

Shepherd Wellness
Community
presents

RED RIBBON
BENEFIT:



A COMMUNITY CABARET

Thursday, October Eighth
Two Thousand and Twenty Six
Beit Kulanu
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



WELCOME

W

elcome to our Shepherd Wellness Community Red Ribbon Benefit: *A Community Cabaret!* This is our third annual fundraiser since the pandemic, and we're pleased and grateful to have your support and participation.

Shepherd Wellness Community (SWC) is the only HIV/AIDS community center in Western Pennsylvania. For 39 years, our wellness dinners have been at the heart of our care for our members, helping them improve their wellness. This Benefit provides much-needed funding for our wellness dinners and other programs for our HIV+ members.

Tonight's *Community Cabaret* was originally inspired by the musical of the same name, and so we have a bit of the 30's, a touch of comedy, and variety! What ties it all together is COMMUNITY, with local talent on display. Our red AIDS ribbon logo includes a heart: SWC is the community with a heart, and YOU help keep that heart healthy and strong. With your support we will continue to fulfill our mission to help hundreds of people living with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness through nutritious meals, support groups, health education programs, peer counseling, holistic therapy, transportation assistance, and quality-of-life outings.

This Red Ribbon Benefit is all about being a caring community in action. We are grateful for everyone who has made this benefit and the ongoing work of Shepherd Wellness Community possible. To our board members, staff, volunteers, sponsors and contributors, performers, hosts, and our members living with HIV, thank you! Teamwork makes the dreamwork.

We hope you enjoy the food and fellowship, our talented performers, and the opportunity to honor two special people for their work and dedication for the HIV+ community.

Thanks for being here!

Richard Krug
Executive Director

PROGRAM

To ensure a memorable evening, please remember to silence cell phones and other electronic devices during the show.

Non-flash photography is permitted.

Welcome!

ACT 1- Willkommen
from 'Cabaret'

Dixie Surewood & Vaughn Hudspath
Richard Teaster, piano

ACT 2- Life is a Cabaret
from 'Cabaret'

Dixie Surewood

Featuring: AYMEDICI Fashions / OUTrageous Bingo Crossover

2026 Awards for Distinguished Service

Bill Friedlander
Dr. Deborah McMahon

Courtney Moran- *SWC Board President*
Richard W. Krug- *SWC Executive Director*

ACT 3- Holiday
from 'The MetaMarthisis'

Jesse Factor

FINALE- Life is a Cabaret Reprise
from 'Cabaret'

Dixie Surewood
& Vaughn Hudspath
Richard Teaster, piano

Acknowledgments

Dessert & Coffee Reception *in Aaron Court*

Silent Auction winners will be notified after the performance. Items will be available for pickup during the dessert reception.

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CONTRIBUTERS

Paul E. Block
David Brzozowski
Bridget Calhoun
Rev. J. Howard Cherry &
Rev. David Eichelberger
Judie Compher
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Lois Fisher
Kirk Johnson
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Ed Kimble
Marvin McGowan
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Happenstance Cafe
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OATMEAL
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
Pittsburgh Festival Opera
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Pittsburgh Steelers
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
Richard Krug
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SWC Board

SPECIAL THANKS

DJ B-Czar
Kristy Olivia Photography
Lo Bar Cocktail Services
Jaelyn Melko
Noel Nicoletta
Wallflower Event Design

VOLUNTEERS

Jen Bouslog
David Brzozowski
Nathan Bussard
Bob Fierst
Jim Edmonds-Harpster
Marilyn Glover
Ed Kimble
Rebekah Langer
Alexandra Lynn
Anastasia Magnitsky
Cheryl Metzler
Crystal McKee
Joe Pomella
Jill Ratliff
Janet Schock
Donald Schock
Samuel Schock
Ferrell Shaw
Pamela Smith
Julianna Tumbas
Stefanie Tumbas
Linda T. Wilson
Sarah Young
Adam Zadnik

SWC Retrospective



In the summer of 1987, four young men living with AIDS, a social worker, and a physician met with Episcopal Priest Father Lynn Edwards to discuss the effects of AIDS and HIV infection in the Pittsburgh area. From that meeting grew the Shepherd Wellness Community, a gathering place and resource center for people with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. The first dinner was held in October 1987.

The Bloomfield Community United Methodist Church and parsonage were donated to SWC for one dollar. Ongoing renovations, to this day, have made our AIDS community center truly welcoming and accessible.



Since 2013, our mission has been *helping people living with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness*. Despite advances in HIV treatment, the need for a supportive community to assist people living with HIV is still great, and we continue to adapt our services to the changing needs of our community.

During COVID-19, SWC suspended all programs for the safety of our members, staff, and volunteers. By summer we provided freshly cooked, quick-frozen Wellness Meals by contactless pickup, virtual support groups, and socially distanced programs. Outreach calls continued to provide a lifeline of support.



Today, the Board, Staff, Volunteers and Members of SWC pledge to continue our wellness services until HIV/AIDS ceases to exist.



SWC Board & Staff

SWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Brzozowski	Dr. Jennifer Keller
Diana Byas	Ed Kimble- Treasurer
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Jamie Fullerton	Courtney Moran- President
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Dr. Ken Ho	Rev. Linda T. Wilson- Secretary
Christine Zubrow- Vice President	

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Cyndee Klemanski, Co-Founder	Marc Wagner

SWC SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Father Chuck Esposito

SWC STAFF

Daequan Andino - Coordinator of Programs and Volunteers
Brian Clark - Wellness Dinner Support
Erika Gidley - Coordinator of Finance and Development
Pam Grove - Coordinator of Administration
Jeremiah Henschel - Wellness Dinner Support
Doreen Johnson - Peer Counselor
Richard Krug - Executive Director
Slade Mankins - Chef/Wellness Dinners Coordinator
David Williamson - Custodian
Jolynn Young - Office and Program Assistant/
Coordinator of Communications and Bingo

AWARD FOR *Distinguished Service*



BILL FRIEDLANDER

Presented with gratitude for your many years of distinguished service to the
Shepherd Wellness Community.

We celebrate your service on the SWC Board of Directors and your partnership
in development work and donor engagement.

You have set an example with your generosity of support over the years, from
in-kind gifts, to volunteering, to Wellness Dinner sponsorships and financial support.

We are grateful for your service and contributions to our mission helping people living
with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness.

PRESENTED OCTOBER 8, 2026
Shepherd Wellness Community Red Ribbon Benefit



**Shepherd Wellness
Community**

*Helping people living with
HIV/AIDS improve their wellness*

AWARD FOR *Distinguished Service*



DR. DEBORAH MCMAHON

Presented with gratitude for your distinguished service to the HIV/AIDS community. We celebrate your many years of service and patient care at UPMC: in the PACT Clinic, modeling a vision of teamwork, compassion, and medical excellence as HIV Program Director, as the HRSA Ryan White Program Project Director, and as personal physician for countless patients living with HIV.

As a researcher, advocate, and educator, you established and served on the University of Pittsburgh HIV Clinical Trials Unit, contributed to the work of AIDS Free Pittsburgh, volunteered on the Special Pharmaceuticals Benefits Program (SPBP) Advisory Council, and taught Health Education programs at Shepherd Wellness Community.

We are grateful for your humble service and compassionate medical care for people with HIV in our Pittsburgh region and beyond.

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*Helping people living with
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Hosts & Performers (in order of appearance)



Dixie Surewood (National Comedy Queen 2018) is a Pittsburgh-based drag queen, theater artist, and showstopper known for blending classic camp with powerhouse performances. Nicknamed "Pittsburgh's Funny Girl", she is a versatile queen who performs in showcases, drag brunches, and late-night revues. Whether it's glamour, comedy, or heartfelt theatricality, Dixie is committed to creating performances that celebrate queerness, community, and the joy of live entertainment.



Known as Mr. Entertainment, Vaughn Hudspath (Vonman) has performed professionally on five continents. YouTube has named him the world's oldest teenager. Personal Trainer to the stars, he founded Boot Camp Bodies in 2000 and holds the record for one-arm push-ups. Motivational speaker, singer, dancer, he continues to entertain and inspire people of all ages around the world. His new show BANG BANG will premiere in downtown Pittsburgh at the Greer Cabaret Theater on New Year's Eve. He is represented professionally by Sound Advice, Inc.



Richard Teaster, Music Director, now in his 26th season with the Pitt Men's Glee Club, holds degrees in voice performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. He completed further professional studies at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the Pittsburgh Opera Center. In addition to directing the Pitt Men's Glee Club, Mr. Teaster is a voice faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Music.



Born in Brooklyn and raised in Harlem, Daequan Andino is a multidisciplinary fashion artist, creative director, educator, and founder of AYMEDICI, an experimental fashion and wearable art brand. For over a decade, he taught fashion design to students ages 8–18, fostering creativity through artistic exploration. He is the founder/editor-in-chief of AYME Magazine, a publication celebrating fashion, art, culture, and emerging voices. Now based in Pittsburgh, he continues developing projects that bridge fashion, visual art, education, and community engagement.



Jesse Factor's award-winning work has been presented internationally and has been supported by the National Dance Project, National Performance Network, National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron, New England Foundation for the Arts, Opportunity Fund, and Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. Training: BFA in Drama-NYU/Tisch, MFA in Dance/Choreography - University of Iowa. A former member of the Martha Graham Dance Company, and Graham II, he serves on faculty in the Modern Dance Unit Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MODELS

Kierra Darshell
Jezebel
Hector Santos
Aadam Soorma
Michael Tikili

SERVICES

For 39 years Shepherd Wellness Community has promoted Positive Wellness, helping people with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness through:

- More than 6,200 Wellness meals served each year to improve nutrition and provide social support.
- Support groups to boost mental and physical health and guide members through the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS.
- Wellness education programs to help our members improve their wellness and provide the latest information about HIV/AIDS treatment and medical advances.
- Quality of life respite outings to help alleviate isolation and loneliness.
- Holistic therapies and classes teaching how to improve wellness.
- Peer-counseling providing help, support, referrals and resource information for our members living with HIV/AIDS.
- Spiritual life programs offering insight, encouragement, inspiration, and guidance presented with interfaith respect.



Shepherd Wellness
Community

*Helping people living with
HIV/AIDS improve their wellness*

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Community**
and the Red Ribbon Benefit



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