



## 2009 Annual Report

### 2009 Board Members

Scott Meiklejohn, *Chair*  
Brian Wilkerson, *Vice Chair*  
Stephen Piper, *Treasurer*  
Mike Hofmann, *Secretary*  
Scott Cissna  
Vanessa Fenley  
Rusty Glenn  
Greg Glischinski  
Ralph M. Jones  
Ann McDougal  
Herbert Merrill

### Medical Advisory Board

Gregory T. Everson, MD,  
*University of Colorado  
Denver*  
Kenneth S. Greenberg, DO,  
*Pharm D, Denver Infectious  
Disease Consultants, P.L.L.C.*  
Richard Hoffman, MD,  
MPH, *Retired,  
Public Health Consultant*  
Marcelo Kugelmas,  
MD, *South Denver  
Gastroenterology*  
Clark Kulig, MD,  
*Porter Hospital*  
Barbara Piasecki, MD,  
*Kaiser Permanente*  
Maya Rogers, MD,  
*University of Colorado  
Denver*  
Hugo Rosen, MD, *University  
of Colorado Denver*

### Message from the Chair

Hep C Connection provided leadership on multiple fronts in 2009. We were actively involved in retaining state funds for the viral hepatitis program at the state health department; we have worked to encourage co-signers to House Resolution 3974, the Hepatitis and Liver Cancer bill introduced before Congress; and we helped to facilitate discussions with state legislators and their constituents regarding chronic health care issues.

As a result of potential exposure to the hepatitis C virus at two Colorado health facilities, Hep C Connection provided special support groups for this population, an educational presentation to those who might have been exposed, and answered many questions on our HelpLine and through the internet to offer psychosocial support and factual information.

While all of these additional activities were happening, we reduced expenses across all programs and increased efforts to raise funds, which has allowed us to successfully weather the financial downturn affecting our economy.

I encourage you to read the amazing accomplishments listed on the pages of this annual report. With the generosity of our donors, we are able to continue offering vital programs that improve the health of people in Colorado and throughout the U.S.

**Scott Meiklejohn, 2008 – 2010 Chair**

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Ladies Run



African American Health Fair



### Highlights of 2009

Hep C Connection provides a variety of services throughout Colorado that develop awareness about the hepatitis C virus, identify ways to reduce risk and avoid transmission, and provide support for those directly affected by this deadly disease.



## HCV Facts

*As many as 4,000,000 people in the US have chronic hepatitis C, and at least half are unaware they are infected.*

*A rapid test has been developed that will give HCV antibody results in 20 minutes.*

*There are two new hepatitis C treatments in phase 3 clinical trials that look as though they will increase the number of people who will clear the virus in a much shorter time period.*

## What we did to educate the public

- Provided information at 41 health fairs and exhibits attended by 128,018 people
- Held two Drop to Stop disposal weeks in May and November where an amazing 17,998 used syringes were collected and appropriately incinerated at several participating organizations around Colorado
- Recorded approximately 7,000 unique visitors each month to our web site
- Distributed our monthly e-newsletter, *Connections*, to 1,034 subscribers
- Provided 33 presentations to 529 healthcare professionals such as nurses, social workers, medical students, physician assistants, and doctors
- Recognized May as Hepatitis C Awareness Month with activities including the 2009 Viral Hepatitis Conference, proclamations by the Mayor of Denver, the Denver City Council, and the House and Senate of the Colorado General Assembly
- Ran radio and print advertisements that encouraged people with risk factors to be tested

## Team Hep C: Partners around the State

Team Hep C is a collaboration of representatives from 18 health-related organizations throughout Colorado. The organizations involved in Team Hep C work with clients that either have hepatitis C or have risk factors for contracting hepatitis C. Team Hep C works to share current information about hepatitis C and as well as resources available throughout the state.

In 2009, six Team Hep C meetings were held and featured educational presentations by Northern Colorado AIDS Project, Mesa County Health Department, Urban Peak, the Underground Syringe Exchange of Denver, as well as updates from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment about the hepatitis C outbreak at two health facilities. The educational presentations are included in the Team Hep C meetings to facilitate the learning process of the participating member organizations to learn about resources available throughout the state.

Additionally, Team Hep C helped to plan the annual Colorado Viral Hepatitis Conference held in May. The one-day conference featured 65 attendees and 12 speakers, all experts in their specific fields. Three unique tracks were held in the afternoon featuring policy, corrections, and case management topics.

## Support Services for those Directly Affected

- 1,467 (a 24% increase from 2008) people called the HelpLine throughout the US and we continue to offer Spanish language services to HelpLine callers
- Nine support groups met in these locations – Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, (HIV/HCV co-infection), Grand Junction, Englewood, Fort Collins, Lakewood, and Pueblo with 327 attending
- One community education forum was hosted in Denver in response to the hepatitis C outbreak at two health facilities; Dr. Greg Everson, Director of Hepatology at University of Colorado Hospital, spoke at the dinner, which drew 65 attendees

## Desserts & Delights was a Tasty Triumph!

Our fourth annual fundraising event, Desserts & Delights, was held at the Courtyard by Marriot, Cherry Creek, in November. Approximately 200 supporters mingled to honor the six members of the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado General Assembly for their leadership regarding retaining the hepatitis C programs funded by the state.

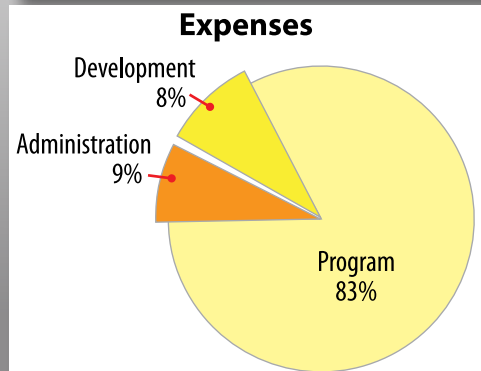
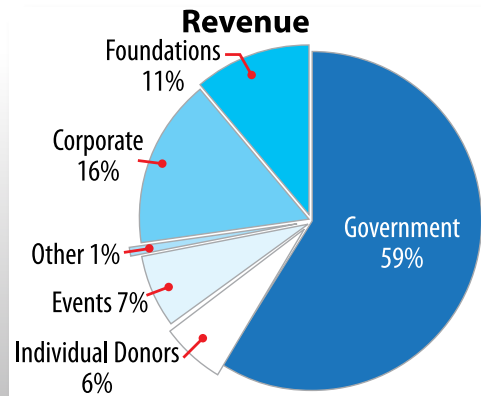


*Katie Barton* and *Mike Grube* once again co-chaired the event. Reggie Rivers, former Denver Bronco, author and sports anchor emceed and live bidding was run by 2008 Colorado State Champion Auctioneer Shawn Hagler. There was spirited bidding on the shark puppet from Folkmanis – from lawyers, of course! Local jazz favorite, The Polite Jazz Quartet, provided entertainment while guests imbibed on a variety of appetizers and many desserts.

**Thank you to everyone who made this fundraiser so successful** – these funds are crucial to continue our programs! We appreciate everyone who donated, attended, and bought auction items.

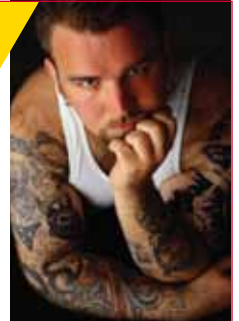
### Financial Information

(Audited Numbers)



### Programs for People at Risk

- Provided 174 educational presentations about hepatitis C and HIV harm reduction and prevention to 2,057 at-risk individuals in jails or re-entry facilities
- Tested 238 individuals at these venues: Urban Peak, African American Health Fair, Salvation Army Treatment Center, Recovery Rally at the State Capitol, Lakewood Housing (Foothills Green) Health Fair, PrideFest, Ladies Run Motorcycle Rally, Freedom Conference, Salute to American Veterans Motorcycle Rally, Rocky Mountain Harley-Davidson, and Project Redemption
- Tested 57 individuals at Hep C Connection's office
- Conducted 7 HIV/HCV co-infection presentations to 71 staff of AIDS Service Organizations
- Active participants in committees and collaborations including: Injection Drug Use (IDU) Community Collaborative, Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS (CORA), Project Redemption Governing Board, Peer Assistance Services HIV/HCV Steering Committee, and the Healthy Colorado Youth Alliance



There is a great demand for the services we offer.





### Thank You to our Outgoing Board Members

We would like to gratefully acknowledge *Cheryl Anderson* and *Mike Grube* for their service as Hep C Connection Board members. They provided significant contributions to the organization, including committee leadership, crafting our Employee Manual and other personnel matters, and bringing in many donations and donors to Desserts & Delights. *They will be missed!*

### Welcome to New Board Members and Officers

The Board of Directors welcomed *Vanessa Fenley*, Prevention Coordinator with the Denver Office of Drug Strategy, and *Greg Glischinski*, Legislative Advocate with AARP, to the 2010 class of Directors. Current Board member *Michael Hofmann* was elected to serve a 2nd term. The Board of Directors unanimously voted in favor of our slate of officers: *Scott Meiklejohn*, Chair; *Brian Wilkerson*, Vice Chair; *Michael Hofmann*, Secretary; and *Stephen Piper*, Treasurer.

**Congratulations!**

## Hep C Connection Funders

Our thanks go out to the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and government entities for supporting Hep C Connection at the \$500 or higher level:

- Jill Armistead and Tim Black
- Anschutz Foundation
- Carl Benson
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Michael Burstein
- CPR
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Colorado Health Network
- Community Health Charities
- Denver Foundation
- John G. Duncan Trust
- Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado
- Rusty Glenn
- Mike Grube
- Health One
- Richard Hoffman
- Investment Realty
- Jones Apparel Group
- Scott Meiklejohn
- New West Physicians
- Medtronic Foundation
- Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
- Stephen Piper
- r2 Advisors, LLC
- Roche
- Sample Czar
- Schering-Plough
- Pam Shillam
- South Denver Gastroenterology
- State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Suncor Energy
- T. R. Barge LLC
- Tridex Systems
- University of Colorado Hospital
- University Physicians
- Vertex Pharmaceuticals
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Brian Wilkerson

*thank you!*



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The mission of Hep C Connection is to educate the general public about hepatitis C and to provide resources and support for those affected by the virus.

- Nancy Steinfurth** *Executive Director* (720) 917-3965
- Laura Ginnett** *Director of Community Outreach* (720) 917-3960
- Urva Kuzma** *HelpLine and Volunteer Coordinator* (720) 917-3972