It’s hard to catch all of the CAMC Ryan White Program staff in one spot, but we did pretty well!

Left to right
Front Row: Denise Heflin-Peyton, RN, BSN, Care Coordinator; Sarah Adams, Care Coordinator Assistant; Angel Cinco, MD Research Review Specialist; Sandra Elliott, MD; Christine Teague, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP, Program Director; Pam LeRose, Outreach/Data Coordinator; Lorien Sudaiith, MSW
Back Row: Laura Wilhelm, PhD, Clinical Psychologist; Ron Gibbs, MSW; Director; Pam LeRose, Outreach/Data Coordinator; Lorien Sudaiith, MSW
Sandra Elliott, MD; Christine Teague, PharmD, MPH, AAHIVP, Program Care Coordinator Assistant; Angel Cinco, MD Research Review Specialist;

Free HIV In-Home Testing Kits Available
One mouth swab, results in 20 minutes
Pick up a free HIV home testing kit from the CAMC Ryan White Program, located in the CAMC Memorial Outpatient Clinic on the fourth floor of the Heart and Vascular Center across from McDonald's.

The tests are available every Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Brief instructions are provided and post-test counseling are available.
Call: (304) 388-9337; or (304) 388-8106; or (304) 388-9979
Or call toll-free: 1-877-565-4423

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Contact our clinic
• To pre-register or reschedule an appointment (304) 388-9677 or toll-free 1-800-348-9677
• Care coordinator (304) 388-9337 or toll-free 1-877-565-4423
• Program director (304) 388-8106
• After hours (urgent) (304) 388-5432
• Medicine Clinic (304) 388-5590
• Medicaid Eligibility Specialist (304) 388-4261
• Medical Center Specialty Pharmacy (304) 344-8021

PATH positive approach to health
WINTER 2015

Moving Forward with CARE:
Building on 25 Years of Passion, Purpose and Excellence
Glorimar Rivera-Quiñones, PharmD

With the theme of “Moving Forward with CARE: Building on 25 Years of Passion, Purpose, and Excellence,” the CAMC Ryan White Program celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Ryan White CARE Act, a program that serves more than 500,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, and nearly 400 individuals in southern West Virginia. Throughout these 25 years, the program has been committed to providing the best and optimal care to people living with HIV/AIDS, addressing health-related, social, psychological and economic concerns of many patients.

The CAMC Ryan White Program federal funding began in 2002. Since that time, the health care team and staff of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, ancillary staff and behavioral health specialists have witnessed hundreds of patients’ success stories who have found in the Ryan White Program “hope, courage, support and life.” Today, many of these patients want to reach out to others who still struggle with their HIV/AIDS diagnoses to say “you are not alone.” They want to share their advice of what helped them to be successful in the long-term management of their own HIV infection.

Here are some patient quotes that we have heard in recent weeks:
• “It helps to have someone to talk to: it’s the best way to deal with it. Find someone in the same boat.”
• “I was scared to start treatment because of society’s stigma, but you just do what you need to do. It helps me to use a pillbox and fill it every week. That way, I never forget to take my medications. I am doing it to live… for myself… for my family.”
• “By taking your medicines, you can keep the HIV virus in check. It will give you hope.”
• “Now we have more options for treatment, many that include one pill a day. You have to look at the long-term effect and keep the virus undetectable.”
• “My virus continues to be undetectable thanks to all of the support from the clinic staff.”

• “Don’t focus on what other people think or feel. You have to keep moving because you want to. Find a reason to keep moving forward and be proud of yourself.”
• “Love yourself enough to realize that your life is worth living.”

Being told that you have HIV can be difficult and frightening, but you are not alone. Each patient’s experience will be different, and everyone will cope in a different way. Our team of dedicated, skilled and compassionate professionals is devoted to providing the best care for every person we serve, in a safe environment free of stigma and discrimination. We will always be here for you, and we will help you find the support and guidance you need to be successful in the long-term management of your HIV infection. By working together, we hope to achieve the goal of having all our clients live long, healthy, happy and productive lives.
Danny Pintauro, a beloved child actor, recently revealed that he was living with HIV. In a profound statement, he said that HIV is the new closet. Indeed, in today's world, coming out of the closet—in other words, letting others know that one is gay—is not uncommon. Twenty years ago, it was difficult to step out of this protective closet. However, society progressed, and a younger generation became more accepting, more compassionate and understanding. Pintauro pointed out that HIV/AIDS remains a controversial topic. It is indeed the new closet, one that might be more dangerous to open. Volunteering for the Ryan White Program has been more educational and enlightening than I had anticipated. I assumed that social media allowed many to converse across a virtually endless realm, that even those still in the “closet” could have that difficult conversation anonymously. This assumption was wrong. During this year's West Virginia Gay Pride Week, I talked to many individuals who didn’t know who Ryan White was or that the program existed. Many people also said that they didn’t know their HIV status. One man thanked me for a Ryan White goodie bag and said “it was nice to meet you Ryan.” Bewildered, I explained that I was not Ryan, but that I was a volunteer for the Ryan White Program.

One of my public health course assignments required a written opinion piece about one of the ways I believed that public health had failed society. My choice was the way early public health organizations created HIV/AIDS awareness. I wrote that because the disease was first called GRID (gay-related immune-deficiency), HIV was associated with the gay community. To this day, the stigma still lingers and when many hear HIV/AIDS, the assumption is that the patient is gay.

We, as a society, must be willing to talk about HIV/AIDS. Without conversations, without different voices talking about their status or even being aware of their status, this stigma will remain. Health care providers must not let others be the voice for HIV/AIDS. I am not saying that those who have HIV/AIDS need to wear arm bands or have their driver’s license stamped with their status, but that society as a whole needs to realize that HIV/AIDS isn’t a disease that stereotypically afflicts certain communities. The realization that it is no longer a death sentence must also be known. The more educated and prepared we are as a society about HIV/AIDS, the closer we will be to eradicating it.

A Big Thank You to the CAMC Foundation

The Ryan White staff wishes to thank the CAMC Foundation for a 2015 grant award totaling $7,680. These grant funds will provide 200 HIV home testing kits, which will allow us to continue our free kit distribution program. Funding will also purchase radio advertising to increase community awareness of the Ryan White Program and the many services that are available.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
Moving Forward with CARE: Building on 25 Years of Passion, Purpose, and Excellence

The New Closet

Remembering Ryan White and the Landmark Law

Pam LeRose, Path Editor

The nation is on track under the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy to achieve sharp reductions in the transmission of the once deadly virus in the years ahead.

Enacted on August 18, 1990 – as thousands were dying of the disease – the bipartisan law launched the single largest program providing services to those living with HIV. In the ensuing years, the CARE Act has helped shape the response to HIV/AIDS across continents. Today, more than 500,000 people receive care funded by the program, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)—and it's been reaffirmed four times over successive administrations.

A lot has changed in 25 years. Twenty-five years ago, we had little hope. Now, hope prevails. Not only do we know how to prevent the disease, but we know how to treat it. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program has been, and continues to be, critical in getting people that are available that were once unknown at the height of the scourge.

Jeanne White-Ginder, Ryan White’s mom, traveled to Washington just two weeks after Ryan’s death to urge passage of the legislation named for her son. And after passing both the House and Senate, on August 18, the bill was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush—creating the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

HRSA quickly put into place the mechanisms needed to administer the new law, uniting governments, provider and entire communities. The CARE Act became a national law in April 8, 1990. Because of the Ryan White CARE Act, life-changing care and supportive services are now available that were once unknown. The CARE Act was passed with bipartisan support and continues to be reauthorized as thousands were dying of the disease. It was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush, creating the Ryan White CARE Act. So we continue to celebrate.

Background on the Ryan White Care Act

The law was named for the Indiana teenager who was shunned in his school and community after becoming infected while being treated for hemophilia in 1984. Ryan White went on to become the face of a movement and a law that changed American history and how HIV/AIDS was viewed around the world.

Once a typical, Midwestern teenager with an affinity for skateboarding, toy cars and comic books who ‘just wanted to be a kid’, Ryan White is now considered a genuine American hero whose story has changed the lives of millions.

Expelled in 1984 from his school in Kokomo, Indiana, over the objection of public health experts who said he posed no risk to his peers, the 13-year-old faced discrimination so intense that his family was forced to move. Doctors initially gave White three to six months to live.

He survived for five-and-a-half years, testifying at age 16 before the Presidential Commission on AIDS, discussing HIV in an address to 10,000 teachers and educators in the Louisiana Superdome; joining an Oscar party hosted by President Reagan and becoming the recognized face of the HIV epidemic in America.

His impact on HIV/AIDS care continues to resonate across populations and has become global in scope since his death on April 8, 1990. Because of the Ryan White CARE Act, life-changing care and supportive services are now available that were once unknown at the height of the scourge.

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