

# Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network

Providing prevention and care services for people affected by HIV/HCV

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2010

## With So Little We Continue to Persevere

Sometimes we come to feel despair, frustration, and even anger at the condition of our current financial circumstances, but the staff of MCAVHN is fiercely determined to "keep the lights on for all who need us." Now, more than ever before, our services for those affected by HIV/AIDS and/or hepatitis C (HCV) and for those at-risk are in jeopardy. The competition for resources, and the continued need for a compassionate response to the ongoing pandemic of AIDS and the emerging pandemic of viral hepatitis, continues to be a significant challenge.



*Santa greets a fan at the MCAVHN annual Holiday Party*

### MCAVHN Presents

Step back in time to the elegance of Hollywood.  
Tread the red carpet and join the stars!

#### Event of the Heart 2010

Saturday, February 13 at the  
Ukiah Valley Conference Center

Join us **"Dancing in the Rain"**.

Wine & Hors d'oeuvres reception  
Gourmet Dinner

Live & Silent Auctions

Dessert & Coffee

Music and Dancing

Catering by Kilkenny Kitchen,  
wine by Fetzer Vineyards,  
and music by "Twice As Good"

Tickets \$75. per person available from Mendocino  
Book Co. or call MCAVHN at 462-1932  
Visa & MasterCard accepted.

The staff of MCAVHN continues to be extraordinarily committed to our mission, in spite of our precarious funding and the social climate of scarcity.

Although the current conventional wisdom says that AIDS is "under control" with medication, HIV/AIDS continues to affect a growing number of persons worldwide and especially our youth. Viral hepatitis affects 1 in every 12 persons worldwide and 1 in about every 20 persons in our county already has the hepatitis C (HCV) virus. Both of these infections remain life-threatening and the medications used in the treatment of HIV disease, as well as the regimen for those medically eligible to treat viral hepatitis, are considerable challenges. Struggling to continue on while taking these medications can be literally incapacitating.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Twice As Good for Event of the Heart

Twice As Good is the professional name of the music duo of Paul and Richard Steward from Clearlake Oaks, CA. Pomo Indians of the Elem Indian Colony. Richard had grown up around music all his life, learned to play guitar and sing. He mostly admired the Blues & Soul. When his son Paul was a teenager Richard taught him to play guitar, encouraging him to be a Lead Guitarist. Paul, inspired by B.B. King, began imitating the Electric Blues Guitar he heard on the radio and CD's, also practicing his vocals. Paul & Rich had played around with various bands in the beginning, gaining exposure and experience, but in May 2003 they debuted as "Twice As Good, 2XG" at Terry's Southern BBQ in Santa Rosa, CA. Since then they have been all over the USA, independently released 4 albums, shared the stage with many legends and famous artists, and continue to garner success and praise with Paul leading the band through flashy show tunes, with soulful vocals, screaming guitar, and unbelievable stage presence.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Without MCAVHN the majority of people facing the challenges of these diseases would have no place to go to find exactly what they need in such a compassionate and understanding environment. MCAVHN assists with referrals to necessary medical and psychosocial services, coordination of care, treatment adherence, housing placement and support, a sympathetic ear, and assistance with setting and meeting the objectives of larger life-goals. One of the most powerful statements made by any client of MCAVHN (and heard by staff) is "I am never judged by anyone here." The philosophy that continues at MCAVHN is to meet people exactly where they are. Clients are in charge of setting goals; the staff supports and guides them throughout the process. The ultimate goal is to increase physical and mental health for individuals facing these challenges, and to increase awareness, health, and safety within all of Mendocino County.

Libby Guthrie, Executive Director



**Twice As Good**  
**Paul & Rich Steward**

### Fall Raffle

Thank you to all who participated in our Fall Raffle. About \$1500 was realized from your generous donations.

#### Lucky winners were:

Rick & Colleen Henderson — Cabin at Lake Tahoe; Mr. & Mrs. David Watts—Dinner & Drinks for two at "The Office"; Val Muchowski—A case of Frey Wines; Susie Hadel— A beautiful painted Mandala by Larry Marrinan; Richard Robinson - Green Building consultation with Estok Menton.

#### Thanks to the prize donors:

The Guthrie Family, The Office Bar & Grill, Frey Vineyards, Estate of Larry Marrinan, Menton Builders

***A Special Thanks to SANTA (aka Tom Allman) for bringing our "kids" such love and happiness for Christmas.***

***Would you like to get our Newsletter Online? Send us your e-mail address!***

**New Board Member Grace Cross**



Grace was born in Santa Rosa and after finishing high school in Yuba City attended Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill majoring in Landscaping. After running her own company "Dirty Women" she worked in property management, then as a landscape supervisor/ estimator/designer for 22 yrs in Martinez and finally Santa Rosa. Injuring her knee and no longer able to do physical labor, Grace returned to school, graduating from Empire College in Santa Rosa with Deans Honors in Medical/Clinical Assisting. She worked at Kaiser and for Ukiah Valley Primary Care, and now at Mendocino County Health Clinic. Her hobbies are landscape and fine art photography, gardening, and she's a voracious reader. Grace has one daughter Alexis, who is also in the Medical/Science field. Grace says she joined the board of MCAVHN because she is very concerned about the stigma still facing persons with HIV/AIDS and wants to help make a difference.

**MCAVHN Picture Gallery**



**Board of Directors**

April Cipriano-Haines, President  
Retired Educator

Claudia Prochter, RN, PHN, Vice President  
Family Planning Director, Public Health

Lou Celaya, Treasurer  
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Tom Gootherts  
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Grace Cross  
HIV Case Management

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Sharon Wedegaertner  
Human Resources Technician

**Staff**

Libby Guthrie, Executive Director  
& Director of Client Services

Janet M. Denninger, Operations Manager  
John Weber, Services/Outreach Coordinator

Bradley Wright, Client Advocate  
& Community Health Outreach Worker

Penny McGahey  
Community Health Outreach Worker

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**MCAVHN**  
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### Wish List

Harm Reduction Supplies — Syringes, bandaids, condoms, alcohol wipes

New MCAVHN shade Canopy top (will have "Donated by Your Name" painted on one side.

A "Techie" volunteer to help us

Event of the Heart Sat., February 13. 2010

Thanks to our great Sponsors

