

## A Few Good Men

Paul Olsen

The Vermont Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services is looking for a few good men. By the end of June, C.A.R.E.S. will implement a major community-wide risk reduction initiative in Chittenden, Addison, Rutland and Washington counties for men who have sex with men. This widespread assault on the transmission of HIV will be a volunteer grassroots safer sex campaign unlike anything seen in Vermont before.

In conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health and with funding from the federal government, Vermont C.A.R.E.S. is launching a creative military strike to increase and support safer sex practices by men who have sex with men in Vermont. Recognizing that many men have difficulty adopting and maintaining safer sex practices this program is designed to provide a consistent message regarding the importance of safer sex. According to Vermont C.A.R.E.S. HIV/AIDS Education Coordinator John Olson the goal of this initiative is to involve members of the gay community in keeping the community healthy and strong.

"Operation Risk Reduction" is divided into four components. AIDS awareness

will be reinforced through messages via posters at bars and bookstores, information tables at gay events, and public service announcements. Outreach activities will target men at bars, adult bookstores, rest areas, and cruisy areas. "Condom Corps" or "Sexperts" will visit these sites and share safer sex information and condoms with men who have sex with men. Educational programs will be provided to increase understanding of how to avoid the transmission of HIV and other issues relating to gay men's health. These programs will be similar to "Safe, Sexy, and Sane" parties and will include seminars on risk reduction techniques. Utilizing peers, maintenance of these initiatives will be supported by creating an environment within Vermont that embraces safer sex and affirms gay men.

The establishment of this campaign is a milestone in Vermont's war against AIDS. With political support, hard work of an all volunteer "army", and the enlistment of the gay community, the fight against AIDS in Vermont will be won.

If you'd like to learn more about this program or volunteer contact John Olson or Michael Frye at Vermont C.A.R.E.S. (8632437). ▼

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## Health Resource Organizations

### AIDS HOTLINES:

Vermont	1-800-882-2437
New Hampshire	1-800-752-2437
New York State	1-800-541-2437
Massachusetts	1-617-522-4090
Maine	1-800-851-2437
National	1-800-342-2437
Canadian	1-613-563-2437

### AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)

PO Box 608  
St. Johnsbury VT 05819  
(802) 748-1149

### AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)

PO Box 2057  
Lebanon NH 03766  
(603) 448-2220

### Bennington Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1066  
Bennington VT 05201  
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

### Brattleboro AIDS Project

67 Main Street  
Brattleboro VT 05302  
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)  
(802) 254-8263 (Office)

### Franklin-Grand Isle AIDS Task Force

8 Ferris Street  
St. Albans VT 05478 • (802) 524-7742  
1-800-638-7834

### Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

GLAA, P.O. Box 5653  
Burlington, VT 05402

### H.E.A.L. Vermont (Holistic Education and AIDS Alternatives Liaison)

PO Box 795  
Montpelier VT 05602 • (802) 229-4325

### Lesbian Cancer Support Group

(802) 660-8386

### North Star (Holistic Health Care)

RR2 Box 3255  
Morrisville VT 05661 • (802) 888-2858

### Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275  
Montpelier VT 05601 • (802) 229-2557

### Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

(Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services)  
PO Box 5248  
30 Elmwood Avenue  
Burlington VT 05401  
(802) 863-2437 (Burlington)  
1-800-649-2437 (Rutland and Washington County support groups)

### Vermont Department of Health

1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline) or  
(802) 863-7245 (AIDS Program office)

### VT PWA Coalition

PO Box 1055  
Brattleboro, VT 05502  
1-800-69-VTPWA or (802) 257-9277

### Vermont Women's Health Center

336 North Avenue  
Burlington VT 05401 • (802) 863-1386