## LIAAC CHALLENGE

NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES



LONG ISLAND'S **OLDEST & LARGEST** HIV SERVICE PROVIDER

### TAKING THE READY-TO-RESPOND **INITIATIVE** TO A NEW LEVEL REACHING THE **50+** POPULATION

LIAAC is proud to announce that we have been awarded a fiveyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to respond to the emerging and lesser known HIV and substance abuse epidemic among adults aged 50 and over. The Ready-to-Respond (RTR) Initiative, Seasoned Adults Project, will be used to address the need for outreach, prevention services, and testing in Long Island communities disproportionately affected by HIV, Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (HIV/HCV/STD) and substance abuse (SA), specifically targeting our region's at-risk, ethnic/racial minority populations age 50 and older. The \$300,000 award will be used to expand SAMHSA funded activities which previously targeted post-incarcerated and active substance abusing minority individuals.

Over the last 50 years, the age distribution of the US population has shifted due to longer life expectancies, and Long Island is in synch with that trend. According to the Long Island Index (Rauch Foundation, 2009), between 2000 and 2006, the share of the Long Island population aged 55 and over grew by 2.5 percent, well above the national growth rate of 1.9%. As the number of older adults in our region increased, the need for targeted,



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### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Gail Barouh appointed to NY State AIDS Advisory Council



n March 2, 2011, Senate Leader Skelos, on the recommendation of NY State Senator Kemp Hannon, Chair of the Senate Health Committee, announced the appointment of Dr. Gail Barouh to the New York State AIDS Advisory Council. As a member of the council,

Dr. Barouh will work to shape HIV/AIDS policy and guide program development through recommendations and reports issued to the Commissioner of Health and the AIDS Institute.

Established in 1983, the New York State AIDS Advisory Council consists of 17 members appointed by the Governor and State legislative leaders, representing various public and professional communities including education, medicine, local health departments, non-profit organizations, advocacy, and service. The council's mandate is to advise both the Health Commissioner and the AIDS Institute in the shaping of research, policy, and fiscal priorities dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Dr. Barouh holds a Ph.D. in Health Administration and Thanatology from the Union Institute, and an M.A. in Health Education Counseling from Adelphi University. She established the first Long Island support and bereavement groups for family members, loved ones, and friends of people with HIV/AIDS, and facilitated these groups for more than seven years. Her experiences in this area are distilled for health-care professionals in her nationally distributed

book, Support Groups: The Human Face of the HIV/AIDS Bereavement – topics she has spoken about at numerous professional conferences and seminars around the country.

Dr. Barouh has served on many boards, consortia, agencies, and councils, including the bi-county Ryan White Title I Planning Council, Nassau and Suffolk HIV Commissions, Long Island Association's Health Services Committee, Health and Welfare Council of Nassau County, Association of New York State Community Service Providers, New York AIDS Coalition, and New York State Regional Community Service Programs. Her contributions to community service have been recognized by the Nassau County chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Suffolk County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union

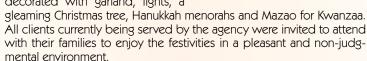
For the past 25 years, Dr. Barouh has served as the President and CEO of the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC), a community-based, not-for-profit agency that provides services and support for Long Islanders both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to those at high risk for HIV infection and other infectious diseases. LIAAC is the nation's oldest and largest suburban HIV/AIDS service agency, and to date is the New York State Department of Health's only designated Community Service Provider for both Nassau and Suffolk County.

The Board, Management Team and Staff of LIAAC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Barouh on her appointment to the NYS AIDS Advisory Council, and recognize how important it is to the region to have someone of her caliber and expertise on the council.

## CLIENT HOLIDAY PARTY

he holidays can be stressful for almost everyone, but those with a chronic illness, health care issues and financial troubles truly struggle during this time of year. It is for this reason that LIAAC throws its annual holiday party for clients; to ease the stress of the holiday season and give those in need an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.

This year's event took place December 10th at the Long Island Network of Community Services (LINCS) Community Center. The community center was beautifully decorated with garland, lights, a



Clients and staff members together danced to the holiday and popular music provided by DJ Chipper of "Got DJ", and played a variety of group games such as musical chairs. A wonderful assortment of cultural food was served, including baked ziti. roast pork, turkey and gravy, rice and beans and knish. Not to mention the delicious dessert table with cookies, cake, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Then finally, the time came for the long awaited appearance of Santa Claus. The children rushed to see him as he sat in his special chair in front of piles and piles of presents donated by various organizations. Santa saw each child one-by-one taking pictures and handing out gifts.

The children weren't the only ones getting presents. Adults were given raffle tickets and were able to participate in the Chinese Auction with dozens of wonderful gifts; including multiple specialty baskets, edible treats and even a portable DVD player! On the way out guests were offered packaged leftovers and a happy healthy holiday.

The party was a great success, thanks to the hard work and planning of all the LIAAC staff, volunteers and organizations that donated their time and products to the event. A special thanks to George Calcanes and Rob Nicoletti, Majo Jacinto and family, Mr. and Mrs. Maniscalo at the Heartfelt Foundation, Lori Kuster and student donators at Garden City High School, Jeri Miller and student donators at Mattlin Middle School, Jamie Roberts at Broadway Comedy Club, The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Eta Kappa Chapter, the Long Island Gay Men's Chorus, and Toys for Tots.



#### LONG ISLAND **ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.** (LIAAC)

LIAAC is the agency for Long Islanders who are concerned about HIV/AIDS. We are a community-

based, 501(c)(3) notfor-profit organization supported by both private and public funds, with support from SAMHSA, the CDC, the NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute. Nassau and Suffolk

# THE CHALLENGES OF

Counties, OASAS and a variety of federal grants. Our staff of 65 case managers, educators, counselors, advocates and associates brings information and education, direct services, referrals and advocacy to everyone in our area who needs help with this disease. For details, or for assistance, please call our

#### Hotline: 1-877-TO-LIAAC

(1-877-865-4222) [in Nassau & Suffolk only] or (631) 385-AIDS [outside Nassau & Suffolk]. Information tapes can be heard at all times. Hotline operators are available from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Monday through Friday. In addition, Spanish speaking operators are available.

web: www.liaac.ora

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#### GAIL BAROUH, PhD

Publisher

### LIAAC'S SYRINGE VOUCHER PROGRAM

By: RoMarie McCue

or years, Congress had banned the use of federal monies to fund needle exchange programs also known as Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) in the United States but in December 2009, Congress voted to lift this ban and President Barack Obama signed an appropriations act which modified the ban on use of federal funds. Lifting the ban is a big step forward in the fight to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. An implementation guidance to use federal funding for SEPs was immediately issued to two Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) agencies - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

In July 2010, SAMHSA developed agreements with ten (10) local grantees to implement programs to use federal funds to expand their services in support of existing syringe exchange programs and make direct referrals to treatment. The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) was chosen as one of ten SAMHSA funded sites to be the first program to use federal funds for this purpose. Although Nassau and Suffolk Counties do not have Syringe Exchange Programs, they do participate in the New York State Department of Health Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP). Under the New York State Public Health Law (Section: 3381, Chapter 56, Laws of 2000), ESAP allows any person age 18 years and older to legally possess hypodermic needles and syringes obtained through the program. These syringes and needles may be purchased or obtained without a prescription from participating licensed pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Building on our long history of providing ESAP referrals to our clients, LIAAC, in collaboration with Walgreens Pharmacy, proposed a syringe voucher program to expand our existing mobile outreach, HIV testing and linkages to care programs that target active



injecting drug users in the Long Island region. LIAAC's Syringe Services Program initiative received strong support from local health departments, New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute and local law enforcements.

With approval from SAMHSA and under the Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP) with the New York State Department of Health, LIAAC was authorized to distribute vouchers for syringe purchase in accordance with ESAP guidelines to clients encountered by Project Safety Net, LIAAC's mobile outreach program. The Project Safety Net staff issue vouchers for ten (10) syringes to clients who present these vouchers to Walgreens Pharmacy. Walgreens Pharmacy agreed to honor vouchers presented by clients of Project Safety Net and gives the clients the specified number of syringes at three (3) Walgreens locations in Amityville, Hempstead and East Patchogue. This initiative is the first federally funded and supported of its kind on Long Island following the modification of the federal ban. We anticipate that this program will impact the target population by increasing awareness of HIV and Hepatitis status, reduce HIV/Hepatitis transmission and increase access to and acquisition of substance abuse treatment.

## IN THE NEWS...

#### GOVERNOR RESTORES KEY AIDS FUNDING

overnor Cuomo restored \$2.9 million in funding for the Department of Health's AIDS Institute NY/NY III program through his 21 Day Amendment to the Executive Budget. The Program is a supportive housing agreement that develops 500 housing units (300 congregate, 200 scatter-site) for chronically homeless individuals living with HIV/ AIDS in New York City. The move was a victory for clients and human service providers, who were pleased to see the Governor restore the amount to the total \$6.8 million appropriation.

## LIAAC **Provides over Holiday** Meals



By: Selena Hargrove

## THE 2011 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE







During the 2010 holiday season, the LIAAC Food Programs staff reached out to organizations throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties requesting food donations. This effort was to ensure that every client had the opportunity to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner during the holiday season. With the help of Sachem East Student Government, Melville Rotary Club and the Holy Spirit Church in New Hyde Park, LIAAC was able to guarantee turkeys with all the trimmings to all clients in need. As a result of the hard work and dedication of program staff and generosity of these groups, LIAAC was able to provide holiday meals to over 170 agency clients.

Agency staff, along with several volunteers, assisted in preparing the trimmings bags for delivery. As the season came to a close, it became clear to all staff that even with limited resources the festive meals made a great

difference to all who received them. The current condition of the economy has greatly affected the amount of donations made all over the country and this is evident in our own local community. Food Programs staff consistently utilize food

resources in the community to make certain clients have enough food for themselves and their families. If you are interested in holding a food drive or donating shelf stable items, please contact Food Program staff at **1-877-865-4222**. It is anticipated that with continued support from the community, the pantry program will continue to successfully serve our clients throughout the upcoming year.

## CHEF'S SECRETS 6

It's No Secret...
It Just Keeps Getting Better

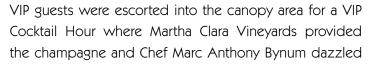
By: Cristina Taylor

Sunday, November 14, 2010 Chef's Secrets 6, an event produced by the Long Island Network of Community Services, Inc. (LINCS) to benefit the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) and BiasHELP, Inc. was underway at the deSeversky Mansion in Old Westbury where guests enjoyed a beautiful evening filled with fine wines and exemplary dishes created by talented chefs from all across Long Island.

There were a few new additions to this year's event, the first being a VIP Champagne Cocktail Hour, hosted by the dynamic celebrity Chef Marc Anthony Bynum, finalist in the Food Network's competitive cooking show "Chopped". Chef Marc also facilitated our first LIVE Celebrity Chef auction where the lucky winner got Chef Marc's cooking services for a party of up to 10 people in the privacy of their own home.

At 5 pm, the doors opened for the VIP Cocktail Hour. Guests pulled up to the Mansion's front doors where they were greeted by warm welcomes and encouraged to partake in the Silent

Auction, Chinese Auction, 50/50 Raffle and Mystery Box sales throughout the night. Art lovers, High Rollers, Disney Lovers, Exotic Car enthusiasts and those who desired a 'little something extra' in home furnishings, had a chance to bid on Silent Auction items, such as a piece of Charles Fazzino's 3-D pop art, a weekend at Harrah's Resort with charter flight and limo service, a trip to Disney, a weekend rental of A Rolls Royce "Ghost" and a home makeover courtesy of DirectBuy. If you were the adventurous type, Mystery Boxes were for sale throughout the evening. What's in the box? That was for the buyer to try and figure out with the help of some clues on the gift wrapping and these gifts were well worth the gamble! The Chinese Auction contained an array of beautifully adorned gift baskets filled with items including assorted gift certificates, spa products and treatments, Tiffany champagne glasses, a night at Oheka Castle, concert tickets, designer dresses and handbags, gift certificates for fine dining and jewelry, which is always a favorite. Also for sale were gift certificates to Harrah's resort. Round trip charter bus service and an overnight stay are included all for \$20. Guests were asked to buy a few tickets, bring some friends and support a great cause!



guests with his charm and wowed their taste buds with samplings of amazing appetizers such Squash as: Kabocha Shots. Corn Puree' and Chicken Fritters. Oven Roasted Turkey, Cranberry Compote on Brioche, Herb Crusted Lamb Chops with a Glace, Mustard Demi Tomato Bruschetta on Crostini with a Balsamic



Reduction and Tuna Tartare on Wonton Crisp with spicy mayo and avocado puree. Dessert samples during the Cocktail Hour were provided by Lorraine Licursi of Lollipop Bakes. Chef Marc spoke with guests, answered questions and signed autographs throughout the evening.

Guests who arrived prior to the main event were invited into the Library where Martha Clara Vineyards showcased their wines while Chef Julio Vasquez from Sage Bistro served samples of a delicious goat cheese and mushroom tart. Guests were thrilled to see Dynamic Beverages, LLC who provided samples of Redemption Rye whiskey and the fan favorite, Orange V vodka. New comer, Afresh Approach, garnered a lot of attention with their mouth watering chocolate truffles and confections that were beautifully displayed. Owners Jeanne Kitson and Skip Sabiston opened up a small shop in Bay Shore this past October where they offer custom made confections.

At six o'clock, the main event started, and guests were encouraged to walk throughout the mansion and bring along their appetites to sample the wide array of offerings that these culinary professionals created. The Long Island Gay Men's Chorus entertained guests with a variety of choral music throughout the evening serenading guests from room to room.

The de Seversky Culinary Team, Chef George Apanasevich (Hyatt Regency Long Island), Chef Chris LaVecchia (Ciao Baby), Chef Leisa Dent (LL Dent), Chef Robert Ehrlich and Chef George Schneider (Culinary Academy of Long Island at Star Career Academy), Chef Andrew Greene (The American Culinary Federation - Long Island Chapter) and Chef Ismet Saz (Aperitif Bistro) displayed an array of appetizers and entrée samples ranging from good old home style favorites such as turkey and fixings, hearty soups, briskets and pasta dishes to the downright unique tasty offerings such as pumpkin pickles and olive merlot tapenade both created by Jeri Woodhouse (A Taste of the North Fork).

An array of beverages, such as fine red and white wines (The Northport Tasting Room, Casa de Vinos, Fedway Imports), drink mixes (Bridge Brand Sales, Inc.) coffee and teas (Coffee Distributing Corp.) and beers from the Brooklyn Brewery were available for guests to drink throughout the evening.

There was certainly no shortage of desserts at Chefs Secrets 6. This year featured many new dessert chefs such as John Michael Burnett (John Michaels Baking) and Florie Robinson (Florie's Finales) who offered fresh baked cookies, biscotti and brownies that kept guests coming back for seconds! Chef Marney White, who has been called the Vera Wang of Cakes, created an intricately decorated wedding cake that looked too pretty to eat but worth every forkful. Chocolate dipped strawberries from Rachel Birke (Melting Pot) and generous servings of Rosario Naimo's (Bella Dolce) homemade gelato capped off the evening.

Chef's Secrets 6 truly was a success thanks to all those who donated their services to help produce the event, as well as our guests whose continuous support enables our agencies to provide the best services possible to our community.

We look forward to having you join us again this year on Sunday, November 13, 2011 for Chef's Secrets 7.



#### READY-TO-RESPOND INITIATIVE (Continued from front cover)

culturally competent HIV/HCV/STD and SA prevention and treatment services increased as well and LIAAC is ready to take on this new challenge.

LIAAC has almost 25 years of experience in providing field based HIV and SA prevention services and has recognized that despite myths that older adults are not at risk for HIV, this population is, in fact, engaging in risky behaviors. According to the New York State HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report for Cases Diagnosed Through December, 2007, 18% of new HIV infections on Long Island and 30% of late diagnoses (progressing to AIDS within one year) were among older adults. The CDC estimates that by 2015, people over 50 will account for half of all Americans living with HIV. "Older adults are among the priority populations for substance abuse and HIV prevention activities in Nassau County," stated Maria Torroella Carney, Commissioner of Health.

Older adults face specific cultural, social and biological risk factors that increase their susceptibility to HIV infection, as well as substance abuse. Having lived much of their lives in a time when HIV was unknown, many older adults perceive HIV as being a gay-related disease or one that only sexually active, younger people need to be concerned with. Many older adults are divorced or widowed and may be dating. Unfortunately, this population may never have received formalized training and education on HIV/STD prevention like our young people do, and few would think of using condoms or would even be aware of how to use them correctly. With more time for sexual activity and the use of medications such as Viagra to increase the frequency

Substance abuse among the senior population is especially dangerous because symptoms of substance abuse can mirror those of other disorders such as diabetes. dementia, and depression making it difficult to diagnose. That being said, dangerous drug interactions can occur when seniors are abusing alcohol and doctors prescribing their medicine are unaware of their substance abuse. It is difficult to speak with seniors about substance use due to the way they feel about the stigma associated with it.

Funding through the RTR, Seasoned Adults Project will be used to expand and enhance LIAAC's effective Prevention on Wheels (POW) Program to deliver mobile HIV/HCV/STD and SA prevention and testing services to our targeted population. HIV counseling, testing, and referrals will be offered. In order to improve access to our mobile services, we will be adding new locations such as: Retirement Communities, Senior Centers, Assisted Living Facilities, low income senior housing and other community service providers who offer medical and social support to our target population.

LIAAC is currently unaware of any other existing program on Long Island that exclusively targets older adults for HIV/HCV/STD and SA prevention services. We are excited that SAMHSA has chosen us to spearhead this initiative. If you would like to learn more about this new initiative, please feel free to contact us at 1-877-865-4222.



PAYLESS Gives SHOES

for the
HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAM

Bv: Leslie Dewrance-Douce

During the 2010 holiday season, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care became the official partner of Payless Gives. LIAAC is proud to say we were among the 48 charitable agencies chosen in New York to provide 100 coupons for shoes to children of families served by our agency. Many of our families are affected by the high unemployment rates and declining economy and struggle with providing the basic essentials, such as footwear, to their children. We are privileged to have been able to provide assistance to so many children who might have gone without shoes during these harsh winter months. Our region is faced with diminishing funding and resources for Long Islanders infected/affected by HIV/AIDS and the Payless Gives program provided us with the opportunity to positively impact the lives of our clients and their families who struggled to make the holidays special



projectsafetynet **Advisory Board Seeks to Expand Membership** 

By: Meaghan Abrego

For the past nine years, LIAAC has maintained an advisory board whose function is to guide the planning and implementation of the agency's field-based outreach programs. The Project Safety Net Advisory Board is made up of volunteers from all sectors of the Long Island community: health and human service providers, substance abuse treatment providers, law enforcement, faith-based communities, business owners, and individuals like you. Our advisory board members are valued for their expertise and insight into the needs of specific sub-populations of the Long Island community. Member feedback is used to help enhance the service delivery of LIAAC's island-wide network of mobile outreach services: prevention case management, HIV testing, and linkages to substance abuse treatment, hepatitis C screenings, pantry bags and nutrition education, and screened referrals.

Meetings provide members with the opportunity to:

- Learn about programs offered by LIAAC and other member agencies
- Represent and advocate for their community
- Build their professional network
- Share lessons learned and best practices
- Keep informed about the changing needs of the Long Island community

LIAAC is looking to increase advisory board membership, specifically to include individuals/agencies that can represent populations targeted under LIAAC's newest HIV prevention grants: men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM), substance users, and older adults (those aged 50 and over). The Project Safety Net Advisory Board meets quarterly; attendance is free and no commitment is required. The next meeting will take place at LIAAC's office in Hauppauge on April 14th. For more information, please contact Cristina Taylor at (631) 385-2451.

## Volunteers Give LIAAC a

# Holiday Makeover

n honor of World AIDS Day 2010, LIAAC was building as the decorations and wrapped presents created privileged to have MAC Cosmetics Artists come to the agency to provide volunteer services. The MAC AIDS Fund originally began in 1994 as a means to provide support to individuals around the world affected by HIV/AIDS. Currently, this fund has raised more than \$150 million through specific product sales and 100% of the proceeds have been donated to fight HIV/AIDS. Another component of MAC's AIDS initiatives is their volunteer program. Employees from the MAC organization contacted LIAAC to find out if their assistance could be utilized and LIAAC graciously accepted this opportunity.

The volunteers from MAC Cosmetics arrived at the agency with enthusiasm regarding the tasks for the day. The makeup artists decorated the agency for our annual Client Holiday Party by assembling holiday trees, hanging

decorations and setting up festive tables around the party room. Volunteers also assisted wrapping presents for children ages 0-18 who have been affected by HIV/ AIDS. The talent of

these artists was

clear throughout the



YES! I WANT TO CELEBRATE LIAAC'S 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY BY DONATING TO THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT AND MUCH NEEDED CARE AND SUPPORT.

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### LIAAC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

**Current Job openings:** 

- Administrative Assistant
- Bi-Lingual Hotline Counselor
- Client Programs Coordinator
- Education Coordinator
- Accounting Supervisor

Mail/Fax Cover Letter (all resumes must contain a cover letter to be considered) and Resume to:

LIAAC

60 Adams Avenue • Hauppauge • New York • 11788 **Attention: Robert Nicoletti - Human Resources** 

For more information please visit us at www.LIAAC.org

Fax: (631) 656-7235 • Email: rnicoletti@liaac.org





Proceeds from LIAAC's events provide the backbone for the development and continuation of innovative programs not funded by government or other sources. LIAAC acknowledges the kindness of the following individuals and businesses who have demonstrated powerful commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

#### **GRANT ROUND UP**

(Foundations & Organizations that donated to LIAAC in 2010)

MAC AIDS Fund
Walmart Foundation
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Harborside Productions (Northport Theater)
Gotham Open

Culinarts Long Island
Townwide Fund of Huntington
GEICO Philanthropic Foundation
St. Ann's Episcopal Church
Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation