

# MCAVHN

Providing service and comfort to people affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

MENDOCINO COUNTY AIDS / VIRAL HEPATITIS NETWORK

SPRING 2014

## MCAVHN's Beautiful Heart Transformed My Life-Tim's Story



*Tim Dobler, featured speaker at the Event of the Heart*

Tim Dobler's first encounter with MCAVHN was through the syringe exchange program when he was a homeless IV drug user. Then after a period of incarceration he made a conscious choice to get help and became a MCAVHN client in the ROSOC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) program. Tim also credits Drug Court for helping turn his life around. He now has a beautiful apartment with his fiancée (also a MCAVHN client), is celebrating his first birthday (first year clean and sober), has a part time job with Sonoma Sweepers and volunteers his time helping others at Hospice and Plowshares as well as at MCAVHN.

Tim was our featured speaker at the Event of the Heart. He offered his deepest gratitude to the staff of MCAVHN, emphasizing the "beautiful heart" of those who have helped him and literally saved his life. In Tim's words:

To Dr. Libby Guthrie I would like to say that your incredible insight and empathy have changed my life. My first unofficial diagnosis came through you. After a referral to mental health from MCAVHN I was officially diagnosed with severe manic-bipolar disorder. Today I am on medication, stable, meeting regularly with a psychiatrist and a therapist. A thirty year cycle of drug addiction, homelessness, pain and confusion has been broken. The course of my life has forever been changed. Words fail to express the gratitude that I have toward the loss of absolute hopelessness. You have a beautiful heart.

To Ms. Joann Brewer: From the first day I was drawn to you like family. You have a very grounded and wise-for-your-years approach. My frustrations have always been calmed by your smile, a smile like a Cheshire cat, because you always have a

solution along with the smile. You helped me navigate my way through this new life as my case manager. At first you had to help me keep each appointment because I could not remember them. This winding road has been marked by your help. From the Buddy Eller Center through the housing maze, my disability nightmare and everything from food to finances: You were there. You were the one. Thank you Jo Jo for all that you are and all that you do. Your warmth and enthusiasm are priceless. You have a beautiful heart.

To Mr. John Weber, a man of character and integrity: Your people skills, dedication and knowledge cannot be replaced. You probably know best how MCAVHN has helped me. I remember when you used to serve me in the syringe exchange. You have seen me from then till now. I am but one of many (that you have helped). You do your work from the kindness of your heart and that, sir, is a beautiful heart. Thank you for being you.

There are also many administrators, directors and volunteers who follow suit to these amazing people.

Tonight I was asked to articulate just **HOW** MCAVHN has helped me. I could say that MCAVHN helped me transform my life with housing, food support, information, case management, friendship and a safe place to be. While all of this is the absolute truth, I feel there is even more. **HOW** the staff at MCAVHN helped me was with dignity, trust, being unconditional. **HOW** they helped me was with respect, not judging me, with tolerance and patience. **HOW** they helped me was with love and kindness. **HOW** they helped me was with a beautiful heart.



*John Weber and Joann Brewer at the Event of the Heart*



**Event of the Heart Auction Donors and Volunteers Help Keep Our Doors Open**

Alan Swanson	Encore Consignments	Kate Nachtwey	Potter Valley Soap Works
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Andy Stein	Friedman's	Luscious Arts	Russian Creek Farms
Banners and Signs	Goldeneye Vineyards	MacCallum House	SIP
Barkery	Haiku Jewelry	McFadden	Slam Dunk Pizza
Best in Show	Halo Salon	Mendo Bistro	Steve & Claudia Prochter
Breggo Cellars	Handley Cellars	Mendocino Animal Hospital	Steve Cook & Fernando Velazquez
Brenda Bud Distributor	Happy Herb Shop	Mendocino Bounty	Sword and Board
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Cassie Gibson	Harrah's Northern Nevada	Mendocino Railways Skunk Train	The Good's Stamp Shoppe
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Doug Kell	John Weber	Patricia Haley	Windswept Ranch
Dragon's Lair	Johnson's Quality Tree Care	Patrick & Linda Nagel	
Emmanuel Mallo	Judy Popowski	Patrona	



*Volunteer auction crew pauses after setting up*



*Dinner Music by Machiko and Paul, then dancing to Double Standyrd*

Volunteers

Deborah Mcleary-Gary, Caron Theiss, Sherny Coleman, Divora Stern, Jan Stephens, John Reilly, Will Walker, Brenda Ruis, Adolfo Mora, Annie Parks, Belinda Capozzi, Nick Sigmund, Stian Schwindt, Andrew Giminaiani, Tony Cellini, Robin Wilson, Jeanne Koelle, Christine Thrillkill, Tracy Schleuder, Judy Morgan, Steve Cook, Yoli Rose, Lillian Cohn, Thomas Evans, Liz Popowski, Wayne Walker, James Walker, Thomas Pilatie, Trenton Kar, Steve Prochter, Linda and David Koppel, Susan Era and Frank McGarvey, Jane Eller, Robin Sagen, Gabe Prochter and Amy Wolitzer, Mike Kobel and Mike Newark, Josh and Joann Koppel, Matt and Victoria Harris, Casey and Miriam McNamara, Anny Prochter, Betsy Abele



**MCAVHN SERVICES**

- Psycho-social Case Management
- Client Advocacy
- Food Vouchers
- Transportation Assistance
- Client Social Events
- Client Informational Events
- Drop-in Center
- Consumer Education
- Support Groups
- HCV and HIV Treatment Support
- Syringe Exchange Program
- Overdose Prevention
- Educational Presentations
- Community Outreach
- ROSOC Case Management\*
- Training for Interns
- Work Experience Hours
- Community Service Hours

\*ROSOC - Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, helping individuals reduce harmful practices and meet their life goals.

*Homelessness overlays everything. One third of our clients are homeless. That is why we have a housing component in all of our programs.*

**BEHIND THE SCENES  
AND ON STAGE  
EVENT OF THE HEART**



**Event Chair** Judy Popowski  
**Auction Chair** Claudia Prochter  
**Floral Design** Wil Gonzalez & Crew  
**MC** Terri Boudreaux  
**Auctioneer** Tom Allman



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Client Services Coordinator
- Joann Brewer  
Client Services Advocate
- Tony Celinni  
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**THE HUMAN RACE, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014**

[mendohumanrace.com](http://mendohumanrace.com)



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*Pictured below with Rosalie: Auston Hale (decor asst), Joe O'Brien and Dale Sirois*



Rosalie Anchordoguy  
Dennis Hall & Don Edwards, Norm & Susan  
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Linda & David Koppel  
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*MCAVHN's Mission: To provide services & comfort to persons & families affected by HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C & the co-occurring disorders of mental illness & substance abuse.*