

UPDATE on STITCHES and ClotNot Club doll projects: June 2007

Following is a brief synopsis of what has been going on over the last few months here at STITCHES HQ.

GRANT SUBMISSIONS:

Since January we have written grants or proposals to the following companies:

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| Critical Care Systems | Gilead | National AIDS Fund |
| CSL Behring | NuFactor | Steppin Out (AIDS Walk) |
| Easter Seals | Gannett Fdn | MEEMIC |

Critical Care funded us to attend the Hemophilia Federation of America meeting in NM in March. Steppin Out gave us a grant for program materials that runs until next January. There are a few of these grants still pending but we were notified that we got some funding from CSL Behring. The details of the contract are yet to be received but we are on our way! Those monies are for ClotNot programs over the next year.

There are also some grants/proposals that we are currently working on:

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| Rotary International | Blue Cross/Blue Shield | Skillman Fdn | Matrix Health |
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These are for specific projects, both local and international. As we have more information on these, we will let you know how they are going.

PAST EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS:

In April STITCHES was invited to be part of the Project Healthy Living Metro Detroit series. Over two weeks time we hosted numerous displays at local community centers and malls. Thanks to all the help from our dedicated volunteers; Pam Foote, Julia LaPonse, Melissa LaPonse, Gloria Irla-Marlow, and Barb Wood, who made it possible. I could not have done it by myself. We not only created awareness about HIV infection in the general population but made some great contacts for future networking possibilities.

The PWA Retreat was also in April this year. Kathy and Edee Eubank hosted a dollmaking session for women living with HIV infection. It was extremely well received with many participants asking us to offer it again next year. There were 12 completed dolls from this event that will be up on the website soon!

April was a very busy time for the ClotNot Club as well. The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan's Springfest meeting allowed us to increase our awareness in the bleeding disorders community. The two day meeting had Bill Darbison and Kathy Gerus promoting the dollmaking session on Saturday and hosting over 30 women on Sunday morning. Out of this workshop we have another 15 completed dolls to add to the new ClotNot Club Collection. We are growing fast!!

FUNDRAISING:

We have been hard at work on some products that we can use as fundraisers. Gloria Irla-Marlow, our resident artiste, has designed the idea for beaded doll pins. We are calling them "*Spirit of Charity*" pins and lots of our volunteers are enjoying making them!

Another new group of items are made from beads made from river clay in Honduras. My contact with the fledgling orphanage *WALKING WITH CHILDREN*, brought us 261 beads of all sizes, shapes, and colors. These beads are handmade by local women in Teg and represent a means for them to be self sufficient. We will make jewelry out of these beads, sell them on our website and at special events, and split the money with the orphanage. Another win-win situation!

We are always thinking of new ideas for products in all price ranges. If you have any suggestions please call or send them to Kathy. We are organizing some workshops over the summer to create these items so that we have ample supply for the September AIDS walk and other upcoming events.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

In August we are scheduled to go to PA for a hemophilia camp. We will be doing a 3 hour ClotNot Club doll making session with young girls with bleeding disorders. This will be our first camp experience. I hope my old back is up to sleeping on cots!

In September there are two women's retreats in Michigan scheduled for ClotNot Club as well. The momentum for this new bleeding disorder project is incredible.

We are also doing a doll making session at the National Hemophilia Foundation's annual meeting in Orlando in November.

Our partner agency, Michigan AIDS Fund, has been very helpful to STITCHES. They have offered us administrative help as well as assistance with grant writing. Now we are working with them to plan a special fundraiser in November. All we know right now is that it will involve CHOCOLATE and that STITCHES will be the spotlighted organization at the event. We will have a nice exhibit of our dolls there to introduce more people to our project. Also STITCHES will be allowed to sell some of our fundraising items, lapel pins, *Spirit of Charity* pins, Honduran bead necklaces, and some limited edition STITCHES dolls. We hope this will be a huge success and grow into an annual signature event for MAF. They deserve our gratitude and any help we can give them. So mark your calendars for November 28th! This event will be the kickoff for WORLD AIDS DAY this year! Thank you Michigan AIDS Fund!!

IN THE NEWS:

It is with gratitude that I announce The ClotNot Club will be featured in two magazines for the bleeding disorders community. In July, *HEMAWARE*, a publication of the National Hemophilia Foundation, will profile this new program. This will be great promotion to let more people know about the project but also the fact that we will be hosting a session at the NHF Annual Meeting in Orlando. Also Matrix Health, a specialty homecare company, will be doing an article on The ClotNot Club in their newsletter. This will come out sometime in the Fall. We have been busy!!