

God is still speaking,



UNITED CHURCH AIDS/HIV NETWORK

The HIV and AIDS E-communication from the United Church of Christ HIV and AIDS Network (UCAN) – Office for HIV and AIDS Ministries, Health and Wholeness Advocacy – Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ. www.ucc.org/hivaids

June 19, 2007

UCAN at General Synod 26, Hartford, CT

June 22 – 26, 2007

Fri. – Mon. (June 22 – 25)

- UCAN Display (Exhibit Hall #48, WCM, Health and Wholeness Advocacy)
- Church Positive Hospitality Suite (Hilton Hotel)

Saturday (June 23) 10.30 – 12 noon

- “UCAN Break the Silence” Workshop (Capital College, Room 317)

Sunday (June 24)

- Wider Church Ministries Dinner, Hartford Civic Center, 5:00 – 7pm

Monday (June 25)

- Free HIV Testing, 8:00 – 2:30pm
- UCAN Stop AIDS Dinner, 5:00 -7pm, Hilton Hotel, Connecticut Ballroom

UCAN Local Church Partner Spotlight: A Church with a Vision

Written by Lizette Merchan-Pinilla

Community of Hope, UCC in Tulsa, Oklahoma has been working with the Hispanic/Latino community since 2003 to provide outreach, education, testing and counseling for the growing community. The ministry is done in close partnership with local agencies such as Tulsa C.A.R.E.S. (Consortium for AIDS Resources, Education, and Service), HOPE Testing Clinic, RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network), and Planned Parenthood. We work together to identify and respond to the expressed needs of the Hispanic community for information, education, and direct services, and to change the public's perception of the disease and its treatments.

Our ministry has changed as the disease, its treatments, and the populations it affects have changed. Through our collaborative efforts, HIV testing with a trained interpreter has been offered at our church 5 days a week for two years, as well as at local churches, community centers, health fairs, businesses, and bars. For five years, we owned and managed a duplex that housed two families who were HIV challenged; and have also provided care team support for other housing efforts. We are currently sponsoring a food supplement program that supplies seven families (two of whom are Hispanic) with supplemental food and paper goods every month.

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let it shine
the UCC at 150 years

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Local Church Partner Spotlight [continued from front ...]

Community of Hope is working to communicate to the Latino population in Tulsa the message that church is a safe place - a welcoming place to tear down the fear and stigma regarding HIV, and a helpful place to get the basic information of how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Lizette Merchan-Pinilla is originally from Bogota, Colombia. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree at seminary, while working for Community of Hope, UCC (COH) as its Justice and Witness Minister for the last 4-1/2 years. Her full-time endeavors are to promote education within and outside the walls of COH, create awareness, and contribute to the nurturing of our relationship with that of our growing Hispanic/Latino population in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The G8 Responds to the Global AIDS Pandemic



The G8 Summit was held in Heiligendamm, Germany from June 6-8 2007. One of the topics of discussion at this summit was global funding of AIDS treatment. As a result of these discussions, the G8 leaders promised \$60 billion in programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, to be distributed: "in the coming years." Unfortunately, this amount will be only one-third of what the UN says is needed over the next five years. Half of this commitment is a US contribution of \$30 billion, yet this is not an increase from current US commitments. It will in fact keep US spending on the global AIDS pandemic at about current levels for the next five years. Dr. Paul Zeitz, Executive Director of the Global AIDS Alliance, responds to these new commitments by saying that "a plan to really defeat AIDS, TB and malaria is still missing, yet that's what we must keep demanding of these leaders,"* UN estimates show that \$192 billion is needed to effectively address AIDS, TB and malaria from 2008 to 2012.

* <http://www.globalaidsalliance.org/pressreleases/press060807.cfm>

To subscribe to this e-newsletter: <http://ga3.org/ucc/join/tcl>

For more information:

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