



The Newsletter
of Caracole

Living

March 2014

Eat. Walk. Run. Fight AIDS. DINING OUT FOR LIFE®: Thursday, April 24th CARACOLE'S 5K for AIDS: Sunday, April 27th

Even though we're still thawing from a seemingly endless winter, here at Caracole we are thinking ahead to spring. April 24th and 27th, to be exact.

Thursday, April 24th will mark Caracole's Second Annual Dining Out for Life® fundraiser and our First Annual 5K for AIDS will take place on Sunday, April 27th. It's going to be a BUSY spring, and we're hoping that we can count on all of our friends for your support of these two exciting events that will help Caracole's mission of providing housing and supportive services for individu-

als and families living with HIV/AIDS.

2013 marked our first Annual Dining Out for Life® event which was a huge success. 34 restaurants, 100 volunteers and thousands of diners helped to raise more than \$12,000 for Caracole. The premise of Dining Out for Life® is simple: participating restaurants donate 25% or more of sales to Caracole and diners are encouraged to donate to the cause. Diners can also enter a raffle for a chance to win great prizes! This fun event combines efforts of local restaurants, enthusiastic diners and volunteers to help our 1,400 clients and their families living with HIV/AIDS. Dining Out for Life® is a national event that is held in more than 60 cities across the country with participating agencies raising more than \$4 million in just one day of dining with more than 3,000 restaurants and a quarter of a million diners participating to help those living with HIV/AIDS.

tion and awards ceremony. We're asking hundreds of runners and walkers to join us for a little exercise, lots of fun and the chance to join a large community of folks showing their support for those living with AIDS. General pre-registration is \$20 (no shirt) or \$30 (with shirt) and Student pre-registration (with valid ID) is \$10 (no shirt) and \$15 (with shirt.) Race day registration will be available for \$20 (student) and \$35 (includes shirt while supplies last.)

Overall male and female winning runners will receive \$100 gift cards. Overall male and female winning walkers will receive \$50 gift cards. First male and female in each division will receive a medal. Please do NOT bring your pets to Caracole's 5K for AIDS, as Spring Grove Cemetery will not allow it.

To pre-register for the big race - please visit www.getmeregistered.com and search for "Caracole" and sign up as an individual runner/walker and recruit your friends to join your team! Increase your impact and set a fundraising goal. Ask everyone you know to sponsor you for Caracole's 5K for AIDS!

It's simple, the two events can be summed up in five words - Eat. Run. Walk. Fight AIDS. We hope to see you at both events this April!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

SPONSOR

Caracole is seeking sponsors that will benefit from major marketing promotions as a part of our Dining Out for Life® and 5K for AIDS events.

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.

RUNNER/WALKER

Visit www.getmeregistered.com and search for "Caracole" and sign up as an individual runner/walker and recruit your friends to join your team! Increase your impact and set a fundraising goal.

VOLUNTEER

Be a Host to help fill a restaurant, be an Ambassador stationed at your favorite participating restaurant, help with registration for the 5K or assist with marketing and promotions efforts.

Call Megan Green @ 513-619-1483
or email mgreen@caracole.org

For an up to the minute list of participating Dining Out for Life® restaurants in Cincinnati on April 24th, please visit our website, www.caracole.org

Caracole's 5K for AIDS is new for 2014, and we're planning big things! Caracole's 5K for AIDS will be a run/walk through lovely Spring Grove Cemetery on Sunday, April 27th, starting at 9 am, followed by a post-race celebra-

Caracole's
5K for AIDS 
Cincinnati Ohio
2014


Caracole's
Dining Out for 
Cincinnati Ohio
2014

Letter from the President of the Board



Dear Friends,

We haven't sent a newsletter in quite awhile, so we wanted to update our friends on some of the happenings here at Caracole - and there has been A LOT happening! This past year has brought many new people into Caracole's circle: new clients, new volunteers and new donors.

In 2013, Caracole launched two new events - Dining Out for Life® and Party in Plaid - to help raise funds for our mission while forging relationships with new supporters. We are pleased to report that both were great successes! In fact, thanks to these two events, more than one third of donors to Caracole in 2013 were making their first ever donation to the agency. We are grateful

for their support. We hope that they prove to be as loyal as the generous donors who have been supportive of Caracole for the last 27 years.

Both Dining Out for Life® and Party in Plaid will reappear this year. In addition we have decided to initiate another new venture - Caracole's 5K for AIDS on April 27th. Many of you may remember the successful Walks to Stop AIDS. Since the last Walk occurred in 2011, there has been a void as it was the only large-scale community event in greater Cincinnati where individuals and corporations could publicly show their support for those living with and affected by AIDS. An event like this is too important to vanish, so we have created Caracole's 5K for AIDS - which we will host in Spring Grove Cemetery. We hope that you will join us to walk, run, or cheer those on the course. Help us let our more than 1,400 clients living with HIV know that they are supported and not alone.

Something else I would like to share with you since we last wrote - Caracole received a very generous bequest from Mr. Robert Auth after he passed away in November 2012. Mr. Auth had been a loyal donor to Caracole for many years, and generously made provisions in his Will to provide for Caracole's mission. We are grateful for Mr. Auth's kind gift and for his lasting commitment to our agency.

Linda Seiter, the Executive Director of Caracole, is another person who has made a remarkable difference at the agency. I am pleased to report that 2014 marks her ten year anniversary in this position. We could not be happier to celebrate and thank Linda for her many accomplishments. Linda is responsible for leading Caracole through two of our largest transitions. The first was the successful transfer of the SOPHIA technology program to the Partnership Center in 2005. The second was the 2011 expansion of services, which increased our client base by more than 300% while extending our service area to an additional seven counties. Linda deftly leads Caracole with grace and integrity. The community, staff, Board and the HIV+ community of southwestern Ohio are all enriched because of her leadership. Please join me and congratulate Linda on this important milestone.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and learn more about Caracole. We are grateful for your interest 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 27 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Kay".

Rick Kay
President, Board of Directors

YOU ARE INVITED

Caracole's Annual Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, April 29th
Reception 5:30 pm
Meeting 6:30 pm

WHAT: Please join us as we honor our
2014 Award Recipients

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

DONATIONS: We will be accepting donations
of household cleaning products
and personal care items to
benefit our clients.

RSVP: By April 22nd rsvp@caracole.org
or 513-761-1480

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 Megan Green 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)
- Mattress covers (New)

CARACOLE EVENTS



Above left: Party in Plaid 2013 Co-Chair Kent Shaw and Lucy Allen show off their best plaid (and their dance moves.) Above right: Megan Ferguson and David White enjoy Party in Plaid 2013. (Photo credit: Liam O'Connell)



Above left: Sarah Jane Bellamy & Scott Knox, 2013 honorees emcee the fashion show. Above right: Party in Plaid 2013 Co-Chair Jim Kelly & Janice Flanagan are mesmerized by the plaid. (Photo credit: Liam O'Connell)

What's covered head to toe in plaid and speckled with polka dots? YOU will be when you attend Caracole's second annual Party in Plaid! And this year we have thrown in polka dots for good measure - making it **Party in Plaid and Polka Dot!** You won't want to miss the party of the year on August 9th at the Cincinnati Masonic Center. Last year's event was the most well-attended fundraiser in the history of the agency with more than 400 plaid-clad guests and helped to raise more than \$60,000 for Caracole. This year's **Party in Plaid and Polka Dot** promises to be even bigger thanks to the efforts of event co-chairs Jim Kelly and Kent Shaw and their talented committee! You won't want to miss the fun while helping to support Caracole's mission of providing housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. We're planning a great night of fun and we hope that you can join us and enjoy cocktails, dinner by the bite by Jeff Thomas Catering, spontaneous fashion show, music and dancing!

We are pleased to announce the evening's honoree will be our very good friend Moe Rouse, who undoubtedly will be decked out in the finest vintage plaid and polka dots! Moe is the owner of Mannequin Boutique - which features upscale and vintage merchandise with all proceeds going to charity (Caracole is one of them!) Of course, Moe's involvement and support of Caracole goes back much farther than her support through Mannequin and we are proud to honor and thank her for all of her contributions to the agency and our mission!

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities available by calling Caracole at 513-761-1480 or by visiting www.caracole.org/party-in-plaid/

THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE AT FINDLAY MARKET



T'was the season to be jolly as Caracole supporters and volunteers helped spread holiday cheer by selling Christmas trees, wreaths and garland for the third year in a row. The scent of fraser firs and scotch pines permeated the Historic Findlay Market in Over-the-Rhine where the sale took place on Saturdays and Sundays from Thanksgiving until Christmas. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our efforts by purchasing a tree, wreath, garland or all of the above! We sold a record number of trees this year at 440!

A special thanks to those who came to volunteer their time at Findlay Market by unloading trees, tagging trees and loading trees onto cars. Braving cold weather, snow flurries and torrential downpours, our sale would not have been a success without your help and persistence! We would also like to thank the Corporation for Findlay Market for inviting us back to host the sale for our third year. We are excited for next December (but let's face it, we'd be okay with waiting awhile before another winter arrives!)

Top Left: Alana Reign makes a fresh cut with a chainsaw to prepare the tree for departure. (Photo credit: Michael Cotrell.) Top Center: Gina Kern and Ruthie Ober prepare a tree to travel home for the holidays! Bottom Left: Gyro employees and their families take a break from selling Christmas trees to pose for a picture. (Photo credit: Gina Kern.) Bottom Right: Jesse Madden poses by a Fraser Fir. (Photo credit: Scootera Crunchmeyer.)

CONGRATULATIONS I.S.Q.C.C.B.E.

Congratulations to our dear friends at the International Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire for reaching an incredible milestone - their \$1 MILLION fundraising mark in August 2013.

The members of the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. have worked tirelessly throughout their 22 year history performing at drag shows to raise funds for their selected charities, (Caracole is one of them!) almost entirely one dollar bill at a time.



Members of the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. mark their \$1,000,000 fundraising milestone. (Photo credit: Brooklyn Steele-Tate)

The I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. has donated more than \$200,000 to Caracole's mission during our 27 years as an agency. We are very proud to congratulate and thank everyone at the I.S.Q.C.C.B.E. on this amazing accomplishment and for their generosity to Caracole and to the rest of the community!



Suzanne Moore receives the 2013 Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year Award from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. (Photo credit: Darmyn Calderon)

SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

We are so pleased to report that Caracole's Housing Services Manager, Suzanne Moore was the recipient of the 2013 Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year Award which was presented by the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition during their *In Unity There is Strength* Annual Award Dinner in December.

Every year the Coalition celebrates the accomplishments of its members, the community and supporters during this event and honors individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a strong commitment to helping to end and prevent homelessness. The Julie Marten Service Provider of the Year is awarded to an individual or agency who has provided exemplary services to the Greater Cincinnati homeless population and has shown dedication to the mission of ending homelessness in Greater Cincinnati.

Suzanne has been on staff at Caracole for six years - starting as a Resident Assistant at Caracole House and now overseeing the permanent housing programs. Executive Director, Linda Seiter states, "No one deserves this award more than Suzanne. She is a tireless advocate for the homeless and has helped countless individuals living with HIV move from transitional to permanent housing. Suzanne is universally respected by her peers and those she supervises. Caracole is fortunate to have such a dedicated, compassionate and competent person at the helm of our housing programs."

OUR HERO

It has been awhile since our last newsletter, and we couldn't pass up this opportunity to fill you all in on some AMAZING accolades that have been bestowed upon our very own Director of Client Services, Midge Hines since we last wrote. In February 2013, Midge was selected as one of four Health Care Heroes by the *Cincinnati Business Courier*. Midge was nominated by her colleagues at Caracole and was selected from seven very deserving finalists for the prestigious award in the Manager Category.

Said Linda Seiter, Caracole Executive Director of Midge Hines' service to Caracole, "Ms. Hines uses her unparalleled skills for the betterment of staff and clients. Even though her daily work tasks more than fill her day, she is always willing to sit down with a fellow staff member or client in need of help. She does so willingly and by giving her full attention. Her humor, grace and intuitive sense have shaped the culture of this agency in a profound way. Without Midge Hines, we would not be the Caracole we are proud to be today."

The very next weekend after becoming an official Health Care Hero, Ms. Hines participated in the first ever Northside Female Drag Queen of the Year Pageant - a fundraiser for Caracole. Better known as Charlamagne Dupree that evening, she took home the crown and title, all the while helping to raise more than \$2,500 to help benefit Caracole's mission.

Here's to Midge our very own Health Care Hero and Female Drag Queen of the Year!



Above left: Midge Hines, winner of the 2013 Health Care Hero, Manager Category. Above right: Charlamagne Dupree, 2013 Northside Female Drag Queen of the Year. (Photo credit: Jon Hargett)

PLEASE JOIN US

Caracole is proud to display the work of local artists in our main hallway on a rotating basis. Every two months a new artist moves in and spiffs up the place with their lovely work! Stop by and check out their offerings (and maybe buy some art!)

Upcoming shows:

April 1st - May 31st Sue Guagenti

June 1st - July 31st Daniel Luck and Group

August 1st - September 30th Bill Ross

CARACOLE GOES GREEN!

Greetings from the old desk of David White! My name is Megan Green and I am the new Community Investment Coordinator at Caracole. As we say at the Shell, Green is the new White! As easy as it is to say that phrase, I have had some large shoes to fill (literally)! In my first five months at Caracole, I have met many wonderful supporters of our agency and have worked alongside some of the most talented and generous volunteers.

With upcoming events such as Dining Out for Life, Caracole's 5K for AIDS and the Pride Parade, I am excited to meet more of our wonderful supporters and volunteers. We couldn't do what we do here at Caracole without the support of our great volunteers. Thank you for being so welcoming. I look forward to many exciting adventures together!



VOLUNTEER EVENTS

Here are some volunteer opportunities coming up in the next few months—please let Megan Green know if you would like to help out in any way by emailing mgreen@caracole.org or by calling 513-619-1483. Thank you!

Dining Out For Life®

Thursday, April 24th, All Day Event
Need Help with: Ambassadors (help at restaurants) and Restaurant Hosts (fill restaurants)

Caracole's 5K for AIDS

Sunday, April 27th, Race begins at 9 a.m.
Need Help with: Set up, Registration, Clean up

Pet Vet Day

Saturday in May
Shuttle help, Registration, Assist Vets

Cincinnati Pride Parade

Saturday, May 31st 2pm



Caracole's new Community Investment Coordinator Megan Green displays her wide array of skills-wearing high heels and using a chainsaw. (Photo credit: Dean Clevenger)



Top and Center: Our friends from Isaac M. Wise Temple prepare a meal for our transitional homes on Mitzvah Day. **Bottom:** Project Impact, a group of University of Cincinnati freshmen, came to our transitional homes to do some "Winter" cleaning.

CARACOLE UNCOVERS TREASURE!

Treasures 4 Charity is an upscale resale shop for furniture and accessories located at 2723 Woodburn Avenue in East Walnut Hills with a unique goal - to help the community by making donations to and increasing awareness of local charities and their purpose. Caracole is one of those lucky charities!

There are two ways that you can help - first, go, shop and discover wonderful treasures of your own! Treasures 4 Charity carries a wonderful selection of unique, high quality, gently used merchandise and new treasures.

Second - you can donate your gently used merchandise (no appointment necessary) any time during store hours. To receive a tax donation, simply select a charity (Caracole, we hope!) and fill out an in-kind donation form. And when your donations sell, Caracole receives 70% of the selling price!



MAKE A DONATION TO CARACOLE

With more than 1,400 individuals receiving care from our highly-skilled team of Case Managers, Clinical Supervisors and Housing Specialists, **Caracole is busier than ever before.**

We appreciate all of the help we receive from friends, volunteers, foundations and donors. We could not do all that we do without the generous support that we have been so fortunate to enjoy.

Please consider joining Caracole and make a donation to help support our mission of providing housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. To make a donation to Caracole, please visit our website, www.caracole.org

and click the "Donate Now" button.

If you have already made a donation of money, time or talent, please know that we are truly grateful.

Caracole now serves more than 1,400 clients in an 8-county region in Southwest Ohio



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GO GREEN...



and help Caracole save money!
If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send your email address to oracle@caracole.org or call 513-761-1480

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 community of two, four-unit apartment buildings that can accommodate up to 22 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.

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.