

northwest

Men's Wellness Center Turns One

The Men's Wellness Center, staffed by the Men's Prevention and Wellness Team of Cascade AIDS Project, celebrates its first anniversary on Pride weekend.

The Men's Wellness Center opened at 928 S.W. Stark St. in June 2006 in response to a community need for a safe space for gay and bisexual men to access services and programs in a culturally specific way. The program's mission is to lead efforts to prevent new HIV infections; care for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS; educate communities to eliminate stigma and shame; and advocate for immediate action in combating the pandemic. According to manager Michael Anderson-Nathe, the center was created to address the unique issues of queer men and expand HIV prevention efforts beyond the traditional disease-based approach to a more holistic health and wellness approach.

The services offered by the center include rapid HIV testing and sexually transmitted infection screening; social support programs highlighting the positive aspects of the gay and bisexual community; and referrals for drug and alcohol treatment and mental health services. It also offers one-on-one and group-level HIV prevention intervention and dissemination of health and prevention materials and information.

During the past year, the Men's Wellness Center has achieved many of its original goals through a variety of services as well as fun and educational events attended by more than 2,100 men. At social events, men had their dating and relationship questions answered, learned about "netiquette" and

safety tips for meeting men online and played bingo with the Chicos Latinos program and Miss Mylar Black. Many utilized the free rapid HIV screenings and learned about making healthier food choices and how to give themselves a testicular exam.

Like many support services in the sexual minorities community, the center faces funding challenges. The facility "is being supported largely through government funding, and we need to secure more funding from private donors and foundations who have less restrictions," Anderson-Nathe said. People who want more information on how to get involved, donate or volunteer should call 503-223-5907, ext. 278. For a monthly events calendar and information on Pride weekend activities, visit www.cascadeaids.org. Starting July 1, the HIV/STI Tuesday testing hours will expand to 5 to 9 p.m.

PFLAG Presents Trans Panel

A panel of people who identify as transgender addressed Portland Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays on June 12. The best-attended meeting in more than a year drew a mix of attendees from transgender youth and adults to parents of transgender children of many age groups.

Topics covered included transitioning at the workplace, transitioning in high school, challenges in seeking hormones for children and the phenomenon of being "two-spirited" and gender-fluid.

Panelists included Reid Vanderburgh, Jenn Burleton and Alec Esquivel.

The success of the event led chapter president Dawn Holt to brainstorm more opportunities for



The Men's Prevention and Wellness Team addresses the unique issues of gay and bisexual men.

trans families to meet and gain support through PFLAG.

"This meeting showed there is so much interest and so much energy and pent-up need to relate to other people," she said. "We need to be more focused about when to address transgender topics."

To learn about future events, visit www.pflag.org.

First Trans March Forms

The first Portland Trans March will kick off 7 p.m. June 16 at the Northwest Park blocks at Ninth Avenue and Davis Street. People are encouraged to bring signs, noisemakers, banners and other identifying markers. The Trans March will happen at the same time and in the same place as the annual Portland Dyke March.

Although the Portland Dyke March, according to its Web site, www.dykemarchportland.com, is for all self-identified women, organizers say the Trans March adds an opportunity for those who identify as trans to celebrate in a visible way.

Dalton's Law Denied Hearing

State Rep. Donna Nelson, R-McMinnville, released a statement May 25 expressing her disappointment with the Senate Judiciary Committee for refusing to hold hearings for Dalton's Law, House Bill 3176.

The legislation is named for Dalton Robertson, a 42-year-old gay man who went missing near Los

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