



WORLD AIDS DAY



AIDS resources in Eugene limited

Trista Noel
Oregon Daily Emerald

Resources are limited for people in the Eugene area who have AIDS or are HIV positive. But Laurie Stephens, the case manager at the HIV/AIDS Alliance, said education and prevention are the community's greatest needs right now.

"We need to get the word out to people," Stephens said, "because (AIDS) is a preventable disease in many ways."

Stephens believes everyone would benefit from more education, including the alliance's clients and the community.

The alliance does a good job providing for its clients. It offers many types of support for people with AIDS or HIV. There are support groups geared toward women and toward people who are HIV positive. There is a support group for friends, family and loved ones. Another group focuses on children who have a parent or family member who is HIV positive or who has AIDS.

Other services the HIV/AIDS Alliance provides include professional referrals, prevention services, and outreach programs for young people and high-risk groups.

The alliance operates on some federal funding, with Ryan White funds, and grants. Federal money is limited, so the group depends on its volunteers. Currently, there are about 100 volunteers who work either with the alliance or with the Acorn House, which is a hospice center the alliance operates.

"The best thing people can do is donate

either their money or their time for education and prevention," Stephens said.

The Acorn House, a five-bed in-patient hospice facility, is another resource that the HIV/AIDS Alliance offers. Patients are admitted on the basis of medical criteria.

"The sickest patients get the first chance at care," said Valerie Haynes, the nurse manager and program director at the Acorn House.

Haynes said the biggest problem for people who are HIV positive is homelessness. "They have HIV and they are fairly healthy," she said. "They are sick enough to not be able to keep a job, but aren't sick enough to qualify as being disabled."

Another factor that makes homelessness more of a problem is the lack of low-income housing in Eugene. Most disability checks are issued for \$400 a month, but to be able to pay rent and live off the remaining money is difficult.

"It doesn't leave HIV-positive people in a good position," Haynes said. "There are a lot of people living in the streets for lack of places to live."

People who are open about their condition have an especially hard time finding housing because many people are afraid to live with people who are HIV positive. Shared housing is the most feasible way to live on a small budget.

MPowerment is an organization that focuses on prevention. The organization offers support for gay and bisexual men. Its office provides brochures and condoms to

// *The best thing people can do is donate either their money or their time for education and prevention. We need to get the word out to people, because (AIDS) is a preventable disease.*

— LAURIE STEPHENS
case manager at the HIV/AIDS Alliance

people who visit, and drop-in counseling is available.

MPowerment would like to see more resources offered in the community. Mark Harniss, the treasurer of MPowerment, said support groups for people who are HIV positive are very important. But Harniss would also like to see a crisis hot line established in Eugene.

The White Bird Clinic's main service is to provide HIV testing. It also makes referrals and has an ongoing counseling department.

Joe Shoemaker, the medical clinic coordinator at White Bird, said the community's resources are good and may be providing enough for people with AIDS or HIV now. Shoemaker also said the resources won't be enough in the future.

"The resources available in the community are very good," Shoemaker said. "But if they're not overtaxed now, they will be."

Greeks offer presentations on AIDS, HIV

Tiffany Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

The sad truth is that most people won't change their sexual behavior until they have been directly affected by AIDS and HIV, according to students from various sororities and fraternities at the University.

Summer Buchland, a member of the Kappa Delta sorority, said, "A lot of people won't realize (the severity of the threat of AIDS) until something happens to them directly."

Her sorority has taken a proactive educational stand against the spread of AIDS and HIV.

"Amber Hopps came and spoke to our chapter last spring," Buchland said. "She told her story about her sister who had AIDS."

She said Hopps' presentation was very moving and helped bring AIDS into conversations. Kappa Delta invited her back this fall to speak to pledges.

According to Eric Johnston, a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, talking about AIDS and condom use needs to be encouraged.

"I think it's still shunned and put on the back burner," he said. "Anything that's going to make people more comfortable talking about it has a positive effect."

Johnston also mentioned Hopps' presentation and said it had such a positive impact on his house that Hopps is speaking to other chapters throughout the year.

However, these programs and speakers have a long way to go, since students still need to translate that knowledge into a behavioral change, according to Kristin Olmos, an HIV counselor at the Student Health Center.

"People acknowledge they are at risk," Olmos said. "But just because you have the facts doesn't mean a behavioral change. Take what you know and translate that into your own life."

Olmos sees an average of 18 to 20 students a week for pre- and post-HIV test counseling.

Buchland said more people are talking about being tested for HIV.

"I don't know how many people have actually been tested," she said. "I think people are really scared to talk about it (having been tested) because they are afraid of what people will think."

The Student Health Center provides anonymous testing with counseling before and after the test.

"I haven't had a positive (HIV test result) yet," Olmos said.

AIDS may affect 1 in every 800 women

Tasha Eichenseher
Oregon Daily Emerald

It is estimated that one in every 800 women is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, the disease that causes AIDS. If this estimate is correct, approximately 10 women students at the University would test HIV positive.

When the deadly virus AIDS was first recognized, it was associated with gay men and drug users because it was among those populations that the largest number of cases were first reported.

But the fact is, AIDS also affects heterosexuals at a frightening rate, and AIDS experts estimate that of the 10 million people infected with HIV in the world, about one in three is a woman.

"When all exposure categories are combined larger proportionate increases in reported cases occurred among women than among men," said an operator at the National AIDS Hotline.

Women who may not have been concerned about contracting the virus before should be aware that HIV is nondiscriminatory.

"As the nation's first female surgeon general, I'd like to speak to women in this country about a health problem that makes me fear for all of us: the alarming spread of AIDS among sexually active women," former surgeon general Antonia Novello wrote in a recent newspaper article.

In the United States, six percent of all AIDS cases have resulted from heterosexual sex and this is the fastest-growing segment of the AIDS population, especially among women, according to the 1993 edition of the "Women's Desk Reference."

"What has become very clear is that women are more likely to become infected by men than vice versa," according to the book.

AIDS is the fourth leading cause of death among women ages 25 to 40, according to the World Health Organization.

Hispanic and Black women account for almost 70 percent of adult women with AIDS and more than 30 percent of these women become infected through heterosexual contacts, according to information

DID YOU KNOW?

- AIDS is the fourth leading cause of death among women.
- Over 13 million women worldwide will be infected with the HIV virus by the year 2000.
- Women have a greater chance than men of contracting HIV during sexual intercourse.

EMERALD

from HIV/AIDS Resources, Inc.

Edwina Welch, director of the Women's Center, said she believes women of color account for the majority of cases of women with AIDS not because of their race but because of their economic class.

Women most commonly become infected by sharing contaminated IV drug needles or by having unprotected sex with an infected partner. Once infected, women can transmit the virus to others, including their unborn children.

If a woman has HIV and becomes pregnant, there is a 30 to 50 percent chance that her baby will be infected during pregnancy or delivery, according to literature from the American College Health Association.

Welch said she believes women are aware of the chances of contracting the HIV virus.

"I think it's part of our psyche," she said. "It is part of how you conduct yourself."

Welch said the Women's Center has given technical assistance to the World's AIDS Day organization this year and hopes to be more involved next year.

"[AIDS] is one of those things that has stopped being talked about, but that can't happen," Welch said.

Campus events commemorate World AIDS Day

Robbie Reeves
Oregon Daily Emerald

Activities will take place throughout the day on campus to commemorate World AIDS Day.

The 1994 theme for World AIDS Day is "AIDS and Families," according to Danielle McConaga, a peer health educator with the Student Health Center.

A "Giving Tree" will be displayed in the EMU lobby as part of World AIDS Day. The tree was placed in the EMU to demonstrate how AIDS and HIV can affect the lives of students and their families, she said.

Students who donate at least \$1 will receive a ribbon and decorations with their names on them will be placed on a tree in

the EMU, McConaga said. Students can also create a decoration and deliver it to the Student Health Center and it will be added to the tree, she said. Donations will be contributed to the HIV Alliance.

Red ribbons and shirts will be sold in the EMU today. Free condoms will be distributed, and information on mobilizing against AIDS and on community resources will be given. Refreshments will be served. Tables will be staffed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

People who are HIV positive will discuss their experiences in a panel discussion at 5 p.m. in the Ben Linder Room in the EMU. According to McConaga, several HIV positive people in the community will help to facilitate a discussion about living with HIV.

The Giving Tree, information tables in the EMU and the HIV positive panel discussion are being sponsored by the Student Health Center.

A raffle will take place during the panel discussion, according to Karen Seybold from the Student AIDS Awareness group, a group dedicated to "educating ourselves and others" about HIV and AIDS. Prizes will include gift certificates from local bookstores.

A two mile "Fun Run" around campus will be held at 3:45 p.m. in the EMU Courtyard. A \$5 entry fee will be charged, and students will receive a t-shirt and food after the run. Students are invited to "run, roll, walk or bike" through the route, she said.