

NEWSLETTER FOR
SPRING 2015



SIERRA HOPE

HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

The Red Dress Party is just around the corner!

This is a great time to begin planning your frock for the Red Dress Party in Murphys, CA. Saturday, June 6 will be here before you know it. This benefit for AIDS services in the Mother Lode has been an event full of fun for six years. Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles have been putting on their red dresses longer than we have, but our party is just as enjoyable, if not more.

- Rock of Ages will play great dancing music,
- Dave Ingram will make fabulous food, and
- Val du Vino will serve excellent wine! Don't miss out!
- Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door.

While you are planning what to wear, check the garage, attic or closets for items you might be able to donate to our silent auction. Your *like new items* may be just the thing one of our bidders are looking for. Bring your items by the office by the end of April, or give us a call and we can have someone pick it up. If you know merchants who will donate items, please ask for their support. Every little bit helps! Call 209 736-6792 or email nan-



cy@sierrahope.org.

11th Annual NorCal AIDS Cycle

Between May 14 to May 17 2015, cyclists will be riding 330 miles to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS service providers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond! Whether you donate to a registered Cyclist or Crew Member, or are registering to come along on the adventure, your contribution will go a long way. Sierra HOPE has been selected to be a recipient of some of the funds raised this year.

Register to participate at <http://norcalaidscycle.org>. If you would like to donate or volunteer, the web site is also the best location for you.



How to Maximize Deductions by Giving

Donating stock certificates is a great strategy that accomplishes two goals: saving on income taxes and benefitting your favorite charities. Many people donate stock, especially stock that has appreciated in value and has a low cost basis. When a stock has a low basis (cost), people often hold on to it even if it is doing poorly. This is because investors don't want to pay the capital gain taxes. By donating stock, you avoid the capital gains plus you get a tax deduction. The most important thing is help others less fortunate. Sierra HOPE has a relationship with an investment firm that will do all the work from facilitating the transfer of brokerage accounts to an individual stock certificate to the selling of the stock for Sierra HOPE. All of this is done at no cost to either the person donating the stock or for selling the stock. The firm can also facilitate the transfer of IRA accounts to Sierra HOPE's brokerage account.



How Your Estate Planning Can Help Sierra HOPE

Did you know that there are many ways you can help Sierra Hope? One of the best ways is to leave a legacy to your favorite charity with simple estate planning techniques. The easiest is to add us to your list of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries are your heirs that are left money via three sources: life insurance, retirement plans (think IRA or 401(k), etc.) and annuities. Since these three things are passed probate-free, it is a convenient way to pass on assets when you pass on.

The process is simple: all you need to do is add Sierra Hope as a beneficiary on one of these types of accounts. The amount you leave can vary from 1% to 100%. It is your choice. Once that is done, the company that holds your investment will make sure that the money is given at the appropriate time. Also, you can always change your beneficiaries and the amount you leave them. It is as simple as filling out a form.

Sierra HOPE wins contest for a new Word Press Web Site!

Laura Bowly offers nonprofits an opportunity to apply for a contest to win a redesigned web site, and Sierra HOPE is Laura's recipient this year. This is a tremendous opportunity for Sierra HOPE to improve our public persona and get our message to the community. She is responsible for the new logo you see on page one. We are very grateful to Laura for her efforts on our behalf. Check out the new site at www.sierrahope.org.

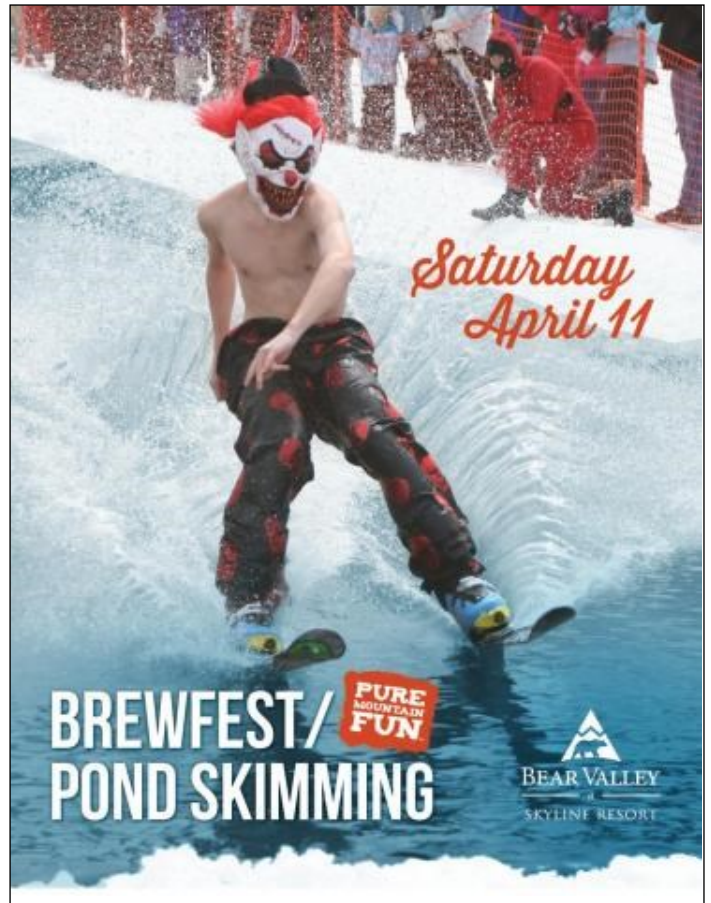


Ways to support Sierra HOPE

Support Sierra HOPE

every time you shop for groceries with the Save Mart SHARES card, or Sierra Hills & Angels Food Markets Community Card.

Contact Sierra HOPE at 209-736-6792 or email info@sierrahope.org to find out how you can get your card.



Brewfest Benefits

Sierra HOPE...Plan to volunteer or attend Saturday, April 11!



Save the Date:
September 19
AIDS WALK



6TH ANNUAL RED DRESS PARTY

Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 6 to 10 PM

at Val du Vino Winery, Murphys, CA

A Benefit for AIDS Services in the Mother Lode



RED DRESS PARTY

*Food
Music
Dancing
Silent Auction*

**Tickets are \$45
in advance,
online at
sierrahope.org
or by phone
(209) 736-6792**

Each year, on this one special evening, people from all backgrounds come together to celebrate with Sierra HOPE and the work we do at the annual Red Dress Party. This year the party takes place on Saturday June 6, 2015 at the Val Du Vino Winery in downtown Murphys. Guests attend wearing red dresses...despite age, gender, or sexual orientation. The Red Dress Party is a fun, inclusive and unique costume party in the our community. All participants will come together for an evening of dancing and music, food and spirits and lots of laughter. The red dresses serve as a powerful symbol of solidarity with people living with AIDS/HIV and remind us that we are all here to make a difference and support a common cause.

The party is full of revelry and fun...and most who attend search for just the right red dress to wear...For those who are reluctant to wear a dress, the invitation to attend still stands. For those who can't find just the right frock, there are some available on loan...the important thing is to buy your ticket and join in the fun!

This year, Dave Ingram will provide appetizers and a delicious meal. Wine can be purchased by the glass or the bottle, and premium wines will be provided by Val du Vino Winery. Beer and soda will also be on sale.

"Rock of Ages" is a groovin' good time band...rockin' hits from the 60's, 70's & 80's and provides the dance music for the party. Other highlights include an assortment of raffle prizes, a silent auction, and complimentary photos.

If you need help finding a red dress, Sierra HOPE has a small selection of red dresses available at the office, thanks to an anonymous donor. Give us a call at (209) 736-6792 to arrange a time to stop by and check them out. You can also try local thrift shops or costume stores. If you Google "Red Dresses," hundreds of websites will pop-up, and EBay has red dresses in all sizes—some for less than \$10.

Tickets for the "Red Dress Party" are \$45 in advance / \$55 the day of. This event is a 21 years or older event. To order tickets call (209) 736-6792 or order online: www.sierrahope.org





HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

Sierra HOPE,
P.O. Box 159
Angels Camp, CA 95222-0159

Phone: 209-736-6792
E-mail: info@sierrahope.org

*Our Mission:
To instill hope, foster knowledge,
encourage sensitivity, and
provide support in our
communities for HIV/AIDS,
other chronic diseases and
related social issues.*

*We Value:
Confidentiality, Compassion,
Commitment, Dignity, Diversity,
Integrity, Knowledge, Leadership
and Professionalism*

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Tuolumne Counties.**

Molecule Shows Ability to Block AIDS Virus

By Betsey McKay, Wall Street Journal, 2/18/15

Scientists have engineered a molecule they say can block infection with the virus that causes AIDS, a discovery that potentially could lead to a new therapy for patients as well as an alternative to a vaccine.

Researchers have been trying for three decades to develop an effective vaccine against the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS. They are also searching for a way to cure infected people. But the ever-evolving virus has eluded them.

Now, a team from the Scripps Research Institute and other institutions said it has identified a way to prevent HIV from infecting cells, using an approach that resembles gene therapy or transfer rather than eliciting an immune response.

HIV normally invades cells through two receptors. The new protein blocks the points where the virus binds to both cellular receptors, leaving no point of entry. Because it attaches to both receptors rather than just one, the protein, called eCD4-IG, blocks more HIV strains than any of several powerful antibodies that have been shown to disable the virus, the researchers said. The study was published online by the journal Nature.



The approach has been tested only on four rhesus monkeys, not humans.

“This innovative research holds promise for moving us toward two important goals: achieving long-term protection from HIV infection, and putting HIV into sustained remission in chronically infected people,” said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which funded the work.

Scientists not involved with the work said it shows promise and should move into human testing quickly. An estimated 35 million people are infected with HIV, but only 13.6 million receive drug treatment that controls the amount of virus in their bodies, keeping it from multiplying and allowing them to lead relatively normal lives.

“It’s very clever and very powerful,” said Nancy Haigwood, an HIV researcher at Oregon Health and Science University, who wasn’t involved in the study but wrote about its potential as a vaccine alternative in a commentary in Nature. “This is going to be much better than any vaccine on the horizon.”

The scientists created the protein by fusing together elements of both cellular receptors to which HIV binds. They then injected genetic material encoding the protein into the quadriceps of the four monkeys, stimulating production of the new molecule.

The researchers infected the monkeys with a hybrid version of HIV, administering up to four times the amount of virus it took to infect a control group. The protein protected the monkeys for 40 weeks.

Dr. Farzan said the monkeys remained infection-free even when given 16 times the amount of virus that it took to infect the control group in experiments conducted after the study was completed.

He said he hoped human trials could begin within a year, after more testing in animals that is already under way. The first step, he said, would be to gauge the ability of the molecule to keep virus levels in HIV-positive people in check.

“We believe our goal now is to show it can work therapeutically,” he said.

The next step would be to test its efficacy as a vaccine, in people who don’t have the virus but are at high risk of infection, Dr. Farzan said.

“It appears to be an extraordinarily potent molecule,” he said. “It’s further validating of the idea that we should be thinking in alternate terms about how to attack HIV vaccines.” He said it should be tested in humans right away: “To me the nonhuman primate data are outstanding.”