

Dear UAF Supporter,

I want to thank you for your past support of the Utah AIDS Foundation. As you know, our services help people living with HIV/AIDS live longer, healthier, and happier lives.

Today I ask you to renew your support.

I am so proud of the UAF staff and volunteers who do a phenomenal job at serving, assisting, and comforting people affected by HIV who seek our help. HIV testing is an especially important component in the spectrum of HIV-related services. Our Test Site links newly diagnosed clients into medical care, and provides a support system to help them adjust to living with HIV/AIDS. This is critically important work.

Take a few moments to look through the materials in this packet. Then sit down to make a donation to support the Utah AIDS Foundation and people living with HIV/AIDS across the state of Utah. I am especially excited that a group of physicians and UAF supporters are offering to match your donation. Please let this matching challenge act as an incentive to make the most generous gift you can.

I thank you for your support of the Utah AIDS Foundation.

Sincerely,
Stan Penfold
Executive Director



HIV Testing at the Pride Festival

More than 50 volunteers ran the Utah AIDS Foundation's HIV Test Site at the 2004 Gay Pride Festival in June, and tested nearly 250 people for HIV.

Let's get something straight here: Lindsay Haden does not wake up early on Sunday mornings. You must be offering me something pretty nice or there must be something important occurring to convince me to wake me up anytime before 10:00 AM. So



Lisa Hunt, a UAF Test Site Volunteer, collects blood specimens at the 2004 Pride Festival.

when Pride Day came around, my excitement about helping out with UAF's HIV test counseling was combined with my early-morning grogginess—making me question my ability to provide any assistance.

As the HIV testing got started, I ran the gamut with an influx of hurried clients who were all in a rush to get back to the Pride Day festivities. Then I counselled a client I'll never forget.

This man, whose partner was recently diagnosed with HIV, was one of the most amiable people I have had the pleasure of visiting with, let alone counsel. The fact that he was stricken with fear over having potentially contracted the virus, and yet maintained an upbeat attitude, just struck me deep to the core. Inquisitive about what was

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Perspectives

What is unique about UAF's HIV Test Site?

The UAF test site is a perfect place to receive an accurate, fast HIV test administered by non-judgmental, wonderful volunteers. You can come here and be yourself!

*Leota Pearson
UAF Staff*



UAF's test site is run on a volunteer basis which adds a personal touch to the specimen collection and counseling. Also it is unique in the sense that there is a support system already set up for the clients.

*Brett Pehrson
UAF Test Site Volunteer*



UAF's test site is free of the intimidation and stressors found at other test sites; it's a friendly, welcoming environment. At UAF, it just seems to be more about the relationships between people.

*Nick Rupp
UAF Board of Trustees*



TESTING: Continued from front

in the future for him, knowledgeable on HIV/AIDS, and a genuine pleasure to speak with, this man's brush with HIV had definitely shaken him.

To know that someone so lovely, someone with whom I had been able to develop such a rapport during our counselling session, was able to overcome his concern—if only for a brief time—had obliterated all the fear I had about being unable to effectively communicate with absolute strangers in the HIV Test Site. What could be more frightening than thinking you could have contracted such a horrifying disease? Simply put, it was humbling.

After the counselling session with this amazing man I walked away with a better understanding of why I was there. HIV test counselling isn't just something to do, but something to be proud of. Counselling had always appeared to be so clinical and cold to me, full of machine-fed bubble sheets, blood specimens, and labels. But this one amazing individual helped me see a whole new side not only to this clinical setting but also one to myself. By helping one person amongst the nearly 250 tested, I felt more self-pride than at any other event I've volunteered at—and that was worth the few hours of lost sleep.

Who's getting tested?

- UAF has tested more than 1,000 people for HIV so far in 2004
- 85% of UAF's Test Site clients are men who have sex with men
- 27% of Test Site clients had never been tested before their visit to UAF
- 19% of those UAF has tested belong to ethnic minorities
- 5% of Test Site clients are injecting drug users
- UAF uses OraQuick, the newly developed "rapid" HIV test which allows clients to know their test results in as little as 20 minutes
- The number of people seeking HIV tests at UAF has quadrupled since the introduction of rapid testing in August 2003

It's Better to Know

June 27 was National HIV Testing Day. The theme of this year's campaign was, "It's Better to Know." It is imperative individuals know that if they do test positive, they **can** receive medical care and treatment to preserve their health, regardless of their financial or insurance status.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between 850,000 and 950,000 Americans are living with HIV; however, one full third of these individuals are unaware of their HIV infection.

HIV testing is especially important so that everyone who is HIV positive knows their status and can begin receiving life-saving medical treatment. The sophisticated medical care that is now available to those living with HIV/AIDS is useless if individuals are unaware of their HIV status.

To encourage people to be tested, the Utah AIDS Foundation offered free HIV testing throughout the month of June, including administering nearly 300 free HIV tests at the Pride Festival on June 13.

Although the Utah AIDS Foundation normally requests a \$15 donation to cover the costs of testing materials, this fee is waived for any client who is not prepared to make a donation. Visit the Utah AIDS Foundation website at www.utahaids.org to learn more about HIV testing options.

We've Expanded!

The Utah AIDS Foundation's HIV Test Site is expanding this summer.

Starting July 12, 2004, UAF began offering testing for four common sexually transmitted and blood borne infections, in addition to our regular HIV testing. On Mondays between 5:00 and 7:00 PM UAF can also test for:

- **Syphilis:** this test will use a blood draw and results will be available one week from the test date.
- **Gonorrhea:** this test will require a urine sample and results will be available two weeks from the test date.
- **Chlamydia:** this test will require a urine sample and results will be available two weeks from the test date.
- **Hepatitis C:** this test will use a blood draw and results will be available in two weeks.

For more information call Tyler at 801-487-2323 or 800-865-5004.



It's how we care.

At the Utah AIDS Foundation we strive to help individuals, families, friends, and communities as they struggle with the complex issues surrounding HIV, because we believe that no one should have to confront this disease alone. We are committed to partnerships that mend health, promote compassion, and extend companionship to everyone who has been impacted by HIV.

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