

Hep C Connection

2008 Annual Report

2008 BOARD

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Clark Kulig, MD, Denver VA Medical Center

Barbara Piasecki, MD, Kaiser Permanente

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Hugo Rosen, MD, UCDHSC

Message from the Chair

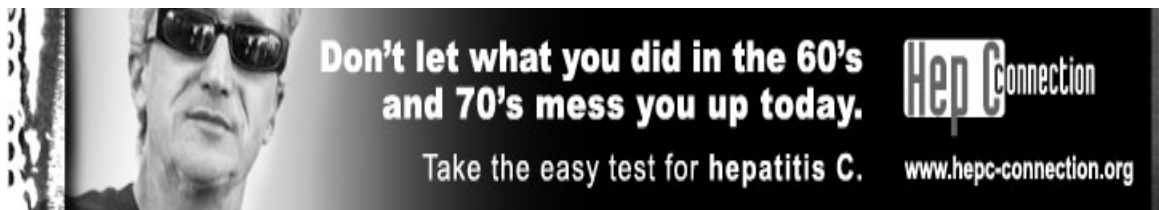
Hep C Connection, now in its 14th year, continues its commitment to increase public awareness, to provide education and testing, and to inform those infected and affected by the hepatitis C virus. The economic currents of 2008 challenged Hep C Connection to find new ways to fulfill its mission by cultivating existing relationships, grass-roots lobbying efforts to promote the allocation of funds, and simply working harder to maximize value with fewer dollars.

We thank all of those who have supported us – our funders, the Board of Directors, our advisors, our many volunteers, and those we serve. We look forward to setting a strong course in the coming year.

Thomas Kim



2006-2008
Chair



Highlights of 2008

Hep C Connection provides a variety of services throughout Colorado that develop awareness about the hepatitis C virus, identify ways to reduce risk and avoid transmission, and provide support for those directly affected by this deadly disease. As you can see by the results on the following pages, there is great demand for the services we offer.



AIDS Walk



Drop to Stop Needle Disposal Day

HCV Facts

In 2006, 19,000 Americans were newly infected with HCV

HCV is the most common cause of chronic liver disease in the U.S., accounting for 40 to 60 percent of all cases

The projected direct and indirect costs of the current HCV epidemic, if left unchecked, will be over \$85 billion for the years 2010 through 2019

The VA is the largest single provider of medical care to people with HCV in the U.S. The VA *National Hepatitis C Program* works to ensure that patients with or at risk for HCV receive quality health care services

HCV infection is 2 to 3 times as prevalent among African Americans as it is whites

Most liver transplants in the U.S. are attributed to liver disease from chronic HCV

What we did to Educate the Public

- Provided information at 59 health fairs and exhibits attended by 46,898 people
- Created and implemented radio and print advertisement materials. Ads were run on *KBCO* and *KTCL* radio stations, and in *Rocky Mountain News*, *Denver Post*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, *Westword* and *Out Front* publications (see ad on pages 1 and 3)
- 73 presentations to 959 healthcare professionals such as nurses, social workers, medical students, physicians' assistants, and doctors
- 91,687 unique website visitors due to Google grants award
- Revised all hepatitis C educational and resource materials and shipped them to health organizations throughout the state
- 1145 (cumulative) received *Connections*, our monthly e-Newsletter
- May Hepatitis Awareness Month was held with activities including the inaugural "Drop-To-Stop" disposal days, the 2008 Viral Hepatitis Conference, and proclamations by the Governor, the Mayor of Denver, and the City and County of Denver.

Team Hep C: Partners Around the State

Team Hep C is a collaboration of 18 health-related organizations in Colorado that work with clients with HCV or HCV risk factors and need current information about the virus and resources available throughout the state.

Team Hep C focused its efforts on the annual Colorado Viral Hepatitis Conference held in

May. The two-day conference hosted 146 attendees.

Attendees overwhelmingly reported that they would attend an annual hepatitis conference, showcasing the need to educate individuals throughout the state about the latest developments surrounding hepatitis C on an annual basis.

They also heard educational presentations throughout the year from Harm Reduction Project, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, Peer Assistance Services, Hepatology Research Department with the UCHSC, Colorado AIDS Education and Training Center, and Western Colorado AIDS Project.

Support Services for those Directly Affected

- 1122 people called the HelpLine from throughout the US and we continue to offer Spanish language services to HelpLine callers
- Four community education forums were hosted in Englewood, Fort Collins, Lakewood, and at the Veteran's Hospital in Denver
- Eleven support groups met in these locations - Aurora, Lakewood, Englewood, Capitol Hill, Denver (HIV/HCV co-infection), the Veteran's Hospital in Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction with 385 attending
- The Colorado Resource Directory was updated and widely distributed statewide

Desserts & Delights was a Sweet Success



University of Colorado Denver's
Liver Transplant and Hepatology Team Members

It's Official: Desserts & Delights is the signature fundraising event for Hep C Connection!

Approximately 200 supporters converged on the Colorado Convention Center to honor the University of Colorado Denver's Liver Transplant Center for the significant work that they do to save the lives of those affected by hepatitis C.

Mike Grube and Katie Barton co-chaired the soiree. Professional

auctioneer Shawn Hagler led us through some spirited live bidding, especially for the guitar signed by Crosby, Stills, & Nash.

Local jazz favorite Dotsero entertained us with their smooth sound, and Mike Landess from The Denver Channel emceed the night's festivities.

Thanks to all who donated or attended this fundraiser.

Financial Information

(Unaudited numbers)

REVENUE

Corporate	\$76,310
Foundations	\$37,667
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	\$210,122
Individual Donors	\$20,780
Events	\$26,111
Other	\$3,615
Ad Sales & Internet	\$1,309

REVENUE TOTAL \$375,914

EXPENSES

Program	\$370,795
Administration	\$31,681
Financial Development	\$39,685

EXPENSES TOTAL \$442,161



Programs for People At Risk

- Conducted 195 educational presentations to 2238 at-risk individuals that include inmates and individuals in substance abuse treatment centers
- Conducted 42 HIV/HCV co-infection presentations to 625 providers and clients
- Tested more than 100 people at these venues: Salvation Army, Miracles Drug Treatment, Auraria Campus' "Spring Fling", Freedom Fair, Lakewood Housing, The Ladies Run and Veterans Motorcycle Rallies, and the Hep C Connection's office
- Active participants in committees and collaborations on state drug policy and intravenous drug use collaborative, Ryan White ADAP Advisory Council, Coloradans Working Together to Prevent HIV/AIDS, AIDS Coalition for Education (Board member), Denver Archdiocese HIV/HCV Ministry, Governor's Colorado Advisory Council on AIDS, Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS, Project Redemption Governing Board, and Peer Assistance Services HIV/HCV Steering Committee



The mission of Hep C Connection is to educate the general public about hepatitis C and to provide resources and support for those affected by the virus.

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www.hepc-connection.org

Nancy Steinfurth	Executive Director	720-917-3965
Kara Armstrong	HelpLine & Volunteer Coordinator	720-917-3972
Amy Burkholder	Administrative Assistant	720-917-3963
Laura Ginnett	Director of Community Outreach	720-917-3960
Stewart Thomas	Medical & Marketing Liaison	720-917-3970

Thank you to our outgoing Board Members

We would like to gratefully acknowledge Board members who rotated off the Board in 2008. Every individual significantly contributes to our agency’s success. Thank you for your contributions over the years.

- ◇ Tom Kim
- ◇ Gwénaél S. Hagan
- ◇ Warren Buettner
- ◇ Elsie Lacy
- ◇ Christy Calvin

Welcome to new Board Members and Officers

We recruited two dynamic individuals to serve on the 2009 Board of Directors — Rusty Glenn, attorney with The Shuman Law Firm, and Herb Merrill, CEO of Merrill Consulting Associates. Additionally, Ann Eckman signed on for another term.

Scott Meiklejohn was elected to serve as Chair of the Board for 2009 along with Brian Wilkerson as Vice Chair, Mike Hofmann as Secretary, and Steve Piper as Treasurer.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Hep C Connection Funders

Hep C Connection has many established and new funding relationships. We thank those that supported us in 2008 at the \$500 level or higher - foundations, corporations, family trusts, board members, volunteers and many individuals:

Abbott Laboratories
 TR Barge
 Carl Benson
 Bright Mountain Foundation
 Warren Buettner
 Michael Burstein
 CPR, Inc.
 Scott Cissna
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 Colorado Health Network
 Community Health Charities of Colorado
 The Denver Foundation
 Dr. Greg Everson
 Faegre & Benson
 Gilead Sciences
 Mike Grube
 Richard E. Hoffman
 Investment Realty Company

JFM Consulting
 Ralph Jones
 Dr. Igal Kam
 David Kuosman
 Gary McClain, Ph.D.
 Scott Meiklejohn
 Onyx Pharmaceuticals
 Stephen Piper
 r² Advisors, LLC
 Roche
 Karen and Ed Rosenthal
 Schering-Plough Corporation
 Pam Shillam
 Suncor
 Vertex Pharmaceuticals
 Virginia Hill Foundation
 Brian Wilkerson