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Dance for AIDS '96 Set for Pride Weekend

BURLINGTON -- Pride Weekend continues this year with DANCE FOR AIDS '96, a DJ/dance party and carnival benefiting HIV prevention projects statewide.

"It's built loosely on the Gay Men's Health Crisis AIDS Dance-a-thon model," says Vermont CARES Men's Health Project Coordinator Chris Tebbetts. "It's not a dance marathon, but it is a chance for people to show their support by gathering or giving pledges, or just by being there." The day will feature dancing, live entertainment, carnival games, food, and prize giveaways.

For every \$25 in pledges raised, individuals will have their names entered into a raffle for a variety of prizes donated by local businesses. Organizations are being solicited to support the effort by sponsoring their own carnival booths. Proceeds from the event will go to the Men's Health Project, ACORN's HIV Prevention and Education program, and Brattleboro Area AIDS Project's "Hot for Life" Men's Program.

In addition, 10% of the donations will go towards 1997 GLBT Pride activities. "We want this to be an integral part of Pride weekend," says Robert Toms of 135 Pearl, a co-sponsor of the event. "We also want to help get things started next year. The '96 Pride committee had a zero balance going into it this year, and it's been a challenge for them."

Most of the money from the event will go to education and prevention projects specifically for men who have sex with men (MSM). Though this population is widely known to be deeply affected by the AIDS epidemic, it continues to struggle for funding that reflects the disproportionate impact in the community. Says Tebbetts, "The emergency is not over. In the past three years in the U.S., 115,000 MSM were diagnosed with AIDS, up from 75,000 in the previous three years. I hope this event can be a positive way for everyone in the community to express their renewed and ongoing commitment."

Dance for AIDS '96 will take place outside of 135 Pearl in Burlington on Sunday, June 16, 2:00-6:00 PM. It is free and open to the public. For a pledge sheet, or for more information on sponsoring a carnival booth, call Vermont CARES at 802-863-2437 or 800-649-2437. ▼

Health Resources

AIDS HOTLINES:

 Vermont
 800-882-2437

 New Hampshire
 800-752-2437

 New York State
 800-541-2437

 Massachusetts
 617-522-4090

 Maine
 800-881-2437

 National
 800-342-2437

 Canadian
 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 PO Box 1486 Brattleboro, VT 05302 (802) 254-4444 (Helpline) (802) 254-8263 (Office)

Franklin-Grand Isle
AIDS Task Force
P. O. Box 241, St.
Albans, VT 05478
(800) 524-7742 • (802) 638-7834

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous GLAA, P.O. Box 5653 Burlington, VT 05402 (802) 658-4221

Lesbian Cancer Support Group (802)

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 • 37 Elmwood Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 863-2437 (Burlington) 1-800-649-2437 (VT)

Vermont Department of Health 1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline) or (802) 863-7245 (AIDS Program office)

VT PWA Coalition PO Box 11 Montpelier, VT 05452 1-800-69-VT-PWA or (802) 229-5754

Vermont Women's Health Center 336 North Avenue Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 863-1386

