



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

MENDOCINO COUNTY AIDS / VIRAL HEPATITIS NETWORK

SPRING 2017

"They worked with me right where I was in every moment." **Chris Hall Shares His Journey**

The conference center fell silent as Chris Hall recounted what MCAVHN has meant for him.

"MCAVHN opened their doors to me when I was straight out of an 8 year-long domestic relationship that was extremely abusive. I was strung out on methamphetamine. I had track marks up and down my arms and they didn't matter. I was able to walk in there and say 'I have HIV, I'm a junkie and I still need help. Can you help me?' and they told me 'yes'."

MCAVHN was a safe place for Chris because he could walk in and not be judged. "I was accepted as I was and loved by everybody that worked there and volunteered there. I was welcome." When he told the case managers that he wanted to get clean and was desperate for something different, their response was simply, "What can we do to help you get there?"

Contrast that with agencies telling their clients "You gotta do this and you gotta do this and you gotta do this and you gotta do this." The difference with MCAVHN is "They met me where I was at. They didn't try to get me anywhere before I was ready. They worked with me right where I was in every moment."

After about a year of being a client, Chris was able to get a little bit of clean time together and started volunteering for the MCAVHN monthly client socials "cuz I can cook". He'd help with the annual yard sale and little things here and there.

Chris enrolled in the Human Services Program at Mendocino College and did really well...for the first semester. MCAVHN Case Manager Wendy Lee was a classmate, and "she can tell you that every day I'd sit there in class and say 'MCAVHN's my dream job. That's all I want to do'".

He made it through about the first month of his second semester in the certificate program and then had his worst relapse ever. It took a while for Chris to find his way back to MCAVHN. "I was no longer an intern. I wasn't a volunteer anymore. I wasn't a student anymore. I was a mess.... I asked for help and they gave it. I kinda fought it in the beginning, went to rehab for 24 hours and came back. The second I came back I was at MCAVHN every day."

Chris was given the opportunity to train and work with Wendy Lee in the HIV and Hep C testing and outreach program. He explains, "This is where my heart lies, be-

cause I was diagnosed with HIV young. I didn't like the way that happened. I didn't like the communication process." Chris later elaborated by explaining that he was given his diagnosis with "no heart, no compassion, just basic delivery of life changing information." Again, this is in striking contrast with how things are done at MCAVHN.

The audience reacted with a round of applause when Chris announced, "I'm proud to say that February 4th of this year I celebrated two years clean from meth and heroin" and without MCAVHN "I wouldn't be here...I wouldn't". He then stunned the audience by announcing that the past week had been his last week volunteering at MCAVHN. Since that time, however, Chris has decided that he just can't live without MCAVHN and has gone right back.



Chris Hall, MCAVHN client, volunteer and intern

Chris concluded by telling all those assembled at the Event of the Heart "I love each and every one of you. Thank you for helping me grow and become the person I'm proud of being today".

MORE INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES THAT HELPED MAKE THIS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT EVER!

Alan Swanson	Dora's Gourmet Cafe	Joe Rogers & Cyril Colonius	North Coast Brewing Company
Allyne Browne	Dr. Lawrence Goldyn	Jonathan Middlebrook	Patrona
Amy Wolitzer	St. Stephen Pasternak	Just Give	Patrick & Linda Nagel
Anderson Valley Brewing Company	Dragon's Lair	Karen Lee	Peter & Laurel Mayland
Andrea Summer	Dripworks	Ken and Brenda Hoek	Price Waterman
Andrew Stein	Duckhorn Wineries	Kerry Talbot	Redwood Health Club
Ann McAfee	Ed Keller	Leslie McLean	Rivino Winery
Anthony D. Morris	Edward Fox	Little River Inn	Robert Menchini
Best in Show	El Azteca	Boys and Girls Club	Rose's Nails
Bona Market Place	Elaine Boults	Liz Popowski	Sanhedrin Nursery
Bottle Shop	Elisabeth Van Vranken	Margaret Koster	Saucy
Carol Gottfried	Enoteca Wine Bar	Marian Lohne	Shari McAsey
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Carol Rosenberg	Esther Faber	Mary Talbot	Simon Evers Grey
Carrie Brigham	Factory Pipe	Mason & Morrison, Attorneys at Law	Skin Day Spa
Catherine Woskow	First Nails	Matt Harris	Skunk Train
Char Jacobs & Randy Wood	Friedman's	Mendocino Animal Hospital	Stephan Ouellette
Chop Chop	George & Estela Rau	Mendocino Barkery	Steve Scalmanini & Annie Esposito
Club Calpella	Haiku Designs	Mendocino Book Company	Susan Hofberg
Community Acupuncture	Handley Cellars	Mendocino Bounty	Susan Snyder
Craft Distillers	Happy Woman Jewelry	Mendocino County Circle of Women	Sword and Board
Crush	Harry Adams	Message by Chao	Taqueria Michoacan
Curry's Furniture	Howie Hawkes & Mary Ann Landis	Michael Rimar	Tessie Sullivan
Dan Baxter	Husch Vineyards	Mike Kobel	The Stylist
David & Linda Koppel	James Kramer	Moir's Pool and Spa	Ukiah Nails and Spa
Denis Mosgofian	Jim and Patti Williams	Naughty Boy Winery	Ukiah Players Theater
Dennis Hall & Don Edwards	Jim Crelan	Navarro Vineyards	Ukiah Valley Association for Habilitation
Diana Vander Byl	Jim Mastin	Norm and Susan McLean	Ukiah Valley Rentals
Don & Lynda Coursey	Joanne Koppel		

OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS

Liz Popowski, Ruby Castellanos, Karen Lee, Debora McLearn, Yoli Rose, Mark Walker, Kim Walker, Gudrun Allenstein, Vicki Bitonti-Brown, Liz Elmore, Steve Prochter, Linda Koppel, David Koppel, Charlotte Tonge, Ross Walker, Rosalie Anchordoguy, Henry Shebbitz, Robin Sagen, Emily Rose Smith, John Pinon, Jane Eller, Gabe Prochter, Amy Wolitzer, Josh Koppel, Joanne Koppel, Casey McNamara, Miriam McNamara, Matt Harris, Victoria Harris, Mike Kobel, Mike Newark, Jack Hamilton, Linda Hamilton, Robert Rosenbaum, Divora Stern, Donna Cornett, Molly Moreno, Tyron Lamar, Paul Murguia III, Don Serna, Rick Knight, Laura Dougherty, Wendy Lee, Brandon Wiard, April (The Pearl Queen), Rosalie & Friend, Claudis & the wall decor team, Auston Hale, Aiden Hale, Jesse Hale, Angelynn Hale, and the Gentleman that did decor in the dining room



MCAVHN SERVICES

Psycho-Social Case Management

Client Advocacy

Food Vouchers

Behavioral Health Court

Transportation Assistance

Client Social Events

Client Informational Events

Drop-in Center

Consumer Education

Support Groups

Hep C 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.



Wil Gonzalez enjoys the Event after transforming our space with his floral wizardry

The People Who Made It Happen

Event Chair Judy Popowski
Auction & Wall Decor Claudia Prochter
Floral Design Wil Gonzalez & Crew
MC Terri Boudreaux
Speaker Chris Hall
Auctioneer Sheriff Tom Allman
Bar April Cipriano-Haines
Display Maker Don Popowski
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A Note About the Uncertainty of Federal Funding

MCAVHN has long relied on federal funding from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

The level of funding has fluctuated yearly since initial passage of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act in 1990.

Generous funds in 2016 allowed MCAVHN to provide housing and on-site services for up to 4 HIV clients at a time at the Ukiah home pictured on the right.

The uncertainty of future funding puts programs like this at risk, and makes local support essential to our sustainability.



Recovery
is about PROGRESSION
not PERFECTION



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Redwood Health Club
Potter Valley Soapworks**



*Many thanks to Majide!
Machiko and Paul
for yet again generously donating
their musical talents and elegant touch*

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.