



# Beloit Public Health Initiative FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

We are honored to present the Beloit Public Health Initiative's 3rd quarterly newsletter. Below you will read about our accomplishments from this past semester and our aspirations for our future involvement in Beloit.

## Meet Our Advisory Board Members:

Marc Perry • Ron Nikora • Ian Hedges • Larry Bergen  
Carol Wickersham • Cecil Youngblood • Lorie Richardson



## STREET SMART

BPHI members Griffin and Ashley facilitated the PREP Street Smart program at Project 16:49 for a group of young Beloit women. This was the second time the program ran at this location, both equally successful. The group met once a week for ten weeks and discussed topics that centered around STI prevention and promoting safe choices for at-risk youth. They discussed ways to understand

and avoid triggers and what it means to be in a healthy sexual relationship. The program provided a safe environment for these young people to discuss these stigmatized topics with their peers. An after school Street Smart club at Beloit Memorial High School was not able to continue due to inconsistent participation, however BPHI will be re-entering the school in the spring to try again.

## PUB CRAWL

BPHI organized two very successful pub crawls this semester to promote Community Action's Free STI Testing event. Beloit College students went to eleven bars in the Beloit area distributing Safe Sex Kits and engaging in conversations about sexual health preventive measures with bar goers. In total, over 700 Safe Sex Kits were distributed containing over 4,200 male and female condoms,

lube, dental dams, t-shirts and Beloit specific sexual health informational graphics. Connections have been made with these bars and BPHI plans to set up free condom dispensers in bathrooms to promote safer sex. Overall, the pub crawls were a great way to connect with the community and promote Community Action's free STI testing clinic.

Click here to check out our updated website! [www.healthybeloit.org](http://www.healthybeloit.org)

# WORLD AIDS DAY



On Tuesday, December 1st BPHI and Community Action hosted the fourth annual World AIDS Day event to raise awareness of the pandemic caused by the spread of the HIV infection and to celebrate the lives of those have died from the disease. Community members from the greater Beloit area and students from the college gathered in the Science Center for a health fair, dinner, and speaker. Event participants were asked to respond to why sexual health is important, what sexual health looks like and what the stigmas of HIV/AIDS are. A photo contest of previously

submitted artwork centered on one's sexual health experience was also conducted at the event. Neil Willenson spoke and reflected on his experiences as Founder of One Heartland (formerly Camp Heartland), a non-profit organization with a mission to provide children, youths, and families who experience HIV/ AIDS with the opportunity to heal and be treated with the same humanity. His take away message about the event is summed up here—"as long as people engage in daily reflection of stereotypes, rethink HIV/AIDS, and learn to support one another, there is hope."



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Check out our website: [www.healthybeloit.org](http://www.healthybeloit.org)

Add our Snapchat: [healthybeloit](#)

Text "BPHI" to 77948 for updates about events, testing, and free condom giveaways.