



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

HIV ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
2015
September Issue
#183

OREGON HIV / AIDS CASE MANAGEMENT

Thank you to everyone who joined Partnership Project at AIDS Walk!!

We raised \$4,733 for both Partnership Project and CAP!

Next Meeting
October 13th

PrEP Updates

**Dr. Christopher
Evans– OHSU HIV
Clinic**



Legacy Hospice



Circle of Healing

Starting in October

Enter a New Season for Living



Gay Men Together Through Grief

**A circle of healing for gay men (GBTQ)
who have experienced the death of a loved one**

Changing seasons bring poignant memories that feel real.
Now is the season to integrate your feelings into healing and even joy.
Reclaim your relationship with your grieved love one.

The group is offered free of charge.

Safe and supportive, this healing circle is a rare opportunity.
Discover what it means to restore a sense of wholeness after grief.
In a circle of trust, we explore the special relationship
with grief and healing that uniquely faces gay men.

Your guides are two of your peers who have learned to integrate the deaths of
partners and loved ones into their lives. Both are clinical healthcare professionals
in spiritual care with Legacy Health hospice and hospitals.

8 Weekly Meetings, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM; FALL Group Starts in October

**Call Legacy Hospice Bereavement Services at 503-220-1000
to reserve your place now in this space-limited group, or for details.**

Sponsored by Legacy Hospice \Leftrightarrow in partnership with Friendly House
Friendly House, 1737 NW 26th Ave (at Thurman St), Portland, OR



RECOGNIZING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

October is National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Month. This month is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being LGBT. First celebrated in 1994 to coincide with National Coming Out Day, the month has evolved to include a more diverse range of people identifying as LGBT. On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, holding that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry in all states. As a result, more same-sex couples will be recognized as married for purposes of determining entitlement to Social Security benefits or eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

Since a previous Supreme Court decision in 2013, Social Security has been able to recognize some same-sex marriages and non-marital legal same-sex relationships for purposes of determining entitlement to or eligibility for benefits. We also consider same-sex marriage when processing claims for SSI. Marriage may affect your SSI eligibility or payment amount.

We're working closely with the Department of Justice to develop and implement policy and processing instructions to implement the June 26, 2015 Supreme Court decision. As we have additional information, we'll update our website and issue instructions to our staff. You can read more about important information for same-sex couples at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/same-sexcouples.

In the meantime, if you're a spouse, divorced spouse, or surviving spouse of a same-sex marriage or non-marital legal same-sex relationship, we encourage you to apply right away for benefits. Applying now will preserve your filing date, which will protect you against the loss of any potential benefits.

If you have any questions about how to apply for benefits, call toll-free 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). We can answer specific questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Generally, you'll have a shorter wait time if you call during the week after Tuesday. We treat all calls confidentially.

Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/people/same-sexcouples to learn more.

KEEPING SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATED PREVENTS UNWANTED SURPRISES

By Alan Edwards, Social Security Public Affairs

Most people love surprises, but many dislike change. It's just the opposite with Social Security. If you receive benefits, we want to hear about your changes.

Keeping us informed minimizes the chance that we learn about something later that could negatively affect your benefits. That's the surprise no one wants, because it creates overpayments that you must repay, disrupts payments, and can even jeopardize your entitlement to Social Security benefits.

Here is a reminder of some of the most common forms of information Social Security needs from you.

Your address and direct deposit information. We need to know your current mailing address and phone number so we can reach you if needed. This is especially important if you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) since where you live can change the amount of your SSI benefits.

When your direct deposit information is not current, it can cause headaches with missing or delayed payments. You can update your address or direct deposit information when you register for a *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Your work. When you receive Social Security disability benefits or SSI for a disability, we have found you unable to work because of your condition. That's why we need to know if you take a job or are self-employed, or if you stop work or have any changes in work hours, or pay. If your work is substantial enough, it may affect your benefits. You may also need to report if you begin receiving or have a change in any worker's compensation or public disability benefits.

If you are receiving retirement or survivors benefits, be mindful of the yearly earnings limit before you reach Full Retirement Age (FRA), which is currently 67 years old if you were born in 1960 or later. For 2015, the earnings limit is \$15,720. When you earn over this amount, we deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you earn. That means if you earn \$30,000, we will have to reduce your benefits by roughly \$7,000. It's very important to give us a work estimate at the start of the year so that we can withhold what's needed. If we find out you had excess earnings at a later date, you could end up with a large overpayment that you will have to repay.

Your living arrangements for SSI. To receive SSI you must demonstrate financial need, in addition to meeting other requirements. Living arrangements may change how much money you receive. Social Security needs to know how many people are in your household and how expenses are shared. We also need to know if you receive any payments from other sources, and if you have savings that go over the SSI resource limit (\$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple).

You can learn more about reporting responsibilities for people working and receiving disability or SSI benefits by reading our online publication *Working While Disabled — How We Can Help and How Work Affects Your Benefits* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

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This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)