

# Positively Palm Beach



Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc., 4152 West Blue Heron Blvd., Suite 228, Riviera Beach, Florida, 33404

## Treasure the Children

### Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Charles Bowman

Volume 13: 1/2

July/August 2007

By Charlene Bowman  
Treasure the Children  
June 19, 2007

Treasure The Children was founded by Charles Bowman with the intent to present peer to peer HIV prevention education, as well as items and support for youth infected with HIV and other chronic illness.

Charles was perinatally infected with HIV and walked the halls of Congress advocating for increased funding for pediatric HIV research, as well as the Ryan White Care Act. He spoke at the Ryan White Youth Conferences and AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families' Voices Conferences. Charles was the first adolescent member of the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trails Group, and participated in the writing and approval process of many adolescent clinical trials. He was also very aware that a HIV prevention vaccine might never occur. He felt strongly that education was the only prevention. He spoke to his peers in schools about the consequences of risk behaviors, and disclosed his status before students. He answered their questions about being HIV infected and the importance of being tested.

When Charles died at age 20 years and seven weeks, his

sister Danielle and mother Charlene continued their support of his passion to educate youth and support HIV infected youth. Danielle became a Red Cross Instructor, teaching the Act Smart program in Palm Beach County Schools; while Charlene continued a project she commenced the preceding year. She had created the Snuggle Care pattern to make quilts from recycled cotton denim jeans. Youth in middle and high schools, church groups, Girls Scouts, and Palm Beach Atlantic University students collected denim and cut the items into flat pieces which are sewn into quilts. The quilts are donated to youth infected with HIV and other chronic illness to use at home and take to the hospital to brighten their hospital room and as a reminder of home. In collaboration with the Department of Health, the HIV educators at South Bay Correctional Facility have sewn over 100 quilt kits made by the efforts of many

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# Federal Budget Cuts Mean South Florida HIV/AIDS Patients to Lose Services

By Bob LaMendola  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
Posted June 19 2007

Every week, Oakland Park HIV patient Peter Giraldo goes for acupuncture and therapeutic massage to lessen severe nerve pain in his extremities caused by his medications and diabetes.

But the therapies will vanish next month, and other services used by thousands of South Florida HIV/AIDS patients will shrink dramatically as a result of federal budget cuts now coming to a head, county health officials said. Substance abuse treatment, nutritional counseling and other programs stand to be cut.

For a second straight year, local HIV budget planners said they are struggling to stretch declining grants from the federal Ryan White Program.

"The money keeps getting smaller but the number of

**SHARE PROGRAM**  
**JULY 2007 MENU**  
**BASIC PACKAGE \$18.00**  
 \*2-7" Microwavable Pizzas (1 Supreme, 1 pepperoni)  
 \*1.7 lbs. Split Chicken Breast  
 \*1 lb. Shaved Roast Beef  
 \*1 lb. Pork Sausage  
 \*1 lb. Italian Meatballs  
 Plus a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables  
 \* Indicates food items included in a "Double Meat" Package.

**DELI MEAT PACKAGE \$11.50**  
 7.5 lbs. Total Weight (48-2.5 oz. Packages/Individual Services)  
 12 each Roast Beef, 12 Honey Ham, 12 Smoked Turkey Breast, 12 Oven Roasted Ham

*For more information call 561-355-4775*


patients keeps getting larger," said Kathleen Cannon, a founding co-chairman on the Broward County HIV Health Services Planning Council, which allocates Ryan White money.

Broward is receiving a grant of \$13.1 million, down from \$15 million last year. Palm Beach County is getting \$7.7 million, down from the sharply cut \$8.3 million received last year. Each county hopes to get another million dollars in a final allotment in August, but because more cities are competing for money this year, the amounts may be only a few hundred thousand, officials said.

"Something has to give," said David Begley, chairman of the Palm Beach County HIV Care Council. "There are going to be some clients who are going to go without." Ryan White money goes to local and state agencies to help pay for medical care and services for HIV/AIDS patients with no health coverage.

Last year, when Congress reauthorized the program, it let more cities get grants even though the pool of money has been declining since 2003. Also, new federal rules require spending three-fourths of the grants for medical care and counseling, squeezing money earmarked for

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 DISCLAIMER: Positively Palm Beach is designed to present information to people living with HIV disease and their concerned family and friends. It is not to be regarded as medical advice. The appearance of information in this publication does not constitute an endorsement of that information by DOH or its sponsors. Consult your health care providers before undertaking any treatment discussed herein. Views expressed herein are those of the byline author and do not necessarily express the views of DOH or its staff. Requests by entities to insert materials will be reviewed by the editorial staff prior to acceptance.

# Look Who's Talkin'

Ronald M. Pearson  
 PALS Program Coordinator  
 Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)

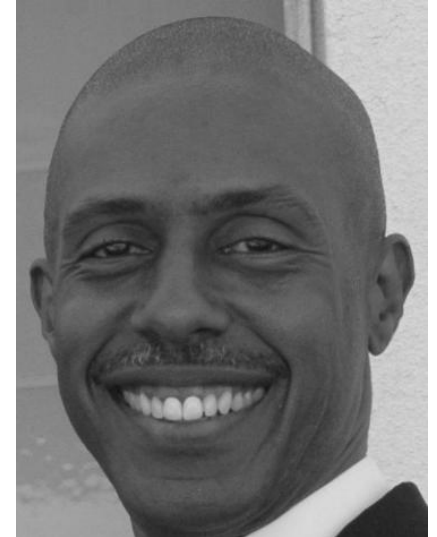
Ronald M. Pearson brings a varied background to the CAP organization. At the age of 10 Ronald began singing professionally, touring the New England areas of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In High School he traveled to Italy, singing in various churches, Basilica's, and Cathedrals which included singing at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome where he also sang over a broadcast of Radio Free Europe. Ronald has also given concerts and sung with various choirs, ensembles and choral societies in New York, Georgia and South Florida. He continues to offer his talent as a soloist throughout the South Florida area.

Ronald has a business background with several years in management and outreach experience. This includes, but is not limited to banking, retail clothing sales, wholesale couture sales to prominent retail stores and chains, and auto sales/finance. He then made a change and studied in the Master of Divinity Program at Florida Center for Theological Studies and was ordained a minister in 2003. From childhood, having the natural ability to command a stage, it is no surprise that Ronald, now Reverend Ronald, is able to capture the hearts of congregations wherever he speaks.

In 2003 Ronald became the Outreach Minister at Sunshine Cathedral, MCC in Ft. Lauderdale and was a member of the Sr. Ministry Team. In 2004 he oversaw the Communications, Public Relations and Marketing for Sunshine Cathedral and handled all of the Cathedral's advertising including the designing of all print ads. Through his work with various ministries and churches, as well as his work at the

Cathedral, Ronald was able to gain most of his outreach and administrative outreach experience. Currently Ronald is a member of Cason UMC in Delray Beach. He is also a member of the Delray Beach Clergy Association, NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice) and C2EA-Florida (Campaign to End AIDS-Florida).

In keeping with his call to ministry and his desire to help and assist people in need, Ronald accepted the position of Peer Advocate Coordinator for the Peer Advocate Leader (PAL) Program at CAP (Comprehensive



AIDS Program of Palm Beach County). Ronald states, "as an ordained minister I encourage people, giving people hope for today, tomorrow and a brighter future. I guide and direct people and I recognize the gifts and talents that people possess. I assist people in attaining the next level by helping them to strengthen and utilize their gifts, talents and abilities. As the Coordinator of the PAL Program my functions parallel my ministerial duties and call. For me, this position and program is an extension of my ministry."

The PAL Program is a new program designed and implemented to help people with HIV/AIDS navigate medical and social service systems on an introductory level. PALs are able to assist people and let them know that they are not facing their virus alone. Many times when newly diagnosed persons are faced with the news of HIV/AIDS they are a bit perplexed, experiencing various emotions and stresses. PALs

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support services.

To cope, Cannon said Broward's planning council is considering cutting off services to about 75 people with incomes above three times the federal poverty level, such as a single person making more than \$30,630. A decision is expected June 28.

substance abuse and to provide transportation. That forced local cuts.

Also, the grants can no longer be spent for complementary care such as acupuncture, chiropractors and therapeutic massage. Giraldo, who has been HIV-positive for 20 years, said he fears his health and mental state will worsen without the pain-relieving therapies.

"These services help me manage the virus so I don't get sick and I don't use the emergency room," he said.

Bob LaMendola can be reached at blamendola@sun-sentinel.com or 954-356-4526 or 561-243-6600, ext. 4526. ■

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**2007 Summer Camp**

July 31- August 3 in Umatilla, FL  
12-18 yrs old

For more information call Palm Beach County  
Substance Abuse Coalition at  
561-627-6603/561-627-8683



"It's a very painful decision, but we're going to have to have limits because we just don't have the money," Cannon said. Also, \$1.3 million was trimmed for medicine and dental care.

Palm Beach County had taken a hard hit a year ago, when paperwork problems resulted in its grant plunging from \$9.5 million down to \$8.3 million. Some cuts were made then, but the blow was cushioned by one-time gifts of \$350,000 from the state and county.

This year, that cushion is gone. Begley said the result is that money to help HIV patients buy groceries would drop by two-thirds, to \$135,000. Help for patients with financial emergencies would be cut by \$100,000, or 40 percent. Money for case managers would drop by \$1 million, or one-third.

"We're talking about food here. But we don't have many choices," Begley said.

The new federal rules more tightly restrict using Ryan White money to treat HIV patients for

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT**  
**What Ryan White HIV Services Do You**  
**Need and Use?**

*Medical Services, Case Management,*  
*Food, Transportation*

**Without Your Help We Could Lose the**  
**Services You Need and Use**

**Come Join Us and**  
**HELP US HELP YOU**

**Public Forums**

July 24, 2007 1:30 p.m.

Belle Glade City Hall, City Commission Chambers  
110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Belle Glade

August 21, 2007 1:30 p.m.

Delray Health Center  
345 South Congress Ave, Delray Beach

Annually the Palm Beach County HIV CARE Council looks to the community to help them plan for the Ryan White CARE Act dollars that the county receives. Your input is important in order for the Priorities and Allocations Committee to set priorities that meet your service needs.

*For information, please call Sarah Withrow at*  
*561-844-4430 ext. 28.*



## July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass	24/31 3 pm-6 pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	25	26 6:00 p.m. Circle of Hope HIV+ Women 629 5 <sup>th</sup> St, WPB 5pm-9pm FREE HIV Testing Compass 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeakSupport Group Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	27
30 3:00 p.m. CARE Council Meeting Mayme Frederick Center 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass				

## August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass	7 10:30 a.m. Planning Committee*  3 pm-6 pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	1/8	2/9 6:00 p.m. Circle of Hope HIV+ Women 629 5 <sup>th</sup> St, WPB 5pm-9pm FREE HIV Testing Compass 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeakSupport Group Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass	3/10
13 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass	14 3 pm-6 pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	15	16 6:00 p.m. Circle of Hope HIV+ Women 629 5 <sup>th</sup> St, WPB 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeakSupport Group Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	17
20 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass	21 3 pm-6 pm FREE HIV Testing Compass  1:30 p.m. <b>PUBLIC FORUM</b> and 2:30 p.m. Priorities and Allocations Committee Meeting Delray Beach Health Center County Health Department 345 South Congress Ave Delray Beach	22	23 11:30 a.m. Client Education Series Compass 6:00 p.m. Circle of Hope HIV+ Women 629 5 <sup>th</sup> St, WPB 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeakSupport Group Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	24
27 3:00 p.m. CARE Council Meeting Mayme Frederick Center 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting Compass 7:30 p.m. Quilting Bee Compass	28 3 pm-6 pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	29	30 6:00 p.m. Circle of Hope HIV+ Women 629 5 <sup>th</sup> St, WPB 7:30 p.m. BrothasSpeakSupport Group Compass 8:00 p.m. Positive Living Support Group Compass 5pm-9pm FREE HIV Testing Compass	31

\*Treasure Coast Health Council, 4152 West Blue Heron Blvd. Ste 228, Riviera Beach. All meetings are subject to change.  
Please see [www.carecouncil.org](http://www.carecouncil.org) or call 844-4430 ext. 28.

**HOTLINES**

A.G. Holley State Hospital TB Hotline .....	1-800-482-4636
CDC Info Hotline .....	1-800-342-2437
Crisis Line (Center Line).....	211
Drug Abuse Hotline.....	662-4357
Florida HIV/AIDS Hotline .....	1-800-352-2437
Gay and Lesbian Hotline.....	1-888-843-4564
Medicare Hotline .....	1-800-638-6833
National Deaf AIDS Line.....	1-800-AIDS-TTY
Project Inform Treatment Hotline.....	1-800-822-7422
STD Hotline.....	1-800-227-8922

**EDUCATION/INFORMATION**

Accessible Life Saving Education for at Risk Teens (ALERT) .....	966-4288
American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) .....	1-800-392-6327
CDC HIV/AIDS Treatment Information .....	1-800-448-0440
Children with AIDS Project of America.....	1-602-973-4319
Children's Case Management Org., Inc.....	804-9441
Clinical Trials Information.....	1-800-Trials-A
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC .....	533-7227
Florida AIDS Action Council.....	1-800-779-4898
Glades Health Initiative, Ind.....	996-0500
National Minority AIDS Council .....	1-202-483-6622
PBC Health Department .....	540-1300
PBC HIV CARE Council.....	844-4430
Red Cross, American .....	833-7711
Senior HIV Intervention Project (SHIP).....	586-4843

**HIV/AIDS TESTING**

Compass, Inc*.....	533-9699
Comprehensive AIDS Program (CAP)	
West Palm Beach* .....	472-2466
Delray Beach*.....	274-6400
Riviera Beach*.....	844-1019
Belle Glade*.....	996-7059
Glades Health Initiative, Inc.....	996-0500
Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA).....	844-3556
Hope House of the Palm Beaches, Inc.....	697-2600
PBC Health Department	
West Palm Beach Health Center .....	514-5465
Delray Beach Health Center.....	274-3105
Lantana Health Center .....	547-6805
C.L. Brumback Health Center.....	996-1625
Planned Parenthood of GMPBTC	
West Palm Beach.....	683-0302
Lake Worth.....	641-0300
Riviera Beach Family Resource Center.....	840-1888
True Fast Ministries .....	659-4500
United Deliverance Resource Center*.....	659-7988
*Rapid HIV Testing Available	

**DENTAL CLINICS**

C.L. Brumback Health Center .....	996-1636
Delray Beach Health Center .....	274-3111
Riviera Beach Health Center at 45 <sup>th</sup> Street.....	541-5306
West Palm Beach Health Center .....	514-5310

**PHARMACIES**

Department of Health	
Belle Glade.....	996-1637
Delray Beach .....	274-3107
Riviera Beach .....	804-7940
West Palm Beach.....	514-5380
Commcare Pharmacy .....	615-0564
BioScrip Specialty Pharmacy (Spanish speaking).....	683-0001

**HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGENCIES**

Comprehensive AIDS Program, Inc. (CAP)	
West Palm Beach.....	472-2466
Belle Glade .....	996-7059
Delray Beach .....	274-6400
Riviera Beach.....	844-1266
Pahokee.....	924-7773
Care Resource	
Coral Gables.....	1-305-667-9296
Fort Lauderdale.....	1-954-567-7141
Miami.....	1-305-573-5411
Compass.....	533-9699
Youth Line .....	533-9699
Children's Place at Home Safe, Inc.	
North/Central Palm Beach County .....	832-6185
Southern Palm Beach Count7 .....	995-0490
Farmworker Coordinating Council of PBC.....	533-7227
Florida Lighthouse .....	499-1442
Gratitude Guild, Inc.....	833-6826
HIV Pastoral Care.....	1-305-858-4649
Hope House of the Palm Beaches.....	697-2600
Hospice By the Sea.....	395-5031
Hospice of Palm Beach.....	848-5200
Integrated Healthcare Systems.....	586-7404
Latin American Immigrants & Refugee Org.....	966-4515
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.....	655-8944
Palm Beach County Home .....	842-6111
Palm Beach Research Center .....	689-0606
Planned Parenthood .....	848-6300
Oakwood Center .....	844-9741
Social Security Administration .....	722-1213
Treasure Coast Health Council, Inc.....	844-4220

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHYSICIANS**

Central County

<i>Riviera Beach Health Center</i>	
Manochehr Khojasteh, MD.....	804-7900
Celeste Li, MD .....	804-7900
Kleper de Almeida, MD (Spanish Speaking) .....	967-0101
Kenneth Ness, MD .....	655-8388
Olayemi O. Osiyemi, MD.....	832-6770
Donald Watren, MD.....	655-9660
Larry Bush, MD .....	967-0101

Northern County

<i>Infectious Disease Associates- Leslie Diaz, MD.....</i>	776-8300
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Southern County

<i>Infectious Disease Consultants .....</i>	499-1442
Hamed A. Komaiha, MD, Jose C. Villalba, MD,	
Jaroslav F. Ondrusek, MD, Cesar A. Randich, MD, Melvin S. Kohan, MD	
<i>Delray Beach Health Center</i>	
Snehprabha Samant, MD .....	274-3178
<i>Guadalupe Medical Center (Spanish Speaking).....</i>	642-0768

*Infectious Disease Associates*

Julio Cardenas, MD, Ines Mbagha, MD, Susan Saxe, MD, Jill Howard,	
MD, Sanda Cebular, MD, Kurt Weise, MD	
Delray .....	496-1095
Boca Raton .....	393-8224

Western County

Lyonel Jean Baptiste, MD .....	992-9216
Juan Carlos Rondon, MD.....	924-7788

**PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE**

VA Medical Center (for veterans only).....	422-7522
Palm Beach County Health Department	
Riviera Beach Health Center .....	804-7900
C.L. Brumback Health Center (Belle Glade).....	996-1600
Delray Beach Health Center .....	274-3100
West Palm Beach Health Center (pediatrics).....	514-5300

**Treasure the Children** continued from page 1

volunteers. Over 200 denim quilts have been donated to children with HIV and various illnesses requiring repeat hospitalizations.

When Charles and two of his friends were honored at a memorial on the Campus of the University of Miami Medical School, seven HIV infected youth asked Charlene to help them make a difference with their lives. These were the same youth that Charles had asked to join him in presenting HIV prevention presentations to adolescents. With the help of a volunteer social worker, they formed Charles' Crew. Currently, there are 25 HIV/AIDS infected youth members of Charles' Crew who live in South Florida. They receive support, mentoring, independent living assistance, public speaking skills, HIV 104 certification and continual HIV education. They learn self confidence, self esteem and continually advocate for HIV related causes and ways to reduce stigma. They are trained to teach HIV prevention and/or disclose their status and answer questions by their peers. The youth choose where and when they are available to speak in after school programs, youth clubs, churches, health fairs, youth summits, middle and high school classrooms, as well as radio and television programs. Members of Charles' Crew want a legacy and have created a new project, which is preparing a presentation for state legislators asking that HIV education be mandatory in every school in the US. They will commence with the State of Florida and continue their campaign to every state. Whether teaching, answering questions, advocating for HIV services, or reducing stigma, they ARE making a positive difference with their lives.

For more information about Treasure the Children and/or Charles' Crew contact Charlene Bowman at 561-790-6291 or visit the website [www.treasurethechildren.org](http://www.treasurethechildren.org). ■

**Look Who's Talkin'** continued from page 3

offer compassion, care, guidance and direction to make the newly diagnosed persons' walk a little easier. PALs find their work to be very rewarding and gratifying. It is a way to stay connected and give back to the community. PALs understand that it is in the giving where we find our greatest reward. PALs are located in all five of CAP's service centers. It is not necessary to be a client of CAP to receive the services of the PAL Program.

The writer John P. Foppe wrote these words. "What you do is vastly more important than how you feel. Most feelings we experience are temporary. They are usually based upon external circumstances and events, which are also temporary. Actions, however, have a lasting impact on self and on others. Actions - those things we actually say and do - become embedded in memory. Actions mold our reputations. Actions establish relationships and produce accomplishments. Never allow feelings to limit what you choose to do. You can act in a positive way even if you don't feel positive. And the more you act positively, the greater the likelihood that positive feelings will follow. Allow your will, your faith, and your long-standing dreams and goals to compel you forward. We chart our lives primarily by what we do." We are to live abundant lives, not lives filled with sorrow, shame or neglect. Everything we need to live in abundance, whether it is financial abundance, spiritual abundance, emotional abundance, physical abundance or abundance in health is right here, right now, within our reach. It is up to us to make the choices that will move us toward the goal, keeping us on our directed path, the path for life and living. By doing so, we'll not only be a blessing to ourselves and others, but, we'll be a blessing that will live throughout eternity.

To find out more about the PALS program call Ronald Pearson at 561-274-6400. ■