

CHAMP Leads the Fight to End War on Condoms

As AIDS activists dedicated to the human rights of all, CHAMP is committed to full access to HIV prevention information and tools. Even as we fight for a next-generation of improved HIV prevention, we must not lose sight of the effective tools we have today to prevent HIV, including sterile syringes, condoms, and therapies to prevent maternal-to-child transmission.

In the past year, there has been an escalation of attacks on condoms, from our government's increase in funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that exclude talking about condom use, to full-scale fundamentalist disinformation campaigns about condom effectiveness.

International programs funded by US dollars are being told not to give out condoms, Brazil has been forced to reject funding rather than cease programs that provide condoms and support to sex workers, and the Bush Administration has sat on their hands while Uganda, the 2nd largest recipients of US international AIDS funds, has kept their nation's supply of condoms locked in a warehouse and stripped funds from successful condom distribution programs.

CHAMP has issued a public call to fight this war on condoms.

We have launched a webpage dedicated to key information and updates on condom advocacy, and have pledged to ramp up policy, advocacy, and direct action protest against the war on condoms. Join the fight, check out our webpage at www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=war-on-condoms

In addition, we released a **Special Report issue of HHS Watch**, our monthly watchdog e-newsletter. The report sheds light on the drummed-up controversy over condom effectiveness. Written by David Gilden, this issue brings research analysis based on sound scientific methodology into this politicized debate. It presents new information showing that the correct use of condoms will prevent HPV (human papilloma virus, which itself can increase risk of contracting HIV), contrary to the claims of fundamentalist and pro-abstinence-only groups.

Our report is being used to educate public officials, health advocates and the media, in order to counter the hysteria fanned by conservative groups and politicians such as Sen. Tom Coburn, who support and profit from abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. You'll find current and past issues of **HHS Watch** at www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=news



A Roadmap to End AIDS: CHAMP trains leaders at the Campaign to End AIDS Kick-off & Youth Action institute; Hits the road in September for 1500-mile caravan.

The Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA,) is a nationwide effort asserting that our current knowledge on HIV prevention and treatment could bring the epidemic under control, if done to scale. The Campaign is sponsoring ten caravans through every state this fall converging for five days of protest and events in Washington DC.

As one of the founding partners in C2EA, CHAMP is leading efforts to train and mobilize a new generation of activists across the country -- and putting our Executive Director behind the wheel of a 31-foot RV traveling through 11 states to end AIDS! (Cont. pg. 3)



Prevention Action Works:

Government Website Changes Homophobic Language, and Senate Calls for Further Scrutiny, as Campaign To Fix 4parents.gov Continues

The Bush Administration's Department of Health & Human Services launched www.4parents.gov in March. This new website boasts that it will help parents "discuss important, yet difficult, issues about healthy choices, abstinence, sex and relationships" with their kids.

But instead, it gives parents incorrect, misleading and stigmatizing information on sexuality and STD prevention, while completely neglecting key adolescent health issues such as tobacco and alcohol. It's not all that surprising, once we learned that the lead group paid to write the content was the right wing National Physicians Center for Family Resources. They're the ones that put out the ridiculous claim several years ago that abortion leads to breast cancer.

CHAMP joined SIECUS, CHANGE, Human Rights Watch and others to demand HHS Secretary Michael O. Leavitt take down the site, and conduct a formal review of its content. Many of you took action as members of our **HIV Prevention Network** throughout this spring, calling and emailing Leavitt to underscore these demands. The results? We've had two significant victories this far:

- **The website's language on sexual orientation was significantly improved this May.**
- **In July, Senator Specter (R, PA) attached directions in the HHS spending bill, ordering Leavitt to scrutinize the website, requiring HHS to conduct "...a review of the website by Departmental public health and scientific experts, and make any necessary changes to conform with scientific evidence."**

Thanks to everyone who participated in helping to achieve these victories! For more on the on-going battle, see: www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=4parents



H-POP Goes Back to School:

NYC public schools are required by law to have condoms available for students who request them. But how many schools actually have them readily accessible? We're ready to find out!

Our Find the Condoms in Your School Campaign is working with high school students this summer as they get ready to fight for better access in their schools. If you or someone you know is attending a NYC public school and would like to get involved, contact Sarah at 212-966-0466 x 1302 or showell@champnetwork.org



**Press Clips from the
2005 National HIV
Prevention
Conference in Atlanta**

"Frankly, we are not shocked that the potent mix of a decade of insufficient funding for science-based HIV prevention and an overdose of ideologically driven policy has pushed us over the million mark,"

– Julie Davids, quoted in a United Press International story on the new CDC estimate of one million Americans living with HIV, published in the Washington Times, 6/14/2005

"In the earlier days of the AIDS epidemic, we didn't know how to get AIDS under control. I think now we do, but we're watching a textbook case of not implementing a good plan," – Julie Davids,

quoted in an Associated Press story carried by newspapers across the country including the Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Seattle Times, Los Angeles Times, among others, 6/14/2005

A Roadmap to End AIDS (Cont. from pg. 1)

For the **C2EA Kickoff at AIDSWatch** in May, **CHAMP Academy** produced a comprehensive training kit and coordinated 19 training sessions over three days, helping people with HIV and other activists hone their skills as community organizers, media spokespeople, and policy strategists. Then, as 5000 people joined in a powerful march to the White House, CHAMP coordinated interviews with residents of 13 primarily rural states with their hometown media.

The following month, CHAMP Field Organizer Sonny Suchdev, Board Chair Walt Senterfitt, and Executive Director Julie Davids traveled to Fort Collins, CO for the **Youth ACTION Institute (YAI)**, in collaboration with the Youth Caucus of C2EA.

Working with a diverse group of over 100 leaders aged 14-26, of whom one-third are living with HIV, the YAI was an inspiring whirlwind of four days of workshops, speak-outs, dialogue and debate. CHAMP led panels on the history of the AIDS movement, organizing in communities of color, tools for overcoming oppression that can tear apart our unity against AIDS, and methods of mobilizing through schools and non-profit organizations. We also learned TONS of information on what's going on in the frontlines of youth-led activism, from vanguard condom distribution in Mississippi high schools to Latino/a transgender justice struggles in the Castro in San Francisco.

Throughout the summer, we're heading up the planning for the **Nor'Easter Caravan**. Sonny is serving as the field organizer and Julie is the coordinator and RV driver for this ambitious trek, which will include over 20 local events in nine days over 1500 miles, traveling from September 30 till we hit DC on October 7.

In July, CHAMP's **Power Grid for AIDS Movement Building** brought together an in-person meeting for leaders from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania to plan our route and activities through our eight states. Out of this meeting we now have an action-packed caravan that will include interfaith prayer breakfasts, state capitol speakouts, politically-charged concerts, youth-run mock legislative sessions and more, against a backdrop of fiery autumn leaves and the growing movement to end AIDS.

For more about the Nor'easter, see www.noreaster.endaidsnow.org To learn more about our work with the C2EA, or to reserve your spot on the RV, contact Sonny at sonny@champnetwork.org or 212-966-0466 x 1305.



CHAMP Academy Goes on the Road: *We've got the tools to end the AIDS epidemic, and we'll show you how to use them!*

Our training program criss-crossed the country this spring, helping hundreds of people share & improve their skills as community leaders:

← African American HIV University Fellow Enea Motaung of South Africa practices media skills as Julie plays the role of the reporter at the AAHU Community Mobilization Training in Los Angeles

April 25-26, Columbus, OH: Julie Davids was the plenary speaker at the **Ohio Leadership 2005 Conference** sponsored by the Ohio AIDS Coalition. Her presentation, "*A World Without AIDS: Building Solidarity for HIV/AIDS Justice*," and workshops on federal AIDS policy and for media amplification were well received by over 300 participants.

May 2-5, Washington DC: Our 150-page training kit was distributed to every registrant at **AIDSWatch**, the annual legislative action day organized by the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA). Hundreds came to 19 CHAMP-sponsored trainings produced in collaboration with the Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA) during the three-day event.

May 18, NYC: Seeking to move beyond the stigmatization of gay drug users, 50 people joined CHAMP in an **Activist Planning Meeting: Crystal Meth Crisis**. Topics ranged from friends-and-family intervention, access to drug treatment on demand, and advocacy for next-generation HIV prevention for gay/MSM drug users.

May 25, NYC: No One Left Behind: Rectal Microbicides, LifeLube, and the Fight for Next-Generation HIV Prevention - An effective microbicide in a sexual lubricant is one of our best hopes for next-generation HIV prevention, but will we get one for anal sex? To find out, we brought in Jim Pickett of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and founder of LifeLube, and researcher Peter Lin of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. The Rectal Microbicide Working Group was launched to continue work on this important issue.

June 4-7, Los Angeles, CA: Julie joined CHAMP Board Chair Walt Senterfitt to lead a 3 1/2 day intensive training on community mobilization for the Fellows of the **African American HIV University (AAHU)** at the Black AIDS Institute.

June 4, Washington, DC: CHAMP Program Coordinator Sarah Howell presented the "*History and Future of AIDS Activism*" Lunch Plenary at the **National Youth Advocacy Coalition Annual Conference**, attended by 150 young people.

June 12-14, Atlanta, GA: Julie, Lei and Sarah joined CHAMP leaders Judith Dillard and Raffi Babakhanian to host a spirited Community Town Meeting and Strategy Session on resisting attacks on HIV prevention at the **National HIV Prevention Conference**. Co-sponsored by C2EA, the meeting was attended by over 200 conference delegates.

June 25-29, Fort Collins, CO: Julie, Sonny and Walt finished the month at the inspiring **Youth ACTION Institute**, leading workshops and planning with young leaders brought together by CHAMP and C2EA.

July, NYC: Julie and Sarah led two workshops on advocacy with young women from New York City high schools in the two week **Power in Numbers** program, which shows the use of math skills in confronting real-life HIV and youth sexuality issues.

July 16, Killington, VT: Julie led an advocacy discussion at the **Vermont PWA Coalition's Annual Retreat**, meeting dozens of fired-up PWAs from northern New England.

CHAMP Grows and Expands with New Staff and Partnership Program

Building the Capacity for Prevention Advocacy: CHAMP Launches the Prevention Justice Partnership (PJP)

Do you want to have a stronger voice in your city or region to demand sound HIV prevention policies? Have folks who want to help, but unsure of how to get started or how to sustain your efforts? If your organization or coalition is ready to take action and looking for training and support to get you on the road to victory, the Prevention Justice Partnership might be for you!

Each Prevention Justice Partnership is a year-long collaboration to design and launch **winnable, community-based prevention advocacy campaigns** based on local priorities. CHAMP staff and allies will work with you to:

- **Develop a community organizing plan**
- **Bridge the barriers to getting people involved**
- **Break through to get the media coverage you want**
- **Craft a sustainable fundraising plan**

And the best part is, **we come to you** four times a year for intensive training on-location, and keep in touch every week to troubleshoot any obstacles and refine our strategies. We'll also link you to national and international campaigns for better HIV prevention and an end to programs that deny accurate information and effective tools.

Intrigued? Interested? Contact Lei Chou at LeiChou@champnetwork.org or 212-966-0466 x 1304 for more information.

Keeping HIV Treatment and Care on the Map with NMMAP

CHAMP's Power Grid Project is introducing the **National AIDS Mapping & Mobilization Project (NMMAP)** this fall. NMMAP is a powerful organizing machine, fueled by a database of close to 10,000 fired-up AIDS advocates from every state in the country. The project will work closely with the **HIV Medicaid & Medicare Workgroup**, the **Save ADAP Committee of the AIDS Treatment Advocates Coalition (ATAC)**, and our own **Strategy Lab for HIV Prevention** to identify, train, mobilize, and mentor People living with HIV and advocates.

From in-district action to legislative education on Capitol Hill, the Mapping Project will highlight the importance of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), Medicaid & Medicare, and science-based HIV prevention. Please contact Lei Chou for more information.



Welcome Lei Chou as CHAMP's Director of Mobilization

CHAMP hired Lei Chou as our new Director of Mobilization in June. Lei is a long-time activist who got his start with ACT UP NY in the late '80s. He brings policy and mobilization experience from his work with the Save ADAP Committee of the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC), the Fair Pricing Coalition, and the HIV Medicaid & Medicare Workgroup. Lei is also an artist who is creating sharp looks for all CHAMP materials and our website. Lei lives with his new puppy Frankie in New York City.

Sean Barry to join CHAMP as Director of Prevention Policy this Fall

We are happy to announce that Sean Barry, who served as Director of Policy for the Student Global AIDS Campaign, will be joining our New York-based staff this November. Currently, he is a field organizer for the Campaign to End AIDS and a core member of Health GAP (Global Access Project). As our Director of Prevention Policy, Sean will monitor Federal policies affecting HIV prevention, lead campaign planning with our Strategy Lab for Prevention Policy, and strengthen our HIV Prevention Organizing Project (H-POP). We have not heard if he is planning on getting a puppy when he arrives, but will keep you posted...

It's your help that makes it all happen!

Thanks to our Fantabulous 2005 Summer Interns

Christian Appel, an undergrad at Northwestern University in Chicago, joined CHAMP for the summer to work on community organizing projects. This fall, Christian will travel to Uganda to take part in a development studies program.

Maria Fiesta is a graduate student at Columbia University, studying public health. As our Policy Intern, Maria is writing community briefing papers on strategies for advocacy on National Institutes of Health (NIH) HIV prevention research and helping with the Find the Condoms in Your School campaign.

CHAMP is generously supported by grants from:

AIDS Community Action Foundation
Broadway Cares
Judith L. Cheira Charitable Fund
Ford Foundation
Gesso Foundation
Jim and Lynn Levinson Fund
John M. Lloyd Foundation
Overbrook Foundation
Resist!
Sonya Staff Foundation
Stonewall Community Foundation

And special thanks to the **Ford Foundation**, for a two-year grant that will help us scale up our leadership development and coalition-building projects, and to **Jasmine Nielson**, for hosting a house party for CHAMP in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn this May!

Shout out to our individual donors!

Thank you to everyone who has made a new contribution in the past quarter, including:

Tracy Broyles	Susan Cahan	Matthew Conley
Darryl Cutler	Amanda Eisen	Michael Hirschhorn
Christina Kazanas	Sullivan Lewis	Jimena Martinez
Marlene Matosky	William McClure	Moriah McGrath
Craig Miller	Sean Pangia	Michael Pertain
Kristen Remus	Matthew Simonelli	Heather Troup
Brooke Willis		

Much thanks to our Sustainers, who support us with monthly pledges. Either by pledging \$10 – 200 a month, or make a one-time donation of any amount, you can help us expand our vital work. Please visit our website today at www.champnetwork.org/index.php?name=support



CHAMP Academy Opens Office in New England

Once we get off the road from the C2EA Nor'easter Caravan, CHAMP will return to roost in our new New England office in Providence, RI. Thanks to a partnership with **AIDS Care Ocean State** <http://www.aidscareos.org>, CHAMP will expand our leadership development and training in the region, and will hold our second intensive training program, the **Prevention Justice Seminar**, in Providence in the first months of 2006.



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