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No. 16

September 2015

Same Mission, New Name

In 1984, the founders of the ASN witnessed an urgent need in the community to provide advocacy and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. From that point on, the ASN has grown and adapted to the unique needs of our communities.

In 2001, the SLO Hep C Project was developed, offering support for community members living with Hep C.

In 2014, the ASN became the first Covered California certified enrollment entity in San Luis Obispo, ensuring access to affordable health insurance programs.

This is one of the ASN's most basic principles: we strive to meet the unmet needs of our surrounding communities.

As the ASN continues to grow, we require a new

name that better represents our dedication to access and support for all.

After over three decades of service, the ASN has

and Hep C.

Along with Access Support Network's name change comes its first big challenge: expanding services into Monterey County.



ACCESS SUPPORT NETWORK

San Luis Obispo &
Monterey Counties

developed an excellent model of service for clients, helping the agency thrive while providing vital programs.

The ASN's story, however, is not limited to those directly affected by the organization, but includes everyone who has supported the agency, directly or indirectly, in our mission to assist and empower individuals living with HIV

We at the ASN believe that this expansion will bolster the organization and result in profound growth. And that's exactly what we've seen since we opened in Monterey County on July 1, 2015.

HIV/AIDS and Hep C don't stop at the county line, and the Access Support Network is grateful to have the capacity to continue as the new ASN and provide access and support where needed.

The ASN is HIRING!

**Social Worker
Case Manager**

Must be an MFT/LCSW (supervised interns ok)

**Part Time /
Flexible Schedule**

www.ASN.org
for more info!

FREE HIV Testing!

***The ASN offers
FREE confidential
HIV testing every
week!***

WEDNESDAYS:

1pm to 4:pm

FRIDAYS:

11am to 3pm

#Follow Us!



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ASN SLOMC

Tap It & Tapas II : Bigger, Better, & Beer-ier Than Ever!

Tap It & Tapas II will be here on **Sunday, September 27th** at, you guessed it, the award winning Tap It Brewery in San Luis Obispo!



If you like good food, amazing beer, and incredible live music, you'll love Tap It and Tapas!

And this year is better than ever! **Featuring performances by Bear Market Riot, The Mighty Croon Dogs, and Casey McDonald**, the day will be



filled with quality entertainment, food, festivities, and, of course,

Tap-It's award winning IPA, among their other many appealing choices. Have we mentioned **Giant Jenga** yet? It'll be there too.

Old San Luis BBQ will be there with scrumptious taco and slider tasters ready to tempt you! (You might remember them from our Drive Thru BBQ extravaganzas.)

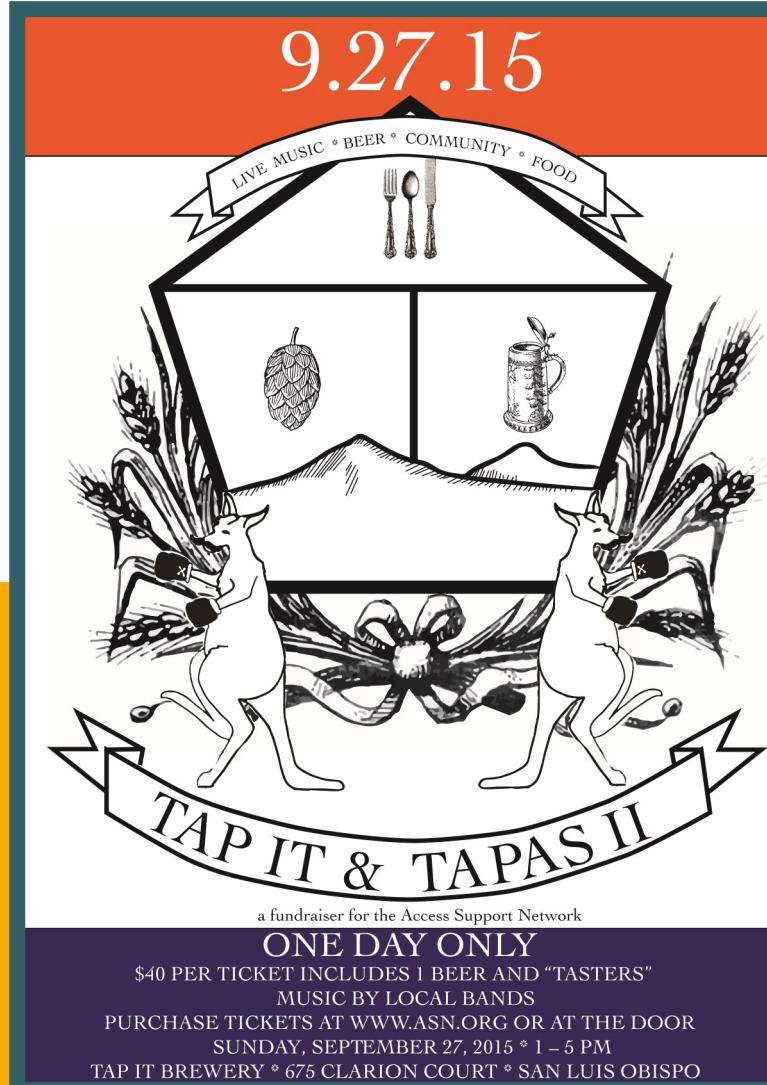
Each \$40 ticket includes four food tickets for tasters, one beer from Tap It, one ticket for the 50/50



drawing, games, and incredible atmosphere! Don't wait! Get your tickets to this one-of-a-kind event today!

Tickets are available at ASN.org!

If you are interested in volunteering, give us a call at 805-781-3660.



Walk for Life: Become a Sponsor!

Why is the Walk important to your business?

Depending on your level of sponsorship, you will receive:

- Recognition in pre-Walk advertising, at the Walk itself, and local media.
- Your business could be represented in thank you ads on KSBY-TV6 and The CW.

- There will be a connection from the event page to your website.
- And, most important of all, the Walk is a meaningful way to give back to your community, and you will get recognition for your support.

Call us at 805-781-3660 to become a sponsor!

Learn more at ASN.org.

THANK YOU SLO LANDLORDS FOR HELPING OUT!

We've had a great response from the community so far! Let's keep getting the word out!



The ASN is still actively recruiting landlords interested in learning more about the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

For more information, please call 805-781-3660 and speak with Elena.

Spotlight on Education: The HIV Treatment Cascade

Sometimes called the HIV Care Continuum, the HIV Treatment Cascade is a way of monitoring the number of individuals living with HIV and the percentage of those folks who are actually receiving the medical care and treatment they need.

These stages span the various stages of HIV medical care that people living with HIV go through, from the initial diagnosis all the way to achieving viral suppression, or a very low level of HIV in the body.

The purpose of identifying these stages is to identify where more work needs to be done. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention describe these as:

- **HIV testing and diagnosis**—The only way to know for sure that you are infected with the HIV virus is to get an HIV test. People who don't know they are infected are not accessing the care and treatment they need to stay healthy. They can also unknowingly pass the virus on to others.
- **Getting and staying in medical care**—Once you know you are infected with the HIV virus, it is important to be connected to an HIV healthcare provider who can offer you treatment and prevention counseling to help you stay as healthy as

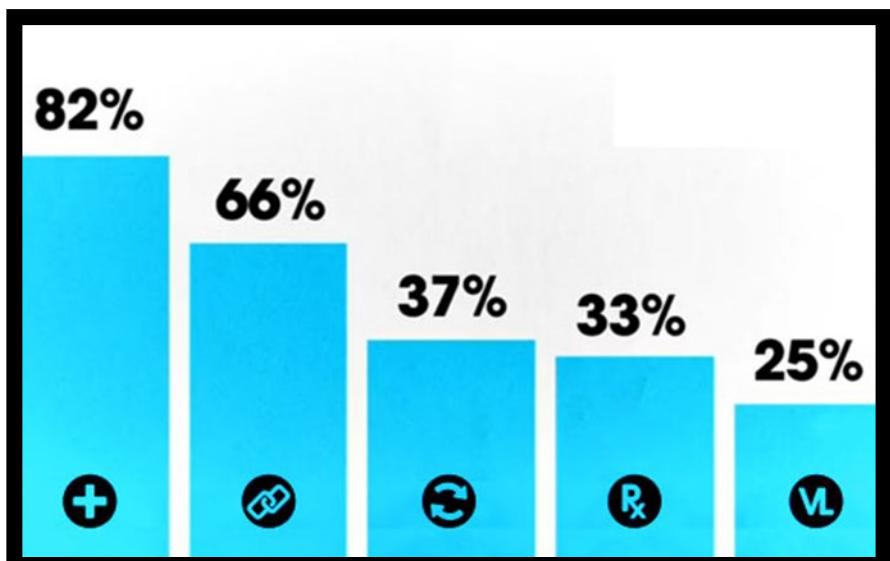
possible. Because there is no cure for HIV at this time, treatment is a lifelong process.

- **Getting on antiretroviral therapy**—Antiretrovirals are drugs that are used to prevent a retrovirus, such as HIV, from making more copies of itself. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is the recommended treatment for HIV infection. Treatment with ART can help people with HIV live longer, healthier lives, and has been shown to reduce transmission of HIV by 96%.
- **Achieving viral suppression**—By taking ART regularly, you can achieve viral suppression, meaning a very low level of HIV in your blood. The HIV isn't

cured. There is still some HIV in your body. But lowering the amount of virus in your body with medicines can help you stay healthy, live longer, and greatly reduce your chances of passing HIV on to others.

This is called a Cascade because, typically, the percentage of folks in each category lessens as it progresses. For example, most people get connected to medical care, but only a percentage of these correctly adhere to their treatment plan, and even fewer achieve viral suppression.

The ASN is here to help throughout all of these stages so be sure to get connected!



Your support and the support of local community members and businesses are vital to our continuing ability to provide comprehensive services to our growing number of clients. There are many ways that you can make a generous donation!

- **Money:** ALL MONEY DONATED TO THE ASN IS TAX DEDUCTABLE and is used to help our friends, family, and neighbors in their struggle with HIV/AIDS and Hep C.
- **Time:** One of the most important ways to support the ASN is the gift of time. Our volunteer program offers opportunities to directly assist clients and help keep the agency streamlined.
- **Food:** ASN's Food Pantry is always in need of the basics. If you would like to hold a food drive, or donate food directly, we have a list of suggestions for you!

**YOU
MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE**

You make the difference! Contact us or visit ASN.org for more details!



ACCESS SUPPORT NETWORK

San Luis Obispo &
Monterey Counties

San Luis Obispo County

1320 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 781-3660

Monterey County

340 Church Street
Salinas, CA 93601
(831) 975-5016

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 12158
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Toll Free: (800) 491-9141

Fax: (805) 781-3664

The Access Support Network, or ASN, serves the San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County communities, assisting our neighbors, friends, and family living with HIV/AIDS and Hep C.

With the help of dedicated staff and volunteers, the ASN works diligently to stabilize clients' health - financially, emotionally, and physically, and all at no cost.

The agency strives to improve the quality of life and independence of its clients by providing support on an individual basis.

Our Mission

The ASN is dedicated to meeting the needs of clients and providing prevention education for the community.

We assist and empower clients in negotiating access to healthcare and obtaining resources to enhance the quality of life for them, their families, and loved ones.

Lean more at ASN.org

Upcoming Events & Opportunities!

We are proud to offer our community a wide variety of **volunteer opportunities** in both San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties. *You're sure to find one that's perfect for you!*

Front Desk Volunteer:

Our front desk volunteers are the back bone of the office. They direct phone calls, greet incoming clients, help with distributing food from our pantry, and overall help to keep us sane!

We love, LOVE, our front desk volunteers!

**Contact us for
more details!**



Upcoming Events:

SAVE THE DATE!: November 7th, 2015

The 24th Annual Walk for Life!

It's not too early to start planning your team, getting your strategies ready for fundraising, or even asking your family, friends, or organization if they'll match what you raise to double your goal!

We've got the site all ready for you to register! It's easier than ever to participate! Register today at the Walk for Life event website:

<http://ASN2015Walk4Life.kintera.org/>

and enjoy several exciting features designed to streamline the fundraising process!

Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for more information as we get closer to November!

For more information, visit www.ASN.org

