

FORT LAUDERDALE'S CITY MAGAZINE

# GO RIVERWALK

A PUBLICATION OF RIVERWALK FORT LAUDERDALE • SINCE 2003

VOL.15 NO.1 JANUARY 2018



C E L E B R A T I N G   T H I R T Y   Y E A R S

# GRANTING SOME PREVENTION

THE CAMPBELL FOUNDATION OF FORT LAUDERDALE – ASSISTING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ALL IN THE NAME OF HIV/AIDS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND PREVENTION

WRITER PETE STEVENSON

The Campbell Foundation of Fort Lauderdale has been funding HIV/AIDS research for 22 years. If you follow a timeline of the grants they have provided, you can almost write the medical history of HIV of the past two decades. “We have given away more than 10 million dollars since we started,” explained executive director Ken Rapkin. The range of research grants awarded is as diverse and complex as the disease itself. “Most of our research grants are based at major medical university research centers. We have funded studies in Australia, Israel, France, and England. Wherever there is good science at a non-profit medical institution, we can fund them.”

Equally as necessary are the local and emergency grants. Recently the foundation provided two \$10,000 emergency grants to organizations hit by Hurricane

Harvey in Houston. These HIV organizations that serve those living with HIV/AIDS, were struggling to get back on their feet and these grants provided the financial stability they needed.

Rapkin went on to stress, “The local grants are important too, as Fort Lauderdale is in the epicenter of new HIV infections in Florida.” One of the recent local grants of \$25,000 went to Broward Health’s Comprehensive Care Center. The grant is intended for HIV education and prevention among high-risk individuals.

There are two sides to HIV medical care. Naturally one is treating people with the latest medications and current information. The other side is prevention. How do we stop people from getting infected? “If you want to eliminate this disease, then you have to look at the other side of the equation, and that is, how do we



Traci Allyn-Shur, CEO, Broward Health Foundation; Bill Venuti, Campbell Foundation Trustee; Dr. Farouk Meklat, PharmD, Broward Health Comprehensive Care Center, pharmacist; Claudette Grant, RN, M.Ed, manager, Broward Health Comprehensive Care Center; Ken Rapkin, executive director, The Campbell Foundation

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE CAMPBELL FOUNDATION



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BIGSTOCK

prevent people from getting infected in the first place," said grant recipient Farouk Meklat, PharmD of Broward Health. Meklat continued, "My goal with these grant dollars is to prevent HIV cases. So we talk to the patients on a continuous basis and every time we stress condom use. I ask patients, 'Would you drive a car without brakes, seatbelt or airbags?'"

With the grant money, Dr. Meklat is trying to get as many high-risk individuals into the program covered by the grant, which provides coverage for all the doctor visits, lab work, and preventative medications. The prevention program is known as PrEP, which is Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (or PrEP). People who are at high-risk for HIV are given an HIV medication daily

to lower their chances of getting infected. PrEP can stop HIV from taking hold and spreading throughout the body. It is highly effective for preventing HIV if used as prescribed, but it is much less efficient when not taken consistently.

Communication and counseling are keys to success. It has been shown that a daily PrEP program reduces the risk of getting HIV by 92 percent. PrEP for use in HIV prevention has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) since 2012. Cities like New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and Portland that have embraced this method and efficiently communicated it out to high-risk populations have seen dramatic decreases in new HIV diagnoses. <sup>60</sup>



# RIVERWALK AMBASSADORS

MOTIVATE | ACTIVATE | PARTICIPATE

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY • 11 AM - 5 PM *(Three hour shifts)*

Riverwalk and the City of Fort Lauderdale are looking for energetic, outgoing, and enthusiastic volunteers to serve as Riverwalk Ambassadors.

AS AN AMBASSADOR YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Welcome neighbors and visitors, answer questions, and hand out brochures from a Riverwalk Kiosk.
- Provide information about restaurants, shops, events, and activities in downtown and along the Riverwalk.
- Enhance Riverwalk's identity as a vibrant, engaging, downtown Fort Lauderdale destination.
- Earn community service hours for your school, nonprofit, or philanthropic organization.






For more information:

JOANN SMITH | [club10@aol.com](mailto:club10@aol.com) | 954.298.5607

JORG HRUSCHKA, Chief Service Officer

[JHruschka@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:JHruschka@fortlauderdale.gov) | 954.828.5568





If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call (954) 828-4755 or email [publicaffairs@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fortlauderdale.gov).