

Living

the Quarterly Newsletter of Caracole



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Third Quarter 2003

(A Foray Into a Stylish Soiree



Cincinnati Magazine combined their dedication to the Greater Cincinnati area with their desire to capture the style of our city by organizing and hosting the *First Annual Hair Affair* on Sunday July 27, 2003. The Hair Affair was a hair show featuring the limitless creativity of stylists and make-up artists from the 19 local salons that participated. Radio personalities Liz Bonis and Donna D were on hand to emcee the show, introducing the models in addition to adding some personal commentary for the ever-

responsive crowd. 500 people filled the auditorium of the 20th Century Theater as they mingled, munched on hors d'oeuvres from Elegant Fare, and sampled wine, compliments of Chateau Pomije. All guests were treated to goody bags full of hair products when they left the event.

Not only did *Cincinnati Magazine* put on a great show, but also they used this as an opportunity to give back to the community by selecting Caracole to be the financial beneficiary of the event. In addition to this financial gift, Caracole also received a significant amount of publicity in *Cincinnati Magazine* and on the airwaves (Mix 94.1 and KISS 107). We truly appreciate the endless amount of work from Patrice Watson, Chris Ohmer, Kitty Morgan and the rest of the staff at *Cincinnati Magazine*. Caracole is thankful to have been chosen to be a part of this exciting venture and we look forward to future partnerships with *Cincinnati Magazine*!



Caracole staff and volunteers (l-r) Zenyth Manchion, Simone Manchion, Whitney O'Neal, David Durkalski, & Lissa Urriquia.



Cincinnati Magazine's Marketing Director, Chris Ohmer, and friends.

(Local Donor's Gift Becomes Lasting Legacy for Caracole, Inc.

Executive Director Sue Butler knew it was a historic moment for Caracole when she learned that Caracole was to receive a million dollar bequest from the estate of a local philanthropist. This gift arrived at Caracole on Monday August 11, 2003.

Spending this gift on current operations was tempting, but the Caracole Board of Directors agreed that the majority of the gift should go into the *Caracole Endowment Fund*. This bequest will be the first major contribution to the Caracole Endowment, which has been in the planning for the past several years and is scheduled to be launched in early 2004.

"This literally is the gift that will keep on giving. By placing the majority of this gift into the Endowment, Caracole will be able to ensure that we will be able to continue to meet the evolving and unforeseen needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their

families in our community, despite possible government funding cuts," according to Sue Butler.

Our hope is that the bequest will not make our donors complacent but instead inspire people to become more committed to Caracole and to our mission of providing housing and supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Caracole has always had very loyal and committed donors. This bequest is an example of our donors' support for our organization and to the people and families we serve," said James Jackson, Caracole board president.

If you are interested in providing for Caracole in your will, please contact the Director of Development and Marketing, Whitney O'Neal, at 513-761-1480.

{ United Way Campaign 2004

The Annual Campaign season for the United Way of Greater Cincinnati is upon us. Over 300 non-profit agencies benefit from this campaign. As the Campaign begins at your place of employment, please keep in mind how important your contribution is to Caracole and all the other agencies that are funded by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

Past contributions have allowed Caracole to develop new programs and improve current services, with positive effects on the lives of individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. Your gift to the United Way of Greater Cincinnati gives others a chance for a better life.

Gayle Linkletter, a long-time Caracole volunteer and a Manager of Corporate Communications for Western & Southern Financial Group, helped to kick off their employee campaign by sharing her Caracole experiences on a campaign poster. "I volunteer at Caracole, a United Way Agency. Caracole House is a group home for people with HIV/AIDS. While I have not benefited personally from United Way funded services, I certainly see the life-changing impact they have on Caracole's residents." Thanks Gayle!



Wishlist

- Houseplants, planters and hanging baskets
- VHS videos and blank VHS tapes for re-recording
- Curtains and draperies
- DVD player
- Towels and washcloths
- Juice Extractor
- Artwork or prints
- Stationery or blank greeting cards
- Internet-ready computer

{ Fun for Funds

Do you participate in an activity or pastime that could be a fun way to raise money for Caracole's services and heighten HIV/AIDS awareness? Having a party where the hosts/hostesses request a donation to Caracole in lieu of a gift is a popular way to fundraise; some people have had garage sales, bake sales, craft sales, antique sales and jewelry sales where all, or a portion of money raised, was donated to Caracole. If you are involved in an athletic team, maybe the team could have a game where players raise pledges for Caracole. Eric Bondoc combined his passion for bike riding and his dedication to raising awareness and funds for Caracole - what's even more impressive is that he is not even from Cincinnati. (see page 3)

Every person has a talent in something: cooking, sports, the arts, gentle persuasion. Help Caracole by doing something you love. We'd love to hear your ideas. Call Whitney or Lissa at 513-761-1480

{ Raining on the Pride Parade



This year's Gay Pride Parade on June 8, 2003 brought out the GLBT community and their supporters. A good number of Caracole staff were on hand for the fun. That is, until



hurricane-like weather complete with crashing thunder, lightning and hailstorm took over, sending away most of the festival-goers. Huddled under



booths that provided meager shelter from the elements, the excitement quickly shifted from fun to extreme weather conditions. Despite such an unfortunate situation, the true spirit of unity was still there. Later that afternoon a rainbow was visible; how fitting for the occasion! We look forward to next year's festivities!



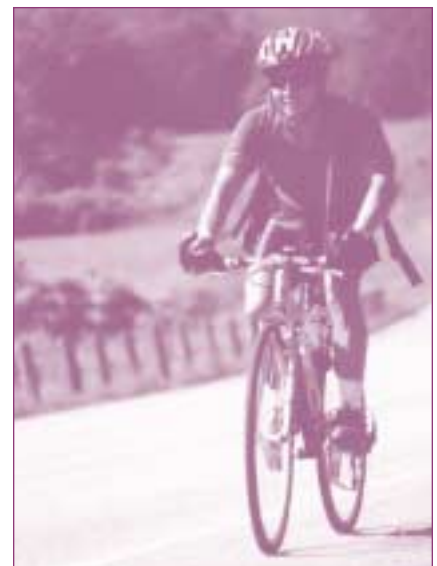
{ A Ride for Awareness and Hope

On June 5, 2003 **Eric Bondoc** set off from Savannah, Georgia. 1,123-miles and sixteen days later, after riding and sleeping in a tent under the rain, battling mosquitoes and vicious dogs, he arrived in New York City, three days ahead of schedule.

Eric feels fulfilled with his journey, and is genuinely happy for the support that people have given Caracole. Donations generated from his ride amounted to over \$4000. All along the Atlantic Coast he had the chance to meet a number of people and told them about his ride and why he was doing it. It was not just about the ride for Eric, but a chance to revisit the issues of HIV/AIDS that have been forgotten by some, or ignored by others.

He checked in regularly with the office to give reports throughout his ride. Eric's ride diary can be read on the Caracole website, www.caracole.org.

Caracole thanks Eric for his tireless spirit and boundless energy. He was only in Cincinnati for several weeks, yet he made a significant contribution to Caracole. Eric is truly an example of determination and compassion; we should all be impressed by his accomplishment and follow his lead.



(Mithil's Story – by Whitney O'Neal



Mithil sat curled up in a chair at Caracole House showing me the wound on his arm that will not heal and explaining how Caracole saved his life. We have heard the stories before from our clients about how they have become healthier and more independent as a result of the services Caracole has provided. But Mithil's story is different from most that

we hear. When he heard that I wanted to interview one of our clients for our newsletter, he enthusiastically volunteered. For this article, Mithil opens up his heart and shares his experiences with all of us.

In 2002, missionaries helped Mithil escape from a political prison in Africa. He was arrested and imprisoned because he publicly spoke out against his government. He left behind his wife and two small children and came to live in Cincinnati with his brother, who was attending a nearby university on an education visa. Shortly after he moved here, he became ill. In the past, Mithil was able to bounce right back when he caught a cold or had an injury. But this time it was different. His body was not healing the way it should; instead he was becoming more ill. Mithil's physical condition had deteriorated to the point he had to be hospitalized. The first three times he was admitted, he was sent home with antibiotics, but the medications were to no avail. Finally, during his fourth visit to the hospital, he was tested for HIV/AIDS and he then discovered he was HIV positive.

This news was devastating to Mithil. He immediately contacted his wife in Africa and told her and his children to get tested. During this hospital stay, one of the hospital staff

told him about Caracole. The staff person told Mithil that Caracole could give him a comfortable home and connect him to services he needed. Where he was going to live was of significant concern to Mithil. His brother's education visa was about to expire and the brother was moving back to Africa. Mithil was working with a local attorney so he could declare political asylum, but he was only in the beginning stages of this process.

The Caracole House Manager, Michelle Bauer, visited Mithil in the hospital and they made arrangements for him to move into Caracole House upon discharge from the hospital. He was assigned a Caracole Case Manager, Susan Arnold. She immediately started working with Mithil's immigration attorney so that he could become eligible for HIV/AIDS medications, health services, and other necessary resources.

Mithil came to Caracole House in the spring of 2003. He is now on medications and is doing much better physically. He speaks to his wife as much as he can. He shared with me his relief that their HIV tests came back negative. He wants to get well so that he can get a job to help support his family. Some day soon, he wants his family to move here so they can be together again. Mithil told me he likes Caracole House and is grateful for everything Caracole has given him.



{ New Additions To Caracole

Michell Coulter

Michell comes to us as a Resident Assistant at Caracole House with a wide variety of experience. She has been a home health aide, worked in the Mental Health system, and with youth who have chemical dependency issues. She has also spent time volunteering for the Hamilton County Probation Department.

Mark Henderson

Mark joined Caracole in June of this year as a Resident Assistant at Caracole House and Caracole Recovery Community. He recently took the position of Client Support Specialist for Shelter Plus Care, thereby being involved in all three housing departments of Caracole!

Rob Hyland

Rob had been volunteering at Caracole House since May 2002, and now he works as a Resident Assistant at both Caracole House and Caracole Recovery Community.

Parag Joshi

Parag joined Caracole's Sophia Technologies as a Software Developer. He moved with his wife from Bombay, India in 1999. He received his BS in Electronics from Bombay University. Since he has been in Cincinnati, he has been doing consulting work in software development but wanted a place to "settle down." The idea of doing what he loves in a non-profit atmosphere is very appealing to him. He likes Caracole and Sophia-Tech because he says we have a "homey" atmosphere. Parag and his wife love to travel and are expecting a baby in January.

Simone Manchion

Simone, as the new Training Lead for Sophia Tech, will develop, coordinate, and conduct technology training for people who work at non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area. Having over 10 years of technology experience, including being the Training Manager for Sarcom in Cincinnati, Simone brings with her a significant amount of expertise so that our training program can grow and be more successful than ever. She is an avid sign language student and participates in a sign ministry at her church. In her spare time, Simone travels and scuba dives with her family.

Matt Seal

Matt is also a new Software Developer for Sophia Technologies. He is originally from Toledo but has lived in Cincinnati for the last 10 years. He received his AS in Business from University of Cincinnati and his BS in Information Systems from Northern Kentucky University. Matt came to Caracole from a small family owned company where he worked for 5 years as a Software Developer. He recently was married and has been spending time getting to know his new family. His interests are soccer and mountain biking.

Tom Willis

Tom was hired as a Lead Developer for Sophia Tech. He graduated from University of Cincinnati and has been working in the corporate world since. His last position was as a Senior Software Engineer/Configuration Manager/Yogi at a local area company. Tom stated "I decided to see what it's like working for the sole purpose of benefiting others rather than to help pay for the CEO's second yacht." In his leisure time, he likes to play music with his band and spend time with his wife and daughter.



Caracole's New Employees: (pictured l-r): Tom Willis, Matt Seal, & Simone Manchion

—(Thank You to our Supporters

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If your name is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies for the error and our most sincere thanks for your support. Please contact the office (761-1480) to update our list.

—(HIV/AIDS Update HIV/AIDS and Older Adults



When people think of who contracts HIV, one rarely pictures an older person. However, people over the age of 50 make up 13% of the total AIDS cases in the United States. In areas that attract retirees, such

as Dade County, Florida, the numbers can be as high as 20%. These numbers are expected to increase as the baby boom generation ages (Mary Brophy Marcus).

Currently, seniors only make up 5% of Americans tested for HIV. Terri Wilder, L.M.S.W. states that many of the symptoms of HIV are the same as natural aging, such as fatigue, shingles, weight loss, and dementia. Thus older adults with HIV symptoms are frequently misdiagnosed. Because of the delay in obtaining an accurate HIV

diagnosis, older adults are more likely to have full blown AIDS before they are actually diagnosed with the disease.

The Department of Health and Human Services states that older adults are generally not as well educated as younger adults in how HIV/AIDS is transmitted and about "safe sex" practices. The department also claims that physicians do not generally ask their older patients about sex or drug use and these patients are less likely than younger patients to bring up issues about sex and drugs with their physicians.

The American Association of Retired Persons (www.aarp.org) is one of several groups working to get accurate information about HIV/AIDS to older Americans and to the physicians who treat them. Videotapes and discussion guides have been created and made available by AARP. The CDC National Prevention Information Network (Center for Disease Control – www.cdc.npin.org) and the National Association on HIV over Fifty (www.hivoverfifty.org) also are targeting HIV/AIDS prevention and education efforts towards older adults.

The Mission of Caracole

*is to provide safe, secure and affordable housing
and supportive services for persons living with HIV/AIDS;
and technology solutions for non-profit organizations.*

Caracole House

Caracole House has been offering affordable, and comfortable housing for adults with HIV/AIDS since 1988. People who reside in Caracole House receive case management and referral services, as well as mutual caring and 24 hour support from staff and volunteers.

Shelter Plus Care

Shelter Plus Care is a rent subsidy program for homeless individuals and families with an adult member who has HIV/AIDS. HUD provides the rent subsidy. Caracole provides case management and supportive services to help these individuals and families find and maintain decent housing, stay together, and live as independently as possible.

Caracole Recovery Community

The Caracole Recovery Community opened its doors in 2000 and offers housing and a program of recovery from chemical dependencies for adults living with HIV/AIDS. In addition to providing case management and referral services, the Recovery Community offers a 24 hour supportive environment allowing the residents to attain self-sufficiency and recover from addiction.

Sophia Technology Services

Sophia Technologies provides affordable technological assessments, training, service, and support to non-profit organizations in the tri-state area. Our goal is to help non-profit organizations acquire technology systems and support so they can better serve their clients.

HMIS

The Homeless Management Information System is a community-wide information system for agencies serving homeless people. Caracole provides project management, training, quality assurance and technical services and is the developer of the Vesta HMIS software.



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