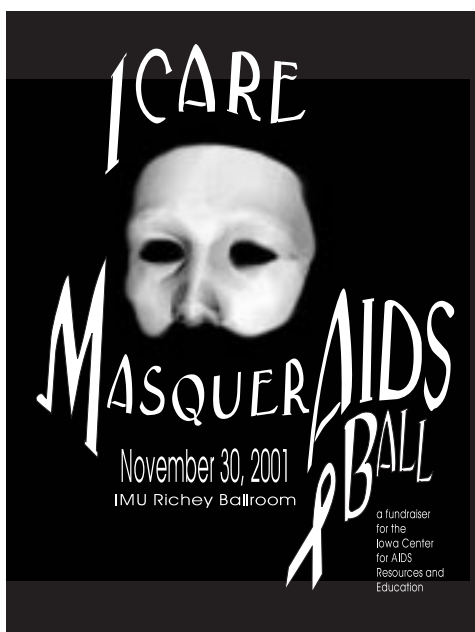


Now available online at  
[www.icare-ia.org](http://www.icare-ia.org)

Autumn, 2001  
Issue 26

# icare News

ICARE's mission is to enrich the quality of life for persons living with and affected by HIV / AIDS. Through the distribution of information and services, we aim to foster the self-empowerment necessary to live productively and positively in the face of HIV / AIDS.



## MasquerAIDS Ball Debuts Nov 30

The global theme for 2001 World AIDS Day this year is "I care... Do you?" and to show that we care, the staff at ICARE has been working tirelessly to plan the first annual MasquerAIDS Ball to benefit those affected by HIV disease.

The event will be held in the Ritchie Ball Room at the Iowa Memorial Union on Friday, November 30. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar. Hors d' oeuvres will also be served from 7:00 p.m.

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## Government Study Concerns HIV Educators and Activists

In a report issued July 20 at a conference in Virginia, a joint study undertaken by the National Institutes of Health ("NIH") and Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"), we learned that condoms are effective barriers against STDs, including HIV.

Nothing new to report, except that the interpretations of this report by some health professionals and politicians have some AIDS activists concerned.

What could be the problem?

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## *HIV And My Raza: Why AIDS Is Killing Young Latinas*

For the last two years that I have been a volunteer at ICARE, I have worked to find ways to actively agitate for education, social change, and all those things that I hope will make the world a better place. In that time, I have seen many outstanding ideas, programs, projects, and people come in and out of ICARE, all making a change for the better.

Yet, every time I pick up a paper that mentions the HIV/AIDS epidemic, every time I see another article praising the development of a new drug for PWAs, I am reminded — there are still too many new cases, and there are still proportionately far more Latinas with AIDS than almost any other group (second-largest group with AIDS in the US). I am reminded that my “Raza” [Race] is affected by this in ways that directly affect the social and cultural survival of a people. How did this happen, and how can we possibly prevent a cultural disaster?

Latinas are affected by HIV/AIDS out of proportion to their numbers for many reasons. For many Latinas, the price of something as simple as a condom may be out of range or, even more likely, the purchase may be an embarrassment. I can remember in high school the desperate search for some place that gave out condoms without also giving out the guilt trips that always seemed to come along. Though times are changing and education with it, Latinas who are raised by fairly traditional parents are often taught little about condom use, sexuality, negotiating

sex, and self-awareness and pride. These things are usually seen as the province of married life, not youth. Other issues such as religion and gender roles also significantly impact the lives of young Latinas, either overtly or subtly. In fact, perhaps it is the unspoken, generalized, traditional idea of la mujer as it still exists (what a woman is, does, and how she acts, primarily focused on the home and children) that most affects how a Latina sees herself.

Though Latinas are gradually rising up the economic ladder, far too many are still struggling as states go through recessions, as jobs shift and move with trade treaties, and as labor loses force in negotiations. Those who are dependent on seasonal labor often find themselves subject to market whim and work in unstable positions with no insurance, little job security, and certainly no free time to educate themselves on the dangers of unprotected sex. In addition, some Latino males do not always consider the importance of a condom during sex, or see them as an affront. These are ideas Latinas and Latinos must confront together, for they are cultural issues of a deep nature.

Even HIV prevention programming for Latinas is flawed. A movement has arisen to provide Spanish-language materials, which is important, (even though data shows that most Latinas speak English in addition to Spanish), but little research has yet been done on how to reach Latinas. The cultural differences between a non-Latina/o

## *Do We Know where You Live?*

We'd like to thank all of our readers who have already contacted ICARE to make corrections to their mailing address.

If you'd like to receive the ICARE News by email, please write to [newsletter@icare-ia.org](mailto:newsletter@icare-ia.org) or log on to [www.icare-ia.org](http://www.icare-ia.org) and click on “Newsletter” where you will be given the opportunity to change how you receive the ICARE News. You can also download current and past issues of the ICARE News from our website.

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## A Correction

In the last issue of the ICARE News, we listed the volunteers who were recognized at ICARE's volunteer recognition picnic on Saturday, May 12. Unfortunately, the chairman of our Board of Directors, Dr. Todd Simpson, was omitted. Todd was given the Fundraiser of the Year award for all of his hard work during our World AIDS Day fundraising drive last year and for the countless hours that he put in on the 14th Annual New Pioneer Coop / ICARE Pancake Breakfast.

Thank you for all of your hard work Todd.

## Latinas

*continued from page 2*

group and Latinas are significant in ways that easily impede education efforts if they are not attended to. Like African-Americans, Latina/os have a heritage of being outsiders in their own land, of seeing gross distortions of character and stereotype, of being the subject of unconcerned dismissal. The most successful HIV/AIDS education efforts for Latinas are those which carefully consider the target

## HIV Prevention for People Living With HIV

In the last two decades, HIV prevention has been concentrated on keeping the HIV negative population HIV negative. Prevention providers didn't target those already living with HIV for fear of increasing discrimination and stigma against the HIV positive population.

People who were diagnosed HIV

positive were referred to health care, leaving prevention education for the HIV negative. Given the fact that an HIV positive person is involved in every instance of HIV transmission, it only makes sense to target the HIV positive population for prevention education and support.

Johnson County Department of Public

population, cultural issues, socioeconomic problems, and the realities of everyday life. Effective programs incorporate the input of the community members and strive to figure out a way to make the program work **for** la Raza, **in** la Raza, and **through** la Raza. In terms of education, you cannot ask for much else and in terms of a culture's survival, you **must** ask for no less than this.

*Sam López*

Health has started just such a program this summer. The group meets every other Wednesday from 12:00 P.M. until 1 P.M. at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Participants may drop

into our meeting room for snacks, drinks, and great discussion.

Anyone living with HIV is welcome, and we also welcome friends, family members, and partners. If you have any questions regarding this program or upcoming topics,

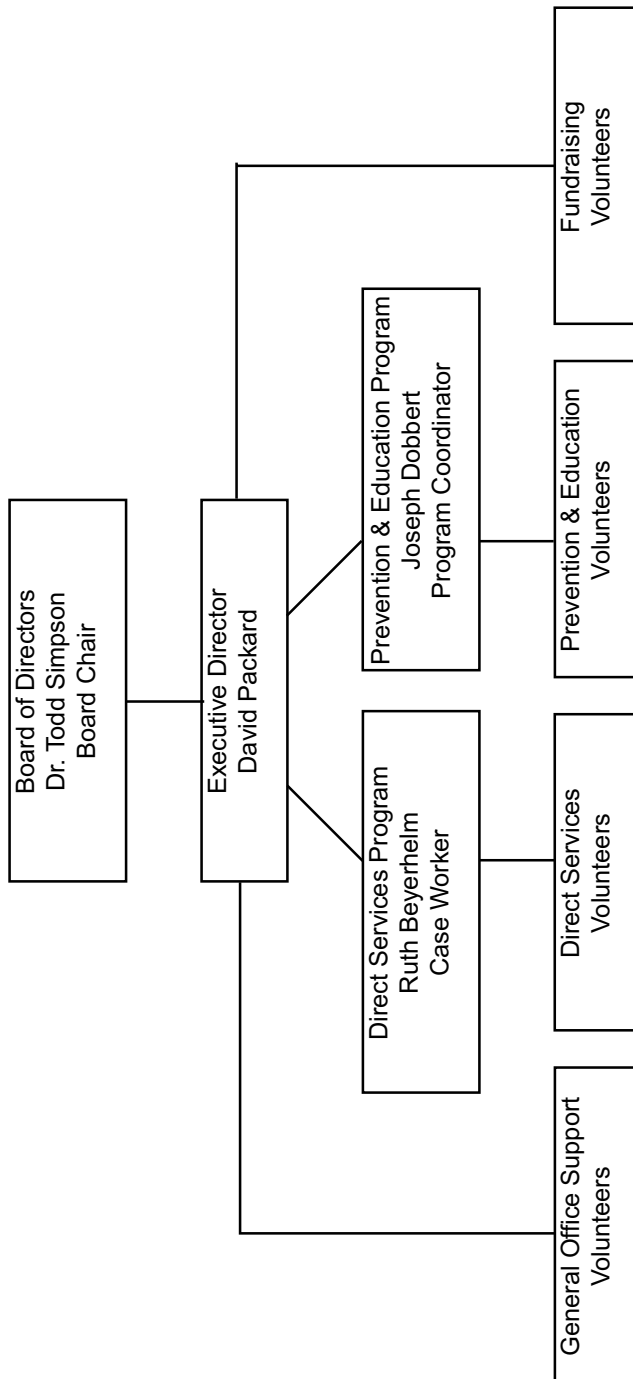
please contact Kristen Kidd at the Johnson County Department of Public Health by email at [kkidd@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:kkidd@co.johnson.ia.us) or call (319) 356-6038.

*Kristen Kidd*

*Kristen is an HIV Outreach worker at the Johnson County Department of Public Health*

# A New Angle To HIV Care and Prevention Services

*Iowa Center for AIDS Resources & Education  
organizational chart*



Those who have been actively involved in ICARE during the past year will note that there have been numerous changes in how we do things at ICARE. In his first year at ICARE, David Packard has taken huge steps to improve the services that we provide.

Beginning July 1, 2001, the basic organizational structure of the agency was changed to address a need that most non-profit organizations struggle with: how to utilize unpaid staff. There are five types of volunteers at ICARE. There are the volunteers who oversee the operation of the agency and set policy for the entire organization. These volunteers serve on the Board of Directors.

By giving their time as General Office Support Volunteers, these staff members help answer telephones, provide clerical support and assist other staff in the behind the scenes work that must be done to provide the outstanding HIV care and prevention services for which ICARE has become known.

Another important group of behind the scenes volunteers are those who serve as Fundraising Volunteers. Our fundraising volunteers are responsible for raising money to fund ICARE's programs, including Emergency Financial Assistance programs that help provide financial support to those living with HIV disease throughout Southeastern Iowa.

Under the supervision of the Case Worker, our Direct Services Volunteers provide the emotional and practical support to our HIV positive clients and their loved ones. In addition, a Direct Services Advisory Committee is being formed to address the needs of those living with HIV. The committee will advise the Board as to the needs of the HIV positive community. The committee is open to all ICARE clients and any volunteers who are involved in the Direct Services Program.

ICARE's Prevention and Education volunteers are working day and night on programs targeting the most vulnerable groups in society. Prevention programs include structured long

*am somebody's brother.  
am somebody's aunt.  
am somebody's son.  
am somebody's mother.  
am somebody's sister.  
am somebody's daughter.  
am somebody's uncle.  
am somebody's father.  
am somebody's friend.  
care.*

term interventions for high risk adolescents, a teen peer education program and workshops for community groups on topics ranging from HIV 101 to effective communication strategies. We are also working with the Johnson County Department of Public Health to provide street outreach and prevention programs for men who have sex with men and injecting drug users. ICARE volunteers are hard at work on our website to provide prevention tools to rural Southeastern Iowa with HIV information set to be released in both English and Spanish before winter.

If you'd like to get involved and become part of the solution, download an application at [www.icare-ia.org](http://www.icare-ia.org) or call the office at (319) 338-2135 and ask to have an application mailed to you.

*Joseph Dobbert*

## MasquerAIDS

*continued from page 1*

In addition to refreshments, entertainment will be provided. There will also be live music and a dance floor. Two bands will provide two distinct flavors of music throughout the evening. We have not released the names of our performers yet but you can expect a very special announcement in the coming weeks.

A silent auction will also be held to raise money for those most affected by HIV disease. World AIDS Day is also observed as "A Day Without Art" as a reminder that HIV has devastated the artistic community. We intend for the silent auction to offer a diverse selection but art will be a special focus in honor of "A Day Without Art." Donations are now being accepted for items that can be sold in the auction. Please contact ICARE if you'd like to donate.

There will be a costume contest with a prize awarded to the individual with the most creative costume. Costumes are optional however. Those who choose not to create a costume will be given the option to purchase a mask created by ICARE's peer education group the day of the event.

Seating is limited. Reserved tables, which seat up to ten people, are on sale for \$150. Individual tickets are available for \$15 each. For information or to order tickets, call ICARE at (319) 338-2135 or (888)338-2135.

*Joseph Dobbert*

## Condoms

*continued from page 1*

As *Bay Area Reporter* writer David Fraser pointed out, the fact that the study did not have definitive conclusions about how effective condom use was in preventing HPV, genital herpes, or syphilis has led some to read the report as indicating condoms are not effective barriers against these STDs. However, as the study itself points out, "The Panel [stresses] that **the absence of definitive conclusions reflected inadequacies of the evidence available and should not be interpreted as proof of the adequacy or inadequacy of the condom**" to reduce STDs. In other words, condoms are not the problem. The study is the problem.

The CDC, which participated in the study, has reiterated its stance on the effectiveness of condoms as a barrier against the spread of STDs. The NIH study itself notes that most epidemiological studies weren't designed to check condom effectiveness or infection rates and condom use. In fact, the NIH study did not actually look at how effective condoms are in preventing the spread of STDs; rather, it focused on the flaws in past research on condom efficacy. The study even concluded that a condom used with no breaks or leaks was one hundred percent effective in preventing the transmission of HIV.

Despite these conclusions, some groups and politicians, including Oklahoma Republican Tom Coburn, who requested the study, called for

the resignation of the CDC's director, Dr. Jeff Koplan. These groups claim that the CDC and other health agencies have been misleading Americans and wasting money by claiming condoms were effective barriers against STD transmission. However, Department of Health and Human Services Director Tommy Thompson declined to ask for Dr. Koplan's resignation, and the CDC replied to these requests by reiterating its stance on the effectiveness of condom use.

Activists are also alarmed that the study excluded some of the highest-risk groups for HIV, including men who have sex with men, and people of color. The studies examined all involved penis-to-vagina intercourse, with nothing noting the effectiveness of condoms in anal or oral sex. The study did note in a relative risk model that a condom used with no breaks or leaks was one hundred-percent effective in preventing the spread of STDs.

Even more confusing is Dr. Coburn's reading of a report which does not even question whether or not condoms are effective and his subsequent declaration that, "the federal government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to promote an unsubstantiated claim that promiscuity can be safe. We all now know for a fact that is a lie." The fact, as we know it, is that those who use condoms correctly every time they have sex almost never contract a sexually transmitted disease as a result of that activity.

*Sam López*

*You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, "I lived through that horror. I can take the next thing that comes along."*

*... You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt  
(1884-1962)*

## Have Questions?

Do you have a question about HIV disease?

Are you HIV positive and want to receive services from ICARE?

Does your group or organization want to participate in an HIV prevention group?

Do you or your organization want to host an information workshop about HIV disease?

Do you want to be part of these or any other ICARE programs?

If the answer to any of these questions is **YES** please call or email an ICARE staff member today.

### ICARE

321 East First Street  
Iowa City IA 52240  
(319)338-2135

or reach us online at:

[www.icare-ia.org](http://www.icare-ia.org)  
for a staff directory

[info@icare-ia.org](mailto:info@icare-ia.org)  
to email a general  
question to the staff



Iowa Center for AIDS Resources and Education

321 East First Street • Iowa City, Iowa • 52240-4703  
Phone (319)338-2135 • Fax (319)341-9828 • [www.icare-ia.org](http://www.icare-ia.org)



#### MEMORANDUM

from the desk of David G. Packard, Executive Director

Our focus in this issue of the ICARE News, as in all our issues, is education, advocacy, and information concerning HIV/ AIDS for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. We strive to provide news and information in our newsletter of interest to our thousands of readers, but we just can't reach everyone through the ICARE News.

One way we spread the word is through our volunteers. Volunteers are trained in HIV/AIDS information, intervention, and education, and are the front line in combating misinformation about the AIDS epidemic. In addition, volunteers provide educational services to groups small and large, and the demand for these educators is rising.

You can help. I invite you to become a part of a dedicated group of people who are actively working to provide services and education to our community through ICARE volunteer programs. It is my hope that through education, the community will come to a greater recognition of the impact of HIV disease, and a better understanding of daily issues faced by those living with it.

By becoming an advocate, you can be an important part of ICARE's work, helping to provide education and information to the general public, policymakers, health care providers, and social scientists about the daily circumstances and challenges faced by people living with HIV/ AIDS. Much of our work is geared toward providing as much accurate information as we can, and we need more people to provide it. The importance of education as a tool in stopping the spread of AIDS cannot be overstated. Please consider becoming an ICARE volunteer. You can make a difference.



A United Way of Johnson County Agency

# Icare News

321 East First Street • Iowa City Iowa • 52240-4703  
www.icare-ia.org • newsletter@icare-ia.org

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## Wish List

Can't donate  
cash right now?

Here is a list of items that we're looking for to use in the office and give to clients. In many cases, your in-kind contributions may be treated like cash donations for tax purposes. Check with your tax advisor for details.

- *laundry detergent*
- *Apple (or compatible) Laser Printers (2)*
- *toilet paper and paper towels*
- *trash bags*
- *facial tissue*
- *colored copy paper*
- *candles*
- *dish towels*
- *envelopes*
- *greeting, birthday, holiday, thank you cards*
- *light bulbs*
- *gift certificates (movies, gas, groceries, massages)*
- *cleaning supplies*
- *hand soap*
- *pens, pencils and other office supplies*