women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- March 20th—National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- April 10th—National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Food and Festivities for a Joyous Holiday Season

It is that time of year again, time for APO's annual Client Holiday Party!

On December 12th the celebration will commence at 11am with clients coming to APO for a holiday food distribution. There will be an ENTIRE trailer truck filled with food, brought in by Ozarks Food Harvest. (The food truck is funded by donations from supporters like you.)



Our friends at Ridgecrest will provide a wonderful dinner, singing, and plenty of holiday cheer! Thanks to the donations received we will be able to purchase gifts for children attending so that they can have something special for the holidays! We even heard Santa might be in attendance!

If you are a client and wish to attend please speak to your case manager to sign up and get all the details.

If you would like to donate to this fund please contact APO at 417-881-1900 or send your check to 1636 S. Glenstone Ave., Suite 100 Springfield, MO 65804!

Clients will be able to walk through and select the foods that they want to take home for their families. At 4:30 clients, their families, and APO will be at Ridgecrest Baptist Church for a celebration sponsored by Ridgecrest.

Highlights from a Heroes and Villains Themed Weekend

The Scarlet Witch from *Avengers Fairy Tales* once stated, "but everyone's story begins once upon a time, and it's up to us to cherish the time we're given to ensure we live happily ever after." It was time again for staff and clients to gather together in the woods to cherish a weekend known as APO's annual retreat. Retreat is a time for individuals to come together in order to make connections, find support, build a camaraderie, share ideas, and see familiar faces once again.

This year's retreat revolved around the theme, "Heroes and Villains." It was a moment straight from a comic strip where forty clients and twenty staff members were able to participate in

activities such as breakout sessions, which focused on self-help. Individuals were also able to share laughs, make memories while playing games, and were able to participate in the dance of the hall of justice.

Retreat weekend also consists of a longstanding tradition where a bonfire and remembrance takes place. The bonfire is a time to reflect on those we have lost in the past year and to celebrate their legacy.

Help Us Stock our Hygiene Pantry Shelves

Hygiene Pantry's are an essential commodity within the area as food stamps do not cover non-food related items leaving families without vital necessities.

The products that we have available within our pantry depend on your generous donations.

Thank you for all who have donated to our hygiene pantry and have helped keep it stocked during the holiday season!

