

Dykes To Watch Out For *By Alison Bechdel*



New HIV Support Groups Offered

Hugh Coyle

As part of an ongoing effort to increase HIV awareness in Vermont, the Counseling Service of Addison County will be offering two new support groups for those affected by the virus. Initial meetings will take place at the beginning of October, with exact times and locations to be announced.

The first group, Positively Aware, will be limited to those who are HIV+ and will address various issues and concerns in an open and understanding environment. The second group, Friends+, will provide a forum for the friends and family of HIV+ persons to discuss their thoughts and feelings. Both groups will be facilitated by staff members of the Counseling Service of Addison County and run for approximately ten weeks (or longer if need is determined).

The support groups grew out of an early summer in-service session offered by Vermont C.A.R.E.S. in response to an initiative set forth by St. Stephen's Church in Middlebury to bring together area caregivers and educate the Addison County community. Additional groups and forums may also emerge from the various committees formed during the inservice.

For more information about the two support groups, please call the Counseling Service at 388-6751. All inquiries will remain confidential. ▼

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