



# PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network  
News  
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Issue #111

OREGON HIV/AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

## Calling All Campers -- It's Time for Summer Fun!



### Camp Starlight: August 30 - September 4, 2009

[Camp Starlight](#) is a free one week camp for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Sixty-five Campers between the ages of 5 and 14 years old get to swim, play and make new friends in a supportive environment free from many of the stresses associated with living in a family impacted by HIV. A staff of dedicated social workers and a medical team experienced with HIV are on hand to make sure Camp is a safe, fun, and enriching experience. A team of dedicated volunteers provide campers with one-on-one support from a caring adult. Please contact [Angie](#), the camp coordinator, for an application or more information. 503-223-5907 ext 209.

### T.R.E.C.: Teens. Recreation. Education. Community. July 10 - 12, 2009

Teens. Recreation. Education. Community (T.R.E.C) is a new teen camp that is one of our opportunities for HIV impacted youth 15-18 years old. T.R.E.C. has been especially designed to meet the needs of HIV impacted teens as they transition into adulthood. Education and life skills programming are combined with recreation and community building to create a youth development program to support the unique needs of our teens. Contact [Vanessa](#) at 503-223-5907 ext 232 for more information.

### Next

Case Management  
**Network Meeting**  
800 NE Oregon

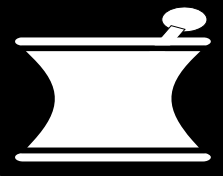
July 14th, 2009

Topic:  
**Death and dying  
practices from an  
Islamic viewpoint**

Maqsood Chaudhary



**Sarah and Debby's column are taking a very well deserved vacation this month**



## **HIV Travel Ban to Be Lifted– June 26,2009** **By Kerry Eleveld**

The first step to ending the HIV travel ban in the United States has been taken by the Obama administration. The Office of Management and Budget [posted a notice on its site](#) Friday afternoon indicating that the department of Health and Human Services could move forward with steps to change a regulation that has restricted HIV-positive people from gaining entrance into the United States.

The proposed change will likely have an impact on both travel and immigration to the United States. Under current regulations, non-U.S. citizens who are HIV-positive cannot travel to the United States unless they are granted a waiver by the Department of Homeland Security. Immigrants have also been required to be tested for HIV. The actual regulatory change, however, will not be available until next week, and advocates are waiting to analyze the exact language.

"We won't know all of the details until the HHS regulation is posted," said Steve Ralls, communications director for Immigration Equality. "Congress's intent was clear that this should be a clean lift of the ban -- our hope is that will be reflected in the HHS regulation."

Congress passed the policy change last summer and President George W. Bush signed it into law, but the Bush administration was unable to implement the shift before leaving office. The actual change, however, will likely not go into effect until sometime later this year.

Once HHS publishes the new regulation in the federal register next week, a 45-day window will be opened for public comment, after which HHS may make adjustments to the proposal and send it back to OMB for budgetary approval. After OMB green-lights the final regulation, HHS will once again enter the change into the federal registry for another 30- or 60-day review period, at which point it will automatically go into effect. In theory, Congress could act to block the change during that time, but that seems highly unlikely in this case. All of which pushes the change into mid fall at the earliest. "We're hoping it will take effect by the end of the year!" said Ralls. So turn the wheels of government.

[http://www.advocate.com/news\\_detail\\_ektid93814.asp](http://www.advocate.com/news_detail_ektid93814.asp)

### **NEW MEDIA CAMPAIGNED LAUNCHED**

**Greater Than AIDS<sup>SM</sup>** is a national movement to mobilize Black Americans in response to AIDS and promote specific calls-to-action to prevent and reduce the further spread of HIV.

Go to <http://www.greaterthan.org/> to learn more about the campaign and how this can be used in your work with those living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk. The campaign stresses six specific actions: being informed; using condoms; getting tested--and treated, as needed; speaking openly; acting with respect; and getting involved.

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR INFORMATION SAFEGUARDS YOU

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

At home, you can lock your doors. When it comes to your car, you can activate the alarm system. But what can you do to protect your identity? Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Someone illegally using your Social Security number and assuming your identity can be more trouble than a car thief or house burglar. Identity thieves can use your number and your good credit score to apply for more credit in your name. Then, they use the credit cards and do not pay the bills. You may not find out that someone is using your number until you are turned down for credit or you begin to get calls from creditors demanding payment for items you never bought. What better time than National Safety Month to educate yourself in protecting your personal information?

### Here are some quick tips:

- o Keep your Social Security card at home in a safe place, wherever you keep your important paperwork;
- o Safeguard your number as well — don't give it to just anyone; many places you do business with may ask for it as a means of identification even though they can use other identifying information; and
- o Shred before you toss — identity thieves can rummage through your trash or recycling material and find a goldmine of information, so be sure to destroy any identifying information before you throw it out.

While we're talking about safety, here's another great tip: if you receive a benefit from Social Security, get direct deposit. With direct deposit, your payments are electronically sent right to your account and there's no risk of a payment being lost in the mail or stolen from your mailbox. At Social security, signing up is quick, easy, and secure. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit) to learn more. Read our online fact sheet about identity theft at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html). If you believe someone may be using your number or identity, you should contact the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft), or call 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338) (TTY 1-866-653-4261.)

### Question:

I currently receive Social Security disability benefits. I now have a second serious disability. Can my monthly benefit amount be increased?

### Answer:

No, your payment will remain the same regardless of how many disabilities you have or how severe they are. Your Social Security disability benefit is based on the amount of your lifetime earnings before your disability began and the fact that you have a disability, or combination of impairments, that makes you unable to work. Your actual payment amount is not based on the degree, type, or severity of your disability or how many disabling conditions you have. For more information about Social Security disability benefits, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/dibplan).

### Question:

Is there a time limit on how long I can continue receiving Social Security disability benefits?

### Answer:

No. Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. Your case will be reviewed at regular intervals to make sure you still have a disability that makes you unable to work. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, we will automatically convert them to retirement benefits. For all your disability questions, read our online publication, *What You Need To Know When You Get Social Security Disability Benefits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10153.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10153.html).

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**This issue, and issues from Feb 2002 on, can be found  
electronically at [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hiv/  
services/news.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hiv/services/news.shtml)**