

CHNews - Darrell Vigil, Chief Executive Officer



Dear CHN clients, donors, volunteers and friends:

We hope the transition to spring weather and post-COVID-19 protocols brings wonderful beginnings to you! At CHN, we're gearing up for a summer season of safe and fun events for Folks to participate in, among other news to share. In this edition of The Community, you'll read about CHN's Festival For Life, volunteer programs at some of our offices, our annual report announcement and supporting CHN through planned giving.

This spring, the importance of providing HIV prevention services to people across Colorado was highlighted across our organization and the communities we serve as we faced a funding shortfall that would jeopardize the provision of HIV/STI (sexually transmitted infection) testing and education services as well as SAP (syringe access program) services in rural Colorado. Our dynamic staff immediately mobilized to search for funding opportunities to meet the funding gap. We're pleased to share that we've been able to secure approximately eighty-five percent of the more than \$650k needed to keep the programs functioning. As we continue to work to close the funding gap, we're breathing a bit of a sigh of relief that we will not be forced to close our prevention service doors in northern, southern and western Colorado.

Expressing gratitude for the blessings in life is something I think about daily! Without our partnerships with folks like you, we wouldn't be able to provide critically needed services to clients and patients. We are grateful to you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
 Darrell J. Vigil, MBA
 Chief Executive Officer

Events

Festival For Life Registration Opens
 | [June 1](#)

HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day
 | [June 5](#)

National HIV Testing Day
 | [June 27](#)

Bar Wars
 | [July 17](#)

Festival For Life Virtual Events
 | [Aug 2 – Aug 20](#)

Festival For Life 5K Walk & Run
 | [Aug 8 – Aug 22](#)

Festival For Life at Cheesman Park
 | [Aug 11](#)

June						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

July						
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August						
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30	31					

Catch Us at Pride!

CHN will be showing its P R I D E at this year's Virtual Denver Pride Parade on Sunday, June 27. Look for us at this year's parade lineup. For more Denver Pride details visit denver-pride.org.

Colorado Health Network also plans to participate in PRIDE all around the state. Follow the CHN regional Facebook page nearest you for the latest PRIDE news.



Want to receive e-newsletters or stop receiving The Community? Let us know.

Follow Us On Social Media



Save The Date for Festival For Life and 5K Walk & Run!

Colorado Health Network's most visible, longstanding, and recognizable HIV charitable event is coming this summer. Known historically as AIDS Walk Colorado, Festival For Life and 5K Walk & Run will be a hybrid event this year with a virtual Walk/Run and online programs leading up to an in-person celebration on Saturday, August 21, in Cheesman Park in Denver.



The Festival For Life supports more than just CHN programs and services – the event also provides financial support to several partner agencies. We are excited to announce the following partner agencies that are participating at this year's festival: The Alexander Foundation (TAF), Boulder County AIDS Project, Children's Hospital Colorado (CHIP), Clinica Tepeyac, CU ARTS, Del Norte's Chesney-Kleinjohn Apartments, Denver (Public) Health, The Empowerment Program, HIV Care Link, and Treatment Edcat10n Network (TEN).

Registration for the event opens on June 1. Receive the latest Festival news and updates by visiting the event website rebrand.ly/CHNFestivalForLife or sign up for Festival email notifications.

Bar Wars is Back!

Colorado Health Network is excited to host the 10th Annual Bar Wars mixology competition on July 17, with 2019 Bar Wars winner and this year's host X Bar! After a year of cancellations and limitations due to COVID-19, the teams at Colorado Health Network and X Bar are excited to bring back Denver's premier, and only, LGBTQ+ and allies mixology competition. Register for the event online at rebrand.ly/CHNBarWars.



USAFA Cadet Volunteers



Since January, SCHN Regional Director Donald DeAngelis has had the opportunity to team up with United States Air Force Academy Cadets Aidan Sams (he/him) and Kaleb Nunez (he/him). As a part of their degree program in Business

Management, Aidan and Kaleb have spent the past months working to identify and improve community outreach, social media, and marketing for SCHN.

"I was excited to work with Southern Colorado Health Network to see how leadership and management play a part in a successful nonprofit," said Aidan.

Aidan's partner Kaleb came with a different approach. "I chose to work with SCHN to gain a better understanding of the world that we live in. I was amazed and inspired by the diversity of the staff at SCHN and how they were all able to work together and respect each other's identities and ideas. I will take this experience with me after graduation with hopes to supporting marginalized communities and continue working to understand the true meaning of diversity."

Thank you to Aidan and Kaleb for volunteering their time and knowledge during their final semester at the USAFA—we wish them the best after their graduation in May!

Volunteer Awareness Month

In celebration of National Volunteer Awareness Month in April, CHN recognized a few volunteer regional council members throughout the state. In addition to regional council members, CHN would like to thank volunteers of the food banks, prevention and education, administration, the medical and dental students on rotation, and board of directors for their passion and dedication to supporting Coloradans living with HIV. Even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers provided more than 10,000 hours of support last fiscal year.

Let's Welcome Denver Medical Clinic's New Nurse Practitioner

CHN would like to welcome the Denver Medical Clinic's newest Nurse Practitioner, Sally Bowen (she/her). As a Nurse Practitioner at CHN, Sally will work as a family nurse to provide direct client care that includes primary care and HIV/HCV services as well as offering tele-PrEP. She is excited to help spearhead the expansion of CHN medical services across the state.

"I have always wanted to serve vulnerable populations, especially those who often face hardships and inequalities, in order to provide them with the care they deserve. It's essential to create a comfortable and non-judgmental environment to meet the various sensitive healthcare needs of patients. I strongly believe that the services CHN offers empowers these individuals and I couldn't be happier to join this incredible team!"

Hot Off the Press: The 2020 Annual Report

The 2020 CHN annual report is available online at rebrand.ly/CHNAnnualReport.



New AmeriCorps VISTA Member at WCHN

Western Colorado Health Network is excited to introduce Jen Linsenmeyer (she/hers) to the CHN team. As an AmeriCorps VISTA member, Jen will be supporting the WCHN Prevention team and the development department with fundraising efforts.



Jen is a recent graduate at American University, having studied Public Administration and Public Policy and is incredibly passionate about the opioid crisis, as well as education reform. While still at Washington D.C., Jen will move to Grand Junction on June 1 and looks forward to work with her CHN colleagues in person.

All Is Busy on the Northern Front

In March of 2020, case managers in Fort Collins and Greeley began delivering food boxes to case management clients every Thursday to continue uninterrupted services. With nationwide vaccinations and local guidelines loosening NCHN will resume food bank drop-in hours in late May.

In partnership with the Health District, NCHN hosted a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for case management and prevention clients. Planning on how to implement the clinic took place in early March, and shortly following case managers contacted clients to book appointments and provide information about the vaccine. This initiative vaccinated 51 case management and prevention clients, and as of early May all of the clients have received both doses of the Moderna vaccine.

Be Legen...Wait For It...Dary



Did you know that you can support Coloradans living with HIV by making a gift in your will? You don't need to be Rockefeller or Gates to start a meaningful philanthropy legacy. Consider making a legacy

gift to Colorado Health Network. Find out how you can get started at rebrand.ly/CHNLegacyGiving.