

the Pride Center

Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights

August 1997

HOPE

How much do you know about HOPE?? Do you know what HOPE stands for? Do you know how many people work for HOPE? Do you know where HOPE gets its funding?

HOPE is HIV Outreach Prevention Education for Northeastern Oklahoma. It has grown incredibly since its beginning as a part of TOHR over 15 years ago. HOPE's recent growth has been primarily the result of the hard work and perseverance of Director Mallory Degen Brown. Mallory has spear-headed the grant proposals for HOPE, resulting in a current annual budget of close to \$250,000. In fact, HOPE is the second largest HIV grant program in Oklahoma and the only program offering exclusive testing/counseling/prevention for HIV in the state. In addition to overseeing the operations of HOPE, Mallory spends much of her time providing HIV outreach to women as well as sex workers and drug users. She also provides counseling to members of these groups as needed.

One of those tirelessly working for Mallory is Leslie Johnson, the clinic coordinator. Leslie's responsibilities revolve around the operation of the HOPE HIV testing clinic. She coordinates the volunteers for the clinic, assures that they have the proper training if they are testing and/or counseling patients, and tracks the testing information for those being tested. Thanks to Leslie's efforts, the clinic remains operational for walk-in testing on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and daytime testing by appointment Monday through Thursday from 10:00 to 5:00 at 742-2927. The Testing Clinic is located at 4158 E Harvard, Suite E-2.

Jeremy Simmons is another of those hard-working employees of HOPE. Jeremy's efforts are focused at community outreach and HIV prevention in the Tulsa metropolitan area, based, in part, on the Stop AIDS project. He spends much of his time collecting information from people by way of surveys at bars and community events. Using the survey results, HOPE can best determine where to focus efforts in outreach. Jeremy also works constantly within the community to educate and inform people about HIV and safe sex.

TOHR Memberships Due!!

TOHR Memberships are now due!! Yes, it's that time of year again. Through August 31, 1997, membership in one of Oklahoma's oldest non-religious organizations is only \$20 for individuals, \$35 per household, \$100 sustaining or \$10 limited income. But... starting September 1, rates go up for the first time in several years. The new rates will be: \$25 for individuals, \$40 per household, \$100 sustaining or \$10 limited income. Organizational memberships are \$65.

Community Summit

A Community Summit was held on July 26 to discuss issues important to the Tulsa community. We had 25-30 people over the course of the 3 hour summit to discuss where we stand as a community, where we want to go, and how we plan to get there. With members from TOHR, P-FLAG, NOW, O'RYAN, Primetimers, and other community and religious organizations, we had a good cross-section of people to discuss these issues.

The result of the summit was to outline 2-3 issues which we will concentrate on over the next year. Once those in attendance have had a chance to discuss the issues involved with their respective organizations, a press release will be made to announce the objectives. Additionally, we have called for a Statewide Summit to be held on Saturday, September 27, 1997, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM in the meeting room of the Stroud McDonald's on the Turner Turnpike. This meeting will be to form a statewide alliance from which to work on these and other issues. The members of the various Tulsa organizations

involved were left with the responsibility of contacting their corresponding organizations in Oklahoma City and inviting them to the statewide meeting.

Pride Center / HelpLine : 743-4297
HOPE : 712-1600
Newsletter : pride_center_news@pobox.com

One of the most recent additions to the HOPE staff is Johnny Eilerts. He came to us from Oklahoma City and works in the areas of group and individual counseling. His efforts are focused on case management for HIV, as well as substance abuse. Working with Partners in Prevention, he hosts a weekly group, Men-on-Men, for gay men to talk about issues that they face. He has also started a monthly coming out support group at the Pride Center. Call 712-1600 for information on the meeting time.

HOPE is also focusing its efforts in the rural areas of Northeastern Oklahoma in an effort to reach men who don't have access to the programs provided in Tulsa. Jim Leopard has taken over the Rural Outreach program from Bobby Davis and will continue training others as opinion leaders to inform rural men about safe sex. By networking, the rural outreach has grown from contact with only 20 men to almost 200 men.

And last, but certainly not least, is Kathy Dales, who joined the HOPE staff in June after serving more than 6 months as volunteer coordinator for the Pride Center HelpLine. Kathy provides support to the entire HOPE staff and works to keep the Pride Center in operation, in addition to continuing as the volunteer coordinator for the HelpLine. If you have any questions, Kathy's the one to call. If she doesn't know the answer, she can probably find it for you. She can be reached on weekdays from 9:00 to 5:00 at either the HelpLine or HOPE phone numbers.

Community Groups and Activities

Community Fun Night - The Community Fun Night is held on the 2nd Saturday night each month from 6:00 - 10:00 PM.

Primetimers - Primetimers is a social group for gay and bi-sexual men ages 40 and over. Associate memberships for men 21-39 years old.

Safe Haven - Safe Haven is an unstructured "safe place" gathering for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 to meet and socialize.

SENSES - SENSES is a discussion group for people who are interested in leather/fantasy role-playing.

Volunteers Needed

The Pride Center needs volunteers to act as sitters and answer the HelpLine phone. The Center is staffed by volunteers from 6 - 10 PM on weekday evenings and from 12 - 10 PM on weekends. If you can volunteer 1 night a week, 1 hour a week, once a month, whatever you can manage will help keep the Pride Center open.

Volunteers are also needed at the HOPE testing clinic. Training classes are available for those interested in getting involved, but volunteers are also needed to help with filing and answering the phone.

Pride Center Pledge Drive

The Pledge Drive continues for the Pride Center. Our community center is now a reality, but your financial support is still needed. We have on-going monthly expenses to keep the Pride Center in operation, as well as the need for resources to finish work on several rooms. Please consider making a monthly pledge to help with these monthly operating expenses. Any assistance will most certainly help.

Tulsa Centennial Parade

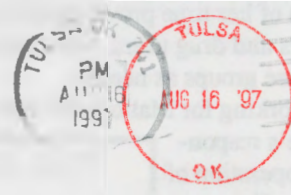
For those who haven't heard, this year marks 100 years for Tulsa as a city. Tulsa will celebrate those 100 years with a parade on September 20. TOHR is planning to march in this year's parade as a part of the celebration. After all, we are also an important part of the community, even if we aren't always recognized. Support TOHR by joining the march or at least by coming to the parade and cheering us on. Other community organizations are encouraged to join us. Staging for the parade is 9:30 at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. Call 712-1600 for more information or to join us in the march. See you there!!

Discrimination

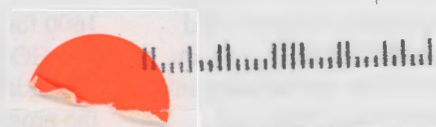
The Pride Center is now taking reports of discrimination to collect info from those who might not make a report otherwise. Volunteers and staff can also refer you to agencies/people who might help regarding the discrimination complaint. 743-4297.

the Pride Center / TOHR / HOPE

1307 E 38th Street 2nd Floor
Tulsa, OK 74105



Herland Sister Resources
2312 NW 39th
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



August 1997

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--|
| Upcoming Events: | | | | | 15 | 16 |
| Statewide Community Summit 2:00-5:00 - McDonald's at Stroud | | | | | 9/27 - | Men-On-Men 3-5:00 Gold Coast Cafe |
| 10/18 - Tulsa Community Summit 2:00-5:00 - Pride Center | | | | | | SENSES 6-8:00 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | TOHR Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | | Men-On-Men 3-5:00 Gold Coast Cafe Pride Pot Luck 6-10:00 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | Prime Timers 7:00-?? | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | | |

September 1997

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | CUUC 7:00-9:00 | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | Safe Haven 8:00-Midnight | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Prime Timers 4:00-6:00 | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | | Community Fun Night 6:00-10:00 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | | SENSES 6:00-8:00 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | | Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00-8:15 | | | Statewide Coalition Meeting 2:00-5:00 Pride Pot Luck 6-10:00 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30-8:30 | | | | | |