



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

September 2021

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Festival For Life

The annual Festival For Life was held on Saturday, August 21st. On behalf of all of us at Colorado Health Network, our partner agencies and the communities we serve, we want to thank everyone that was a part of Festival For Life 2021! Thousands of people from across Colorado who are living with or at risk of acquiring HIV count on the funds raised through Festival For Life for access to critical supportive services such as medical and oral health care, nutrition and housing support, testing and preventive care, and so much more.

Fundraising continues until September 21st.

Donate here: <https://coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/festival-for-life/>

Kaitlyn Mercy Is the New PWUD Services Coordinator for SCHN-Colorado Springs



My name is Kaitlyn Mercy (they, them, theirs), and I am excited to be joining Southern Colorado Health Network's prevention team as the PWUD Services Coordinator! I am a transplant from Michigan who has been working in mental health and addiction treatment within Colorado Springs since early 2018. I take special interest in harm reduction principles and holistic models of care and firmly believe in meeting people where they are at and treating them with radical kindness and compassion.

In addition to my experience in addiction and mental health, I am a Registered Trauma Informed Yoga Teacher. I am currently working toward a Bachelor's degree in social work with a focus in minority mental health at UCCS. Outside of work and school, I can often be found watercolor painting, engaging in community activism, and parenting two tuxedo cats. I place a lot of value in connection and community and I am excited to bring my skills, values, and knowledge to the SCHN Prevention team!

Shylee Hine: New SCHN Intern for CM in Colorado Springs

I am a senior in my BSW program at CSU-Pueblo and will be interning at SCHN through May, 2022. I am very happy to have this internship and feel welcomed and supported already!

I have always had a strong desire to walk alongside and support my fellow humans in the journey of healing, growth, and empowerment. I decided at the age of 11 that I wanted to work as a therapist and originally studied psychology. Then, after a period of traveling, self-work, and becoming a mother, some people I trusted guided me in the direction of social work and I am so glad they did! It opened up an invaluable education on social justice, as well as countless possible avenues for empowering others and affecting positive change.

I plan to pursue an MSW and LCSW and incorporate many of the Eastern practices I have also studied (including yoga, meditation, mindfulness) into a comprehensive approach to psychotherapy. However, I may also change course at some point, and go into Policy/politics, in order to affect macro change as a social worker. I'm open to letting my learning experiences guide me in the right direction.

My favorite ways to spend free time are hanging out with my six-year old son Bodhi, hiking, soaking in hot springs, or doing most anything in nature.



CHN Scotch Tasting Fundraiser Slated for September 24-25



Colorado Health Network and Davidsons Beer, Wine & Spirits are delighted to announce the dates for this year's annual Scotch Tasting Benefit at the historic Cableland Mansion in Denver. Mark your calendars for September 24 & 25th!

Following in our footsteps from 2019, we are excited to again host a special event, with limited attendance Friday evening, and the annual Saturday tasting featuring World Single Malts from 4 - 8 pm.

More information and ticket details can be found here:

<https://coloradohealthnetwork.org/scotch-tasting/>

SCHN CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM & FOOD BASKET GIVEAWAY

The 2021 SCHN children's holiday gift program, along with food baskets for clients, is scheduled to happen again this year during the month of December.

SCHN will again be distributing children's gifts to families with children 14-years old and younger who are in the client's physical custody at least 50 per cent of the time. If you are eligible for the program, you should be receiving a children's holiday gift program registration form in the mail sometime during the first two weeks of October.

Please fill out the forms and return them to your case manager by the end of October. If you read this article and do not receive the registration form in the mail and you think you are eligible for the program and wish to participate, call your case manager.

Included on the children's holiday gift program registration form will be a box to check if you also wish to sign up for a holiday good basket. **Holiday food baskets will be available to all SCHN clients, so call your case manager if you are interested in receiving one.**

The pick-up dates for the children's gifts and food baskets will be in December and exact dates will be reported in the December Positive Press newsletter.

ACCESS POINT PUEBLO UPDATE BY SYRINGE ACCESS PROGRAM MANAGER SARAH MONEY



Access Point Pueblo (APP) had a busy month yet again! In the month of August, APP participated in Pueblo Pride, held multiple syringe cleanup events, and held two testing events. APP also expanded Narcan training out into the broader community by working with multiple organizations to provide training.

SCHN prevention and APP staffers Christine and Lizzy have been working on a needs assessment in outlying counties. This month, they presented their findings in Prowers County and received a ton of support!

All the staff at APP have been working hard with City Council and other organizations to address syringes found around town and are making some great steps. There are more organizations open to learning about our services; organizations that previously have expressed no interest. Finally, APP has been working on an anti-stigma mural and got the design approved! APP staff continues to be excited about the future because APP is making huge progress in building a safer and stronger community.

Red Ribbon Ball postponed until Spring of 2022

As a Health Services Organization with a focus on HIV and other health conditions, the difficult decision has been made to postpone the Red Ribbon Ball until Spring of 2022. This decision has been made in response to the increasing cases of the COVID-19 Delta variant in order to keep members of our community safe. Thank you for understanding and please stay tuned for future updates as we plan for The Red Ribbon Ball in the Spring of 2022!



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Positive Press

SEPT. 18 IS THE ANNUAL DATE FOR NATIONAL HIV/AIDS and AGING AWARENESS DAY

SEPTEMBER 18



On September 18, 2008, National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day was launched by The AIDS Institute in an effort to raise awareness due to the alarming increase in the number of older adults becoming infected with HIV as well as those older adults over 50 aging with HIV.

All the while, the prevalence of HIV among older adults is reaching staggering rates. About 1 in 4 adults in the USA who are living with HIV infection are aged 50 or older. More than 18 per cent of new HIV diagnoses occur among those aged 50 and older.

This annual September 18 observance highlights the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for aging populations in the USA.

Fortunately, with advanced treatment options, HIV positive people are living longer lives. Nonetheless, the interactions between aging and degeneration caused by HIV have become a public health concern that needs to generate appropriate awareness and education.

For additional information, go to www.TheAIDSInstitute.org or www.hiv.gov.

NATIONAL GAY MEN'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY OBSERVED ANNUALLY ON SEPT. 27

National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is observed each year on September 27 to direct attention to the continuing and disproportionate impact of HIV on gay and bisexual men in the USA.

This is a day aimed at stopping HIV stigma and promoting HIV testing, prevention and treatment.

For additional information, go to www.hiv.gov or www.cdc.gov.



Give! Campaign

Southern Colorado Health Network is excited to once again be a member of the Indy Give! Campaign. This year's campaign will run from November 1st to December 31st, 2021. This is a great opportunity for young and old to get involved in Philanthropy. SCHN will be hosting various fundraising events to raise funds through the Give! Campaign to support SCHN's programs and services. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!



Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them. **Tuesday & Thursday**
10am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm
Southern Colorado Health Network
807 N. Greenwood St., Ste 200
Pueblo, CO 81003



719-621-1105

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