

Brazos Abiertos Newsletter July 2007

Brazos Abiertos Mission Statement

To understand the level of HIV infection in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico and surrounding villages, improve access to healthcare for those already infected, decrease the spread of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and educate the local community about HIV and the people who are infected. **Our Website is :** www.brazosabiertosyucatan.com

Brazos Abiertos Inc.

Brazos Abiertos Inc., (BAI) is a Texas based non-profit 501-c 3 organization (Fundacion BAI, A. C. in Mexico). BAI has no connection, association or affiliation with any other HIV/ AIDS organization in the Yucatan or Mexico.

Brazos Abiertos Upcoming Events

BAI is committed to obtaining total underwriting for all our events so all proceeds can be used for our programs.

Merida Events

“Wine Tasting” October 27, 2007, 7:00 – 10:00 at The Villa@ Merida boutique hotel & restaurant. Tickets are \$200 pesos person. **Underwriters for this year’s event include Undurraga Wines, Covi Stores, Gonzalez Byass Winery of Mexico City, The Villa@ Merida, Cascadas de Merida B & B and Yucatan Today.** Brazos is still seeking corporate and individual underwriters for the event. We are expecting 300 guests and need to raise an additional \$1,800 USD to completely underwrite the evening

Please contact Ellyne Basto, George Fischer, Sam Woodruff, Suzanne Larimer, John Truax, Michell DeVoid, Giovanna Marchant or Melissa Rogers if you want to donate to *The “Luxury Silent Auction”* Funds from this event will be used to pay for the shipping of \$500,000 USD worth of Medical supplies that have been donated to Brazos from Medical Bridges. The Medical supplies will be used at the Brazos Abiertos free HIV clinic in Merida. For more information about Medical Bridges Check their website is www.medicalbridges.org.



Last years event was underwritten by Villa Maria Hotel & Restaurant, (www.villamariamexico.com), by Mexico International Real Estate company (www.mexintl.com/index.html). California Wine Institute, World of Wines Cancun and many local artist.

“Dinner With Friends”

“Dinner With Friends” will be held January 19th, 2008 This event has been extremely successful in raising funds for HIV/AIDS causes in the United States and here in the Yucatan.

Hosts for the event invite any number of guests they wish to, provide dinner for them and collect donations for BAI. Brazos supplies hosts with all necessary information and support to host a dinner. After dinner all the guest go to one designated location for the Champagne & Dessert Finale. Shortly, we plan to have the dessert location finalized. If you are interested in hosting a dinner please contact Suzanne Larimer, George Fischer, Ellyne Basto, Sam Woodruff, John Truax or Michell DeVoid-Molina

Brazos Abiertos Houston, Texas Events

“Brazos Abiertos Cinsentat” September 20, 2007 at the home of Bill & Sally Russ. The cocktail party will feature a slide presentation that will hopefully encourage more financial support for Brazos from individuals, corporations and foundations.

“An Enchanted Garden Party” in Spring of 2008. The Garden party will be the first fundraising event in Houston for Brazos Abiertos.

Our Clinic

June 11, 2007 Brazos Abiertos purchased a building in Merida on Calle 72 x 55 y 53 near Santiago park. Brazos was able to purchase the clinic because an anonymous donor in Houston gave us a grant of \$75,000 USD. We hope to start restoration of the building this summer. The clinic will start TEAMM (Teenage Education on AIDS in Merida, Mexico) in August.,

“Next Step Counseling Program”, “HIV Support Group” and “Promotro Programs” will start in October of 2007. The plan is to have the clinic fully operational in early 2008.

Outreach Programs

Brazos will be starting a HIV support group that will start in October of 2007. MEXFAM will also be help us start the “Promotora Program” in October. The “Promotora Program”, educates local women in villages who in turn educate other women and their children about HIV and STD’s. Brazos is looking for bi-lingual women to help with the training for the women who will be in our “Promotora Program’.

Educational Programs

A group of US college students will be working with Brazos August 11 - 14. Holly Del Junco, (A junior at Emory. University) and Winston Nguyen (A Sophomore at Columbia University) have organized a group of college students and teachers who will be going to small villages and working with young people. The group is called TEAMM (Teenage Education on AIDS in Merida, Mexico). The workshop will be on “human sexually and the culture pressures young people feel in today society, with a focus on HIV and STD prevention. Their will be two week long season happening in villages surrounding Merida. John & Irene Hetling will be letting us use their home to house the group. Holly Del Junco and Winston Nguyen were students of John Truax at Episcopal High School Houston.

Members of the Brazos board of directors recently met with social workers who work exclusively with HIV. When the social workers were asked what the greatest need for persons living with HIV was, they said, “food, employment, medication and emotional support”. We were taken a back that Food and Employment were the top on their list. Because of our meetings, Brazos will be seeking out local Merida individuals and agencies to open a food pantry for persons and families affected with HIV. Our plan is to locate the pantry at the Clinic.

Medical Bridges

Brazos Abiertos will be receiving a grant of over \$500,000 USD worth of Medical supplies. Medical Bridges is a non-profit organization who collects medical supplies from hospitals and doctors in the US and ship the much needed supplies world wide. The medical supplies will be used to stock the clinic and all extra supplies will be given to local shelters. [\(there’s more than one?\)](#)

We would like to thank the Underwriters for “An Evening of Cabaret Music”

Fritz Menzel, Werner Gross, LaB..... de Manzanero Restaurant, Alerfin Chiropractic
Cascadas de Merida Bed & Breakfast , Bob & Sally Wintheiser, La Martina Bar Service
Will & Suzanne Larimer, George Fischer Arroyo & Sam Woodruff, Jose Solis Pacheco & John Truax,
Lisa Page, Singer, Patrick Hutchison, Musician and Dik Holland, Musician

Half of the funds raised at “Evening of Cabaret Music” will be used forTEAMM (Teenage Education on AIDS in Merida Mexico) The outreach will take place August 1-14 in the villages surrounding Merida

“Brazos Abiertos Inc., Board of Directors

Dr. Gordon Crofoot, Houston, Texas

Board President

John Truax , Merida, Yucatan

Vice President & Director of Development

Jose A. Solis, Jr., Houston, Texas

Board Secretary

Sally Russ, Houston, Texas

Education

Jane Kavanah Houston, Texas

Medical Coordinator

Sherie Reincharle , Houston, Texas

Finance

Events Committee

Ellyne Basto, George Fischer, Nita Lindley, Suzanne Larimer
Michell De Void Molina , Sally Russ, John Truax and Sam Woodruff

Educational Outreach Committee

Dr, Gordon Crofoot, Jane Kavangh, Holly Del Junco
Nita Lindley, Winston Nguyen, Sally Russ and Barbara Walker

Long Range Planning Committee

Steve Lock, Sherie Reincharle and Jose Solis

Development

John Truax will be spending one week a month in Houston meeting with corporations and foundations to raise much needed funds for Brazos Abiertos Inc. If anyone has any contacts or would be interested in helping to underwrite the clinic, please contact John Truax. The goal of Brazos Abiertos is to raise all the

funds for the operation and maintenance of a clinic through donors in the Yucatan, US and abroad. Brazos Abiertos is also very lucky that Dr. Gordon Crofoot volunteers his time to us. Dr Crofoot also personally pays for all of his travel to and from Houston.