



**The Newsletter
of Caracole**

Living

Winter 2013

DINING OUT FOR LIFE®: Thursday, April 25th 2013

Caracole is excited to kick off our First Annual Dining Out for Life® event on Thursday, April 25th. Celebrating 23 years, Dining Out for Life® benefits AIDS service organizations in 62 cities across the United States and Canada.

The idea is simple: participating local restaurants donate a portion of each check to Caracole for the evening. In exchange for their generosity, Caracole will promote their restaurant in all marketing materials (including a large insert in CityBeat, radio ads and more), ensure that seats are full during the restaurant's business hours, provide volunteer staffing to assist with the event and introduce new diners to their establishments.

Even though Dining Out for Life® is an international event, **all money raised in each city, stays in each city.** For 2013, participating agencies hope to raise more than \$4 million in just one day of dining, with more than 3,000 restaurants and a quarter of a million diners participating. National sponsors include Subaru of America, Open Table and Cellit.

Please keep the following dates open for Cincinnati's Dining Out for Life® event:

- Official Event Kickoff
Thursday, March 28th
Poster & Materials Distribution
- Breakfast Kickoff
Thursday, April 25th at 8am
Restaurant TBD
- Dinner Press Conference
Thursday, April 25th at 3pm
Restaurant TBD

Want to help? Please see sidebar to the right. Caracole needs more sponsors, more restaurants and hundreds of volunteers to make this event a success.

We'll see you on April 25th to Dine Out and Fight AIDS!



Dine Out, Fight AIDS

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSOR

Caracole is still seeking sponsors at different levels that will benefit from major marketing promotions as a part of this event.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT

Benefit from major marketing promotions, a full restaurant with new diners and knowing that you are helping Caracole provide much-needed services to those living with HIV/AIDS.

VOLUNTEER

Be a Host to help fill a restaurant, be an Ambassador stationed at your favorite participating restaurant or assist with marketing and promotions efforts.

Call David White @ 513-619-1483
or email dwhite@caracole.org

YOU ARE INVITED

Caracole's Annual Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, April 18th
Reception 5:30 pm
Meeting 6:30 pm

WHAT: Please join us as we honor our 2013 Award Recipients

Caracole Living Award:
The Health Foundation
of Greater Cincinnati

Sister Grace Murphy Award:
Cheryl J. Eagleson

Melissa Lanier Award:
Laura Cerrezin

WHERE: Fifth Third Convening Center
at United Way
2400 Reading Road
Cincinnati, OH 45202

DONATIONS: We will be accepting donations of household cleaning products and personal care items during our Annual Meeting to benefit our clients.
Thank you!

RSVP: By April 12th rsvp@caracole.org
or 513-761-1480
Please indicate the names of those attending.

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Our 25th Anniversary celebration in 2012 was a tremendous success highlighting our hard work over the years and thanking our loyal friends and supporters. And the relocation of our administrative and case management offices, while complicated and taxing, was also a very necessary and rewarding accomplishment. However, as we have now shifted into our 26th year of service to those living with HIV in our community, it is time to focus on what's next.

I am proud to say that Caracole is working hard to update our programs and provide services

that are relevant and beneficial to those we serve, and this year we will be making some changes to the Caracole Recovery Community. We are still committed to serving the same population: HIV+, chemically dependent adults working a recovery program. The program will focus more on independence for those living in the Recovery Community. Our team will still be providing the same intensive case management services to clients living in the Caracole Recovery Community, but the day-to-day activities will be more client-driven, rather than the current model which is run by staff. While this is a big change for us, we are confident that this increase in independence will be a valuable tool for those in need of such a program and will assist them in their recovery from addiction.

Additionally, thanks to our friends at the M•A•C AIDS Fund (which is funded through the sale of M•A•C Cosmetics VIVA GLAM lipstick - go out and buy a tube or ten today!) we will be able to expand our mental health program by providing additional hours of counseling for our growing client base. Currently, Caracole employs only one Mental Health Specialist, and with 25% of our 1,100 clients in need of such therapy, this donation from the M•A•C AIDS Fund is truly a gift.

Another exciting upcoming endeavor for Caracole will be our participation in our first Annual Dining Out for Life[®] event on April 25th. Dining Out for Life is an annual international dining fundraising event for HIV/AIDS service organizations and programs which started in 1991. All funds raised in Cincinnati during Dining Out for Life will stay local and support Caracole. So please stay tuned and join us on April 25th at some of the wonderfully generous participating restaurants. We hope to see you dining out on April 25th!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and learn more about Caracole. We are grateful for your interest and support and are happy to share our news with you. It is because of friends like you that we have been able to provide consistent support to those living with HIV in our community for 26 years.

Sincerely,

Linda Seiter
Executive Director

Personal Care Items Needed!

Personal care items like toothpaste or toilet paper cannot be purchased with food stamps. With 78% of our clients living with less than \$15K a year, we collect donations of the items listed below so that our clients do not have to use their limited incomes to purchase these essential products.

We are always looking for organizations and companies to conduct monthly, quarterly or one-time donation drives. If you are interested in learning more about how your group can help Caracole or to make donations, please contact David White at 513-619-1483 to arrange for a pick up or to drop them off at our office.

- Toilet paper
- Deodorant
- Body lotion
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning products
- Soap and body wash
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Razors and shaving cream
- African-American hair care products
- Combs and brushes (New)
- Buckets, mops and brooms
- Towels (New)
- Sheets (New)
- Mattress covers (New)
- Slip covers for sofas (New)

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

We couldn't do what we do here at Caracole without the support of our great volunteers. Here are some volunteer opportunities coming up in the next few months—please let David White, Community Investment Coordinator, know if you would like to help out in any way by emailing dwhite@caracole.org or by calling 513-619-1483. Thank you!

Dining Out For Life[®]

Thursday, April 25th

Need Help with:

Ambassadors (help at restaurants)

Restaurant Hosts (fill restaurants)

Pet Vet Day

Sunday, May 19th

Shuttle help, vet assistants, registration table

Cincinnati Pride Parade

Saturday, June 29th 11am to 2pm

Northside Fourth of July Parade

Thursday, July 4th, 11am to 2pm

CARACOLE EVENTS

CARACOLE HOSTS WORLD AIDS DAY EVENTS

In honor of World AIDS Day 2012, Caracole hosted the Cincinnati premiere of 'HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE' - a documentary about AIDS and 2012 Sundance Film Selection and 2013 Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary Feature at The Carnegie Visual & Performing Arts Center in Covington, KY. More than 150 people attended the free event and helped Caracole clients by donating household cleaners and personal care items for our donation pantry.

'HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE' is the story of two coalitions- ACT UP and TAG (Treatment Action Group) - whose activism and innovation turned AIDS from a death sentence into a manageable condition. Despite having no scientific training, these self-made activists infiltrated the pharmaceutical industry and helped identify promising new drugs, moving them from experimental trials to patients in record time. Director/ Producer David France.

Special thanks to an anonymous friend who helped to sponsor the event and our good friends at The Carnegie Visual & Performing Arts Center, Mark Sullivan, Jeff Thomas Catering, Coffee Emporium, Patty's Old Fashioned Popcorn and M•A•C Cosmetics - you all helped make it a wonderful evening!



Above Left: Former Board member Jeff Thomas and Former Board President Bernie McKay reminisce about their extensive history of supporting Caracole. Above Right: Michael Cottrell (aka Brooklyn Steele-Tate), Lois Kay (Mother of Board President Rick Kay) and Adam Rauch discuss hair and other niceties.



Caracole staffers Jon Hargett and Bob Keck, Former Board President Kathy Cox and Caracole friend Jerry Bedford enjoy the evening together.

BELLY DANCERS AND DRAG QUEENS

On December 1st, World AIDS Day, Caracole celebrated the day with one of the most fun and unique events we've ever hosted. Produced by local belly dancing maven Meagan Bertsche and emceed by the hysterical Brooklyn Steele-Tate, attendees were treated to belly dancing and drag performances by artists who volunteered their time and talents.

In addition to the show, everyone enjoyed a stellar silent auction, Straight Man Drag Competition and eye and lip makeovers by local M•A•C Cosmetics Artists.

Extra special THANKS to all of our performers: Meagan Bertsche, Casey Allen, Brooklyn Steele-Tate, Ginger Snap, Freeda Bangkok, Circle of Rhiannon, Yalla Ya Banat, Mystic Hips, Pharaohs Dance, Muses of Mayhem, Peggy Howell, Heidi T. Capps-Hayden, Izarra Lurra, Deborah Nelson, Jamie Rodgers, Katherine Robb, Beverly Reed and many others.

And a BIG THANK YOU to Below Zero Lounge & Nigel Cotterill, M•A•C Cosmetics volunteers, Timothy-A Spa, Laura Cerrezin, Laura Johnson, Gina Kern, Alison Ellis, Chelsea Black, Tina Manning, Erin Giwer and all of the other volunteers and donors who made this event successful.



World AIDS Day event: Belly Dancers & Drag Queens. All-volunteer cast and crew. Thank you to all who participated! Photos courtesy of Erin Giwer Photography



Above Left: M•A•C Cosmetics volunteers who made the crowd look FABULOUS. Right to Left: Chanel Adkins, Lori Ester, Kelly Stark, Adele Durrum, Jen Baker & Galvin Mason. Above Right: Bryan Bertsche, Straight Man Drag Competitor John Rourke & event producer Meagan Bertsche are WORKIN' IT!



United Way of Greater Cincinnati President Robert Reifsnnyder, Caracole Executive Director Linda Seiter and Caracole Board President Rick Kay enjoy the new digs. *Photo courtesy of William Carson*

NEW OFFICE OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, September 13th, Caracole opened our doors and welcomed our friends, clients, neighbors and supporters to officially see our newly-completed office space in Northside. It was a wonderful evening full of tours, food, prizes and a photo booth - thanks to everyone who was able to attend and for those who brought donations for our client pantry. It was a great way to start off our work in our new offices.

Thanks also to the generous local restaurants and caterers who donated food and other items for the event:

- The Blue Jay
- Take the Cake
- Melt
- Picnic and Pantry
- Galerie
- A Catered Affair
- Jeff Thomas Catering
- Green Table Catering
- Cluxton Alley Roasters
- Sidewinder Coffee
- Casper's Cupcakes
- Kathy Cox
- Skirtz & Johnson
- Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region

Photos courtesy of Erin Giwer Photography

DINNER AT THE HOUSES

Our supporters and volunteers are always so good to us here at Caracole, especially during the holidays. Here are just a few of the wonderful groups that prepared meals at our two transitional homes during that time.



Volunteers from the M•A•C Cosmetics counters at the Kenwood and Tri-County Macy's did 'Breakfast for Dinner' at the houses in honor of World AIDS Day.



Development Department Interns Amanda Goins from NKU, Josephine Lando from Xavier and Chelsey Mullins from NKU make a statement with David White, Caracole Community Investment Coordinator at the photo booth.



Caracole supporters and owners of Enriching Spaces in Forest Park (who generously donated much of our great new office furniture) Dawn and Michael Schwartzman have fun at the photo booth.



Volunteers from the Miami University Women's Center barbecued more than 35 pieces of chicken for a big 'ole cookout that was a HUGE hit with the residents in November.



Volunteers from Georgia State University were in Cincinnati to learn more about Caracole and set up a taco bar for our residents. And they donated TONS of personal care items as well!

SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE AT FINDLAY MARKET

It was a record-setting year for Caracole at our Christmas Tree sale at Findlay Market. This past holiday season, we sold 425 trees, 3,525 feet of pine roping and 70 wreaths! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our efforts by purchasing a tree. Thanks also to ALL of the wonderful volunteers who came and helped unload trees, unwrap trees and load trees onto cars - we couldn't have done it without you. And a special thank you to the folks at the Corporation for Findlay Market for once again inviting us to host the sale and providing the space.



Gyro employees and their families volunteer for the tree sale and much more throughout the year!



Court volunteers Keith Roberts, Brian Schlemmer (Ginger Snap) and Michael Cottrell (Brooklyn Steele-Tate) volunteer with other Market volunteers at the tree sale.

COMING UP ...

Be on the lookout for these exciting upcoming events that benefit Caracole!

Northside Female Drag Queen of the Year
 Sunday, March 3rd
 7pm to 10pm
 Northside Tavern

Caracole Annual Meeting:
 Thursday, April 18th, 530pm.
 United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Dining Out For Life:
 Thursday, April 25th
 Local Participating Restaurants



Gyro's gifts for residents at the houses.



Georgia State University students visit Cincinnati.



Gyro's holiday party at the houses



2012 Pet Vet Day



Belterra Casino donates to Caracole.



Macy's employees volunteer at the houses



25th Anniversary Celebration Committee



25th Anniversary Celebration



2012 Drag Races



2012 Flame Still Burns fundraiser

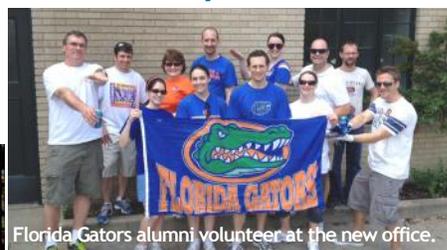


XU volunteers at 25th Anniversary Celebration.

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL
VOLUNTEERS &
DONORS FOR A GREAT
25TH YEAR. We couldn't do it
without you!**



Wise Temple cooks for the residents at the houses.



Florida Gators alumni volunteer at the new office.



Ursuline Academy students prepare mailers.

We NEED Your Help NOW

Caracole is proud to announce a new collaboration with our friends at concert:nova - a group that combines the traditional with the contemporary to create modern, kinetic and powerful performances. They have been kind enough to start collecting personal care and household items for Caracole clients at their concerts. We are excited and extremely grateful for this generous offer and opportunity to partner with concert:nova. Please join us in joining them for their upcoming unique performances:

March 17 at 3:00 p.m.
March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

A Common Thread
with the Catacoustic Consort

Mercantile Library 414 Walnut Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Come for the great concert and bring personal care items for Caracole clients!

Tickets: General - \$25 advance purchase/\$30 at the door, students - \$10 with ID. Please visit www.concertnova.com for tickets and for more information.

Caracole works very hard to provide supportive services and safe places to live for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. We help them manage the normal burdens of everyday life that are multiplied by HIV. Caracole helps this at-risk population achieve stability. The work we do at Caracole improves the quality of all our lives in Cincinnati.

In order to do all of this, we rely on the financial support of generous individuals like you. Individual donations account for 5% of our annual budget and are used to help us assist our clients in obtaining housing and life-saving medical care, help them access mental health and substance abuse services and provide case management services.

We hope that you will consider joining us by making a gift to support our mission and help us continue to provide these crucial services to those right here in our community. With the recent increased demand for our services, your financial help is needed more than ever.

**In one month,
Caracole gained
70
NEW clients.
(January 2013)**

To make a donation to Caracole, simply fill out the enclosed envelope and return it in the mail today. Or you can donate online by visiting our website, www.caracole.org and clicking the "Donate Now" button.

If you have already made a donation of money, time or talent, please know that we are truly grateful. We could not do all that we do without you!



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GO GREEN...



and help Caracole save money!
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CARACOLE HOUSE

has been offering transitional housing and case management services for homeless, low-income adults living with HIV/AIDS since 1988. The House is a four-unit apartment building that accommodates up to 11 individuals, each with a private bedroom within a three-bedroom suite. Food, linens and supplies are provided. In addition, an evening meal is prepared for community residents and food is supplied for other meals. Clients at Caracole House receive intensive case management and referral services.

CARACOLE RECOVERY COMMUNITY

provides housing for 11 HIV+, homeless and chemically dependent adults working a recovery program. The Recovery Community is a four-unit apartment building that can accommodate 11 individuals, each with a private bedroom within a three-bedroom suite. Clients at the Caracole Recovery Community receive intensive case management and referral services, helping them to gain independence and recover from addiction.

SHELTER PLUS CARE

serves more than 150 clients, caregivers and children, making it Caracole's largest housing program. It is a rent subsidy program offering a permanent housing solution for homeless individuals and families with an adult member living with HIV/AIDS. Caracole provides case management and supportive services to help these individuals and families find and maintain safe housing, stay together and live as independently as possible.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

is a rent subsidy program that serves HIV+ individuals who are considered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be 'unstably housed.' Similar to Shelter Plus Care, in addition to the rental subsidy, clients in our Permanent Supportive Housing program also receive comprehensive case management and referral services.

SHORT-TERM RENT, MORTGAGE AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE (STRMU)

is a short-term, needs-based intervention to prevent homelessness and promote housing stability for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in our region. The objective is to assist HIV+ individuals with housing costs and support during HIV-related financial crises.

MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

As part of our service-enriched programming, intensive case management services are provided to clients in all of Caracole's programs in order to help limit barriers to accessing care and stabilize and improve health and well-being while empowering clients to become independent and live with HIV/AIDS.

**Caracole's mission -
 To provide safe, affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.**