

Mouthing Off!

Summer 2010

HDC
HOWARD DENTAL CENTER

NEW FACES - SAME GREAT PLACE!

Coming Up

Mark your calendars for the following events benefitting Howard Dental Center



Colorado Gay Rodeo
Rocky Mountain Regionals
July 9 - 11
Jefferson County
Fairgrounds



AIDS Walk
Saturday
August 14
Cheesman Park



Colorado Kickin' for a Cause
Kickball Tournament
Sunday
August 29
City Park



2011
Bingo Ball
Saturday
February 19
Watch for details!

A year has flown by and lots has changed at Howard Dental Center. While we have not veered from our mission to provide our patients living with HIV and AIDS with the very best in oral health care, we have brought some news faces (and new smiles) to the staff.

Dr. Mirela Giurgiu has stepped up as Acting Dental Director after the retirement of our former director, Dr. Sally Preston. Mirela graduated from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, School of Dentistry in Timisoara, Romania in 1998. After practicing in private practice in Romania for three years, Mirela relocated with her family to the United States in 2001. They moved to Florida where Mirela worked as a dental assistant and a dental hygienist. Colorado was the next stop, so that Mirela could complete her studies to obtain a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). Mirela graduated from the University of Colorado School of Dentistry International Student Program in December 2009.



Dr. Giurgiu's professional goal is to work with underserved populations and is thrilled to have the opportunity to do just that at Howard Dental Center. Mirela, her husband and their two boys love living in Colorado with its beautiful scenery and outdoor opportunities.



Howard Dental Center's second dentist also hails from Romania. **Dr. Flaviu Oltean** practiced dentistry for three years in his home country. During that time, he was a resident in the GPR program in the Romanian military and had his own practice. After relocating to the United States, Flaviu worked for the University of Iowa in research and as a dental assistant. With that experience, Flaviu decided to return to school for his

Continued on page 7

Bingo Ball - the most fun you can have...



*Sponsor, Rick Peebles of Peebles
Prosthetics and his wife, Christine*



*New ticket prices brought the
"youngsters": Nina Beitz, Clay
Cousins & Rebecca Perry*



And, of course, Nuclia Waste

See story on back page

Focus on Board Members

Board of Directors

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Staff Dentist

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Dental Hygienist

Mercy Diaz, EDDA

Dental Assistant

Lydia Perez, EDDA

Dental Assistant

Jahida Didymus

Office Manager

Hazel Ann Harris, MAT

Medical Case Manager

Mary Salsich

Development Director

Gerald Borden & Kari Hartel

We are honored to welcome **Gerald Borden** and **Kari Hartel** to the HDC Board of Directors as patient representatives. Their first-hand knowledge of the disease and the benefits of consistent, comprehensive oral health care, brings an important perspective to the board.

Not only are Gerald and Kari vital board members, they are two of our patient success stories (although their humility causes them to disagree). Here are stories of how to accept devastating news and move forward without allowing it to destroy your life and your goals.



Without a doubt, **Gerald** is paying it forward today, although his story would suggest otherwise.

Gerald grew up in a poor area of Washington, DC

without many options. While he chose to get involved with drugs, he was naive about the transmission of HIV through needle sharing. His drug use culminated in a court-ordered trip to Denver in 1989 for a three-year drug treatment program.

Here, Gerald met two people who would inspire him to face his drug addiction and AIDS diagnosis. He began to see positive change in his life and his health problems stabilized. He wanted to give back and started volunteering. In 2007, Gerald faced another setback in his attempt to improve his and others' lives in the African American community – he was diagnosed with lymphoma.

Gerald didn't give up. After a year of chemo, he is in remission and continues his chosen work: to help stop the spread of HIV & AIDS in the black community - where it is growing disproportionately. Because of his commitment to the community, Gerald was invited to join the board of HDC and is our spokesperson on the importance of good oral health care and its connection to overall health. He's walking the talk!



While in a long-term relationship, **Kari** got very sick. For three weeks she endured what seemed like the worst flu she had ever had. Doctors ruled out everything except HIV.

Here was a heterosexual female who did not inject drugs, was in a committed relationship, and was not involved in "high-risk" behavior, so the thought to test for HIV never crossed the doctors' minds. However, in March 2005, Kari received the shocking news that she was HIV+.

Many sink into depression after receiving a HIV diagnosis, thinking life is over. **Kari** is not one of those people. Besides working on her college degree, Kari is raising her daughter, Liana (who is not HIV+). She is working at The Children's Hospital as a client advocate and referral specialist for pregnant HIV+ women. In addition to our board, she is a member of the Denver HIV Resources Planning Council.

Kari was referred to Howard Dental Center by a Children's Hospital social worker after her diagnosis. When asked to join the board of directors, she didn't hesitate because she feels HIV is a complex issue and oral health is often overlooked when considering good *overall* health for people who are HIV+, as well as those who are not. Kari hopes to help grow and strengthen Howard Dental Center, as well as bring a level of advocacy to our patients.

A legacy gift insures Howard Dental Center's future.

It is one of the best ways to demonstrate your belief in our mission.

All you need to do is name Howard Dental Center as a recipient of your estate in your will.

You may specify an amount or a percentage.

Spotlight

On New Staff

HAZEL ANN HARRIS, Medical Case Manager

Hazel is known as a longtime community activist. Her life purposes are to love, educate and serve. Hazel speaks to community groups, schools, and universities about human rights issues. Her extensive experience in program administration, case management, community outreach, and advocacy has enabled her to work with thousands of individuals from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

Hazel is passionate about HIV/AIDS work. As a case manager liaison, she facilitated communication and service coordination among Northern Colorado AIDS Project, Boulder County AIDS Project, and Beacon Clinic. She provided intensive and proactive case management in Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek and Gilpin counties.

Hazel received a BS from Knoxville College and a MAT from Smith College. She has held positions as a certified teacher, counselor, laboratory researcher and coordinator, and director of a learning center. Hazel is enthusiastic about working at Howard Dental Center, because it is a socially responsible agency of integrity and treats each patient with dignity.



JAHIDA DIDYMUS, Office Manager

Jahida, a Colorado native, has been an expanded duties dental assistant (EDDA) for 12 years. She graduated from Emily Griffith Opportunity School Dental Assisting Program in 1998, then received her Business Management degree from American Intercontinental University in 2008. Jahida's experience as a chair-side assistant enables her to know what is important in anticipating patient needs as well as managing the office. She looks forward to contributing to the improvement of the oral health of all of our patients, present and future.



From our Patients

“ Howard Dental Center saved my life. There is more to them than just working on teeth.

~Otto

”

“ ...Had the staff not been so warm and welcoming, I would probably never have gone to the dentist in the first place. It was their kindness and unflinching attitude which made me feel so comfortable and welcome...

~Dan

”

“ My new teeth have added to my sense of confidence. I feel better because I look better and it has made a difference in the way people perceive me.

~Don

”

IT'S A WIN - WIN

Your gifts are more important than ever. Heavy reliance on grants leaves Howard Dental Center with little control over funding decisions. However, **individual donations** provide more predictable income that gives us the opportunity to effectively serve an ever-growing need.

The ways you have supported us in the past are all very much appreciated!

However, our fundraising can be more cost-effective and sustainable. We encourage you to make a **recurring gift** – a donation amount paid on a regular basis.



- Credit card fees are paid by GivingFirst*, so 100% of your donation goes to Howard Dental Center;
- You sign up once and we receive your gift as often as you indicate (monthly, etc.);
- You can stop your gift at anytime.

All you have to do is go to our website: www.howardental.org. Select the “donate now” button, indicate the amount and choose “yes” for recurring donation. Thank you in advance.

Please contact Mary Salsich at 303.863.0772 ext. 382 if you have any questions.

The benefits to you are:

- Paying by credit card is very safe;

* *GivingFirst.org* is a program of the Community First Foundation.

Donor Spotlight (continued)

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Mary Jo Urbaitis
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Christopher Walker
Richard Wallace
Chris Williams
Patrick Winfield
Ted & Sybil Winterburn

TOOTH FAIRY MEMBERS (New)

Joan Grcevic, DDS
Edward F. Rosenfeld

TOAST TO TEETH SPONSORS

Hamburger Mary's Bar & Grille
Parallel Seventeen Restaurant
Z Cuisine Bistrot

IN MEMORY of Ernest A. Duff, Sr.

Inez Duff Bishop Charitable Trust

IN MEMORY of Joann Mauro

Mary Salsich

IN MEMORY of Robert VanWechel

Ronald Ray VanWechel Living Trust

TRIBUTE to Michael Strand

Anthony & Heidi Vondra



Gary & Kami Holt had a grand time at Bingo Ball.

EVENTS SPONSORED BY OTHERS

Colorado Gay Rodeo Association
Denver Cycle Sluts, Inc.
Denver Gay Professionals
DIGLIT/IGBO
Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire
Hamburger Mary's Bar & Grill
JR's Bar & Grill
Majestic Hearts Pageant
Mo's
Christopher J. Ott, MD
Regal Entertainment Group
Z Cuisine

FOUNDATION GRANTS

A.V. Hunter Trust
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Bright Mountain Foundation

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City of Thornton
Denver Office of HIV Resources/
Ryan White CARE Act
SAMHSA (Peer Assistance Services)/ SBIRT
University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine

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Elizabeth Connick
Christopher Couzens
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Dennis Dougherty
Justin Dowe
Ernest Duff
John Durham
Jennifer Faris
Anne Fendrich

We are indebted to the generosity of our many donors! We could not offer the level of care we do at Howar

2009 AIDS WALK TEAM

Mark G. Davis
William DeMaio
Ernest Duff
Bonnie Ferrell, DDS
Christopher Hochmuth
Janel Loud-Mahany
Joseph F. Mauro
Christopher J. Ott
Ken Plotz & Carol Peeples
Ellen Reynolds
Mary Salsich
John Serfling
Michael Strand



Our AIDS Walk Team Leader, John Serfling, strutting his stuff.

Hamburger Mary's Bar & Grille
Northern Trust Bank
Peebles Prosthetics
Wells Fargo Bank, NA
Natalie Frei
Christopher J. Ott
Dean Williams
COPIC Insurance Company
Reserve List
Wynkoop Brewery
Colorado Homes & Lifestyles
KMGH Channel 7
Anthem BlueCross
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ASSOCIATIONS/ CORPORATIONS

4-Players of Colorado
Berkeley Risk Services
Colorado Prosthodontic Society
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Denver Cycle Sluts, Inc.
First Data Foundation
Great West Life Annuity Insurance Company
McGraw-Hill Companies
Metro Denver Dental Hygienists' Society
Northern Trust Bank
Pinnacol Assurance
Wells Fargo Bank, NA

IN-KIND GIFTS

211 Photography & Bloom Portraits
3rd Ave Studio
Amlavi
Arvada Center
Ascent Fitness
Avenue Theater
Banzai Sushi
Bonnie Ferrell, DDS
Botanic Gardens
Bovine Metropolis Theater
Breakfast on Broadway
Brio Tuscan Grille
Brown Girl Knits
David Bryant
Canvas & Cocktails
CF Williams Group
Charlie's Denver
Christopher Walker
Cindy Nelson
Colorado History Museum
Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Debbie Gray & Ellen Reynolds
Deborah Currier
Demented Divas
Denver Art Museum
Eagle Bend Chiropractic
Earl's Restaurant & Bar
Earl's Sandwich Parlor
Encore
Equinox Theater Company
Facionation Street Fine Art
Frame de Art II
Gary Benson, DDS
Hamburger Mary's Bar & Grille
Hotel Monaco
Houstons
Janel Loud-Mahany
Joe Mauro
John Serfling
Joshua Marable
JR's Bar & Grill
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Karma Kitaj
Kate Hakala
Keoni Fashions
KMGH Channel 7
Kronke Sports
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Lucky Strike Lanes
Maggiano's
Marlowe's
Martinez Dental Group
Mead Street Station
Michael Hodosh
Mike Meis
Michael Strand
Mondo Vino
Morton's (Tech Center)
Museum of Nature & Science
My Brothers Bar
Natalie Frei
Newman Center at DU
Outlaws Lacrosse
Pismo Fine Art Glass
Racines/Dixons
Rock Resorts
Ronald VanWechel, DDS

Root Down Restaurant
SkyVenture Colorado
Sweet Pea Pockets
The Cheese Company
The Curtis Hotel
The Strater Hotel
The Vineyard
Vino 100
Water Bearer Wellness
Westin Tabor
Zolo, Lola, Jax, West End, Centro & Happy Restaurants

Eileen Kennedy
Pat Litke
Molly Otto
Kathy Pugh
Trish Scanlan
Cristi Stankewicz
From PBSJ, Inc.:
Brenda Ayala
Regina Line
Lara Makinen
Heather Meyer
Karol & Calista Miodonski
Sabrina & Sergio Ruiz
Julie Woodward



Committee members, Karol & Calista Miodonski (l), Lara Makinen, Nicole Ayala, and volunteer, Jackie Hock (standing)

BINGO BALL COMMITTEE

Brenda Ayala
Nicole Ayala
Richard Chan
Clay Cousins
Debbie Gray
Julie Himelstieb
Heather Hutchinson
Janel Loud-Mahany
Lara Makinen
Kelly McClure
Mike Meis
Karol Miodonski
Christiana Nelson
Jennifer Solms

From CU School of Dentistry:

Kerry Fishel
Corey Koch
Tony Mauri
Ashley Spooner
Brian & Kelly Trommter
Eric Wilson
Because they care:
Nicole Ayala
Vandana Duff
Jacki Hock
Mike Turner
Otto Trujillo

BINGO BALL VOLUNTEERS

From Single Metro Denver Volunteers:
Kim Arrandale
Michelle Brown
Marti Johnson

BINGO BALL ATTENDEES

Lea Abeyta
Sharon Adams
Elizabeth Ali Akalin
Christine Allen
Scott Allen
Lacee Artist
Martin Ashcraft
Frank & Valerie Ayala



Board member, Steven Gilman, representing sponsor 1st Bank, is joined by Aimee Johnson

2010 BINGO BALL SPONSORS

1st Bank

Dental Center without the following who contributed between April 15, 2009 - May 1, 2010. Thank you!



Lori Baker and board treasurer, Michael Strand are all smiles.

Lori Baker
 Dan Bandy
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Barbara Heupel (l), David Bryant, HDC board member & Mike Miller

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 Christopher McGinnes
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 Lindsey Minshall
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 Russell Poole
 Patrick Powell

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 William Precourt
 Morris Price
 Angela Quintana
 Yarda Ramesh
 Brian Ray
 Neil Rhoades
 Jason Rodriguez
 Adam Salomon
 Mary Salsich



Paul Bergquist (l), Janelle Bergquist, Jennifer Lund, Misty and Jeff Winkler enjoy Bingo Ball.

Christine Schindler
 Chris Schonenbach
 Ross Schroeder
 Jason Sell
 John Serfling
 Marcus Servoss
 Scott Shields
 Jeremy Simons
 Scot & Leeah Sloan
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 Mandy Squib
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 Dean Williams
 Jennifer Williams
 Daniel & Elizabeth Towne Wilson
 Jeff & Misty Winkler

Glenn Witman
 Brian Wolf
 Mary Ellen Wolf
 Joe Young
 Martin Yussman
 David Zamboni

**COLORADO
 KICKIN' FOR A
 CAUSE
 (Kickball Tournament)**
 Jeff Bangert
 Tom Blankenship
 Rick Bries
 Alicia Brown
 Stephen Brown
 Richard Chan
 Placido Chavez
 Paula Cline
 Steve Doane
 Eric Eddings
 Cindee Flores
 Cristy Garthright
 David Hamor
 Lael Harmon
 Shane Hodges
 Brandy Kile
 Jason Lively



NEW FACES - SAME GREAT PLACE!

continued from front page

American Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree and graduated from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine's International Student Program in 2009.

Flaviu's experience with HIV and AIDS includes volunteering to treat institutionalized HIV positive children and other underserved populations while a dental student in Romania. Flaviu lives with his wife (who is a dental student) and their four-year-old son. His hobbies include traveling, skiing, hiking, fishing and reading.

Patient Success Stories

What a survivor! Dan was diagnosed with AIDS in 1991 and along with his health, began losing his eyesight. Today, with the help of his best friend, Scout, Dan's health has improved immeasurably. The improvement has allowed Dan to be able to volunteer with us.



Although Dan loved his job as a financial analyst for production with US West Dex, he was

unable to continue working after 1994. With a T-cell count hovering around 0, other opportunistic infections began to invade his body. (T-cells are the white blood cells that play a major role in keeping your immune system healthy – the higher the count, the better). His overall health, including his lungs, eyesight and teeth started a downhill slide.

With the loss of sight in his right eye in 1998 and his left in 2001, Dan entered vocational rehabilitation and was taught the skills necessary to prepare his meals and move about with a cane. Because he became so attached to his first dog (a puppy that passed away at age nine), Dan decided to get a guide dog in 2007. He and Scout are now inseparable.

Dan was suffering acute oral pain when he found us in 1995. Because of the dental care he received and the respect with which he was treated, he has become a model patient, taking care of his oral health so that his overall health remains good.

Dawn realized too late she was married to a man who thought she was his property. It took surviving his attempt to murder her and turning to faith to understand she did have value. Only then did she start to turn her life around. And turn it around, she did!

Her downhill slide began when Dawn ran away from home as a teen. Living on the streets diminished what little self-worth she had. Then she married an abusive man, whose attempted murder left Dawn in a coma for six months and an HIV diagnosis.

Dawn began to turn her life around, but tragedy followed her. In 2007, Dawn gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Destiny. The baby was not HIV+, but weighed only 1 lb-6 oz. at birth. Dawn's joy was short-lived. Destiny died of heart failure at six months.

But the multiple tragedies gave Dawn a new faith that she could overcome anything. She realized she had survived for a reason – to get educated and to educate others.

Currently, Dawn makes presentations around the metro area to other HIV+ women. In speaking to women in a similar situation, she tells her audiences that she is a survivor, and that she has HIV, but it does not have her.



Dawn came to Howard Dental Center because top to bottom she was a mess and her teeth were falling out. She admires HDC not only because of the dental services she receives, but because the staff goes over and above to enhance the patients' overall health.

Save the Date

2010

AIDS Walk



2009 Team



Join the Howard Dental Center Team and walk or run in the 2010 Colorado AIDS Walk! And if you can't join the team, please make a donation to this great cause.

On **Saturday, August 14, 2010**, Howard Dental Center will once again be one of the recipients of the money raised at AIDS Walk Colorado.

Howard Dental Center Board Member, **John Serfling**, is leading our team. John holds the distinction of being the all-time #1 individual fundraiser for the AIDS Walk in Colorado!

For more information
or to sign up for the team:

Mary Salsich
303.863.0772 x 382
m.salsich@
howarddental.org



HOWARD DENTAL CENTER

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Denver, CO 80218

Phone: 303.863.0772
Fax: 303.832.7823

Website:
www.howarddental.org

Providing comprehensive
and integrated oral health
care to adults, youth
and children living with
HIV/AIDS

2010 Bingo Ball *continued from front page*

Our namesake, Dr. John Howard would have been pleased with the results of the 4th annual Bingo Ball held on Saturday, February 20th. It was an over the top, fantastic night for people who care. The 2010 event was a smashing fundraising success while hosting divas, energetic patrons, and generous sponsors.

The event is not Bingo Ball without the lively Emcee skills of Mike Nelson, Channel 7's Chief Meteorologist. And, bingo is simply not bingo without Denver's best dressed diva, Nuclia Waste. Both entertained with ribald laughter, irreverent jokes and, certainly not a person left without one good belly laugh.

Mile High Station capably housed the 250+ guests and used the entire second floor as a stage for auction items. Who has ever seen so many donated auction items at a fundraiser? Kudos to the committee (see list on page 4) who rounded up the top notch money making books, art, baskets, vacations, spa days, athletic clubs, jewelry, and wine, lots of wine.

Guests left with a satisfied stomach (thanks to Lifestyles Catering) and a red eco shopping bag (thanks to Peebles Prosthetics) containing toothpaste (what else?) and the latest copy of Colorado Homes and Lifestyles magazine (including a 1-year subscription, generously donated by the magazine).

What is a successful event without outstanding sponsors? We owe a huge thanks to Anthem BlueCross & BlueShield, 1st Bank, KMGH 7News, Colorado Homes & Lifestyles, Reserve List, Hamburger Mary's, Northern Bank & Trust, Peebles Prosthetics and Wells Fargo.



Board Chair, Chris Walker (L), Emcee, Mike Nelson (R) and his wife Cindy

Every year we hear the comment, "This just gets better and better!" Don't miss Bingo Ball 2011 scheduled for February 19th at Mile High Station.

If you are interested in sponsorships or volunteering for the Bingo Ball, contact Mary Salsich at 303.863.0772 or m.salsich@howarddental.org.

Thanks to Blacktie-Colorado for photos & text.