

ACLA Update March 1997

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn
P.O. Box 7977/4 Lafayette Street
Lewiston, ME 04243-7977
Telephone 786-4697

Volunteer Training

Make a difference in the life of someone living with HIV disease

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services (MASS), which trains Buddies throughout the state of Maine, will provide a twenty-five-hour training in Lewiston on two consecutive weekends in April.

The Buddy Program provides volunteers with training in listening without judgment, specific communications skills, bereavement awareness and insight, current information on HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse. After successfully completing training, Buddies are assigned to support groups (PODs). Regular POD meetings are facilitated by a member of the mental health profession. Buddies also receive support from the Coordinator of the Buddy Program.

A Buddy is paired with a person living with HIV disease and provides emotional support one to five hours a week. Buddies provide a place where people with HIV disease can expect compassion, respect, and support wherever and whenever needed.

Volunteers who have been trained as Buddies may also work with the AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn to provide transportation and other practical support to people living with HIV disease.

Dates of the training: (Friday evenings and Saturday): April 11-12, 18-19.

if you want to be a Buddy
or you want to provide practical support to someone living with HIV
Call Claire at ACLA (786-4697) or Deb at MASS (725-4955)

Don't Believe Hype That "AIDS Is Over"

...With astonishing unanimity the American mass media are rushing to declare the AIDS epidemic virtually finished as a result of new anti-HIV drugs approved during the last year....

...Patients seemingly near death are now rising up and resuming normal lives because of the new drugs. The media have suggested that such stunning revivals have become the norm.

This is dangerous nonsense. Some people actually have made astonishing recoveries. What is dangerous is the implication that almost everyone is doing this well.

...Only a smattering of data has shown that the new treatments can actually increase lifespans, and [the data that] comes from controlled studies is almost all from patients followed for a year or less.

We have no idea how long the drugs will keep working for people and to suggest otherwise is simply wrong.

...If the notion that the plague is already over gains too much currency, the research needed to actually bring that happy day about may never get [the] resources [needed]....



From *The Lewiston Sun-Journal*, Sunday, December 22, 1996. Written by Bruce Mirken, a San Francisco-based freelance writer who covers AIDS and other health issues for Men's Health, AIDS Treatment News and Out.

My address has changed to:

Please take my name off ACLA's mailing list:

Please add this name to ACLA's mailing list:

Enclosed please find my gift of \$_____ to further the work of the AIDS Coalition.

Please send me a volunteer application:

Name _____
Address _____

Coming Soon

March

Monday, March 10 8:30-10:00 am
 CANAL (Community AIDS Network of Lewiston-Auburn) meeting



Maison Marcotte
 Campus Avenue, Lewiston
 Call ACLA for more information.

April

Saturday, April 5 8:00 pm
 Queens with a Cause II, a fundraiser by Positively Alive. Tickets are \$12 each.
 Olin Arts Center, Bates College
 Call ACLA for more information.

Save the Date
 Maine AIDS Walk
 Sunday, May 4, 1997



Freezer hours are from 10am-2pm the last Tuesday of each month. A



limited number of frozen single serving home-made meals are available to people with HIV/AIDS.

There is a new support group at the AIDS Project Auburn Office for people whose partners have died of AIDS. Meetings are Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 pm at One Auburn Center. Call Diana Carrigan at 783-4301 for more information.

If you donate your returnable bottles to Auburn Shop N Save during the month of March, ACLA will get the deposits. We've made \$165 so far. Keep those bottles coming!



ACLA
P.O. Box 7977
Lewiston, ME 04243-7977

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Please send me a volunteer application.

Name _____
 Address _____

Please add this name to ACLA's mailing list: _____

Please take my name off ACLA's mailing list: _____