



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

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CHILDREN'S GIFTS, FOOD BASKETS AND FOOD CARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DEC. 16th-20th

Eligible Colorado Springs area clients who signed up for the SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program and turned in the form prior to the deadline date will be able to pick up the gifts from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, December 16-20, at the Colorado Springs SCHN office.

Colorado Springs area clients who sign up for a food basket can pick it up from **9 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, December 16th-20th**, at the Colorado Springs office. The deadline to sign up for a food basket is **December 1st**.



Eligible SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program clients in Pueblo and other southern Colorado service areas can pick up gifts during this same time frame (Dec. 16th-20th) by making arrangements with their case manager. SCHN clients in Pueblo and other southern Colorado service areas will be mailed holiday food gift cards during this same time frame.

LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LEAP) BEGINS AGAIN ON NOVEMBER 1

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) will get underway again on **November 1st**. LEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs and is available to all individuals meeting certain financial guidelines.

If you applied last year, you should have received the 2024-25 application in the mail. If you did not apply last year and would like to apply this year, your SCHN case manager can mail you an application or you can call **1-866-432-8435** to receive an application. LEAP does not pay the entire cost of home heating. If qualified, you will receive a one-time payment sometime between **November 1st, 2024, and April 30th, 2025**. For additional information, call the toll-free LEAP telephone number listed above.

**RED BALL 2024
IGNITING AWARENESS FOR WORLD AIDS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
REELWORKS DENVER**

Step into Denver's most anticipated cultural event of the year —Red Ball 2024, where fashion meets advocacy in a dazzling celebration of creativity and awareness for World AIDS Day on **December 1st, 2024 at 5:30 - 9:30 PM at Reelworks in Denver.**



Celebrating its 16th anniversary, Red Ball brings together Denver's vibrant fashion, art, and performance communities for an unforgettable night. Expect a jaw-dropping fusion of high fashion, electrifying dance, mesmerizing drag performances, ethereal aerial acts, and live music, all woven into the powerful story of HIV/AIDS across the decades.

This year's theme reflects resilience: triumph over tragedy, hope over fear, and the strength of community action. Together, we ignite the fire of advocacy.

Join us on for an unforgettable evening with live and silent auctions, cocktails, catering, inspiring stories from Colorado Health Network clients, and more.

Dress to impress, because this year—it's giving VOGUE.

Tickets available online at coloradohealthnetwork.org

**ICONS BAR TO REOPEN FRIDAY IN NEW DOWNTOWN
COLORADO SPRINGS SPOT**

Almost a year after a fire forced the closure of Colorado Springs' gay piano bar, the owners of ICONS nightclub and our close friends are celebrating their grand reopening in a new location, 16 E. Kiowa Street in Downtown Colorado Springs.

The Kiowa revival of the original bar is even bigger than before, with more seating, a dance floor and grander sights and sounds from the staff of singing bartenders! Be on the look out for future events!



COLORADO SPRINGS WELCOMES JOSH TO THE CASE MANAGEMENT TEAM

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Joshua Cleveland is a new SCHN Medical Case Manager with 20 years of experience working with people living with HIV/AIDS. 15 years ago Joshua worked as the Prevention Director at the Southern Colorado AIDS Project and was the featured speaker at World AIDS Day 2 years in a row. In addition, Joshua was the founder of the LIVE Colorado program that provided complementary alternative therapies to people living with HIV/AIDS and he won the 2010 Community Collaborations Award for that program's amazing work. Joshua has a long history of service to Colorado Springs having served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for the Pikes Peak Pride Center and served as Membership Chair on the Board of Directors for the American Massage Therapy Association's Colorado Chapter. Joshua is excited to grow and serve his clients as a Medical Case Manager at the Southern Colorado Health Network.

COLORADO SPRINGS WELCOMES OUR NEW CASE MANAGER, MAC

Hiya, my name is Mac! I am transgender and genderfluid and use all pronouns at various times, but they/them pronouns are always great for me. I love rollerskating, Transformers, and creating art (acrylic on canvas, collage, and pen/paper are my preferred mediums right now). I have 1 romantic partner, 2 platonic partners, and 2 dogs that I love very much!



5280 FAST TRACK CITIES' WORLD AIDS DAY ON DECEMBER 7TH, 2024

Save the Date for 5280 Fast Track Cities' presents All Corners of Colorado: Reimagining World AIDS Day on **December 7th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at MCA Denver's Holiday Theater.**



Come join us for food, drink, and live entertainment from local talent such as The House of Flora, MIX TRIX, Aria Pettyone, The Denver Feminist Chorus, and more! Tickets on sale soon, so be on the look out!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND FIESTA DEL DÍA DE MUERTOS FROM SOUTHERN COLORADO HEALTH NETWORK

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HEALTH ACCESS/INSURANCE UPDATE

Open Enrollment (OE) 2025 will be **November 1st-January 15th**. Our statewide team is training to complete almost 2000 enrollments from November 1st-January 15th. If you're a client who has already been enrolled into an insurance plan by Health Access, **it is imperative that you schedule an appointment before December 15th** to meet with a Health Access Program Coordinator to secure insurance coverage for 2025. **The final cut off for insurance coverage that begins January 1st is December 15th**, so please do not delay responding to emails, calls, or letters from your Health Access Program Coordinator-Kelly, Tabitha, or Madison.

Undocumented Coloradans can enroll into creditable coverage on Colorado Connect. Like last year, the OmniSalud program will offer \$0 premium plans to qualifying applicants with income below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These \$0 premium plans are limited to the first come first serve. Health Access is NOT prioritizing taking these slots for our ADAP clients, in preference to reserve them to prevention clients or other folks who don't have programmatic support with ADAP. If you have questions about the OmniSalud program for your household, don't hesitate to reach out to a Health Access staff member for more information.

Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them.

Tuesday & Thursday,
10:00am-12:00pm
1:30pm-4:00pm



Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

Are you interested in receiving the Positive Press through e-mail? If so, please contact your Case Manager to be added to our e-mail list! You'll get the newest Positive Press at the moment its published!



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