

WALK

Winter AIDS Walk aims to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS

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and services of (Triad Health Project)," said Keeton. "We simply could not exist without the support of our community."

After everyone had gathered inside for an opening speech, the walk started with the band's music telling everyone it was time to start walking. The steel drums, snare drums, and whistle led the crowd out of the stadium. A sea of red emerged from the entrance, above which there hung a gigantic red ribbon.

The walkers received support from people cheering them on throughout the walk. People stood on the sidewalks outside their churches and homes, giving out water. "Thank you for walking," they said.

Nearing the end of the march through downtown Greensboro, one could hear the sounds of drumming and cheering getting closer. Back at War Memorial Stadium, people waited to greet the walkers.

"Look at all these lovely walkers," one woman said.

Cameras filmed the happy supporters as they came to the end with smiles on their faces. Volunteers gave out high fives along with water.

The band, some of them Guilford students, continued to play as the big group that had stretched out during the walk again became a crowded mass of happy people.

Kaitlin Estill, sophomore, is a volunteer at Higher Ground, a resource center for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

"I came out to show solidarity with the people I spend time with at Higher Ground," Estill said. "I think AIDS and HIV have a certain stigma surround it, and this is in large part due to the lack of information available. World AIDS month is

important because it gets people talking about the issues and hopefully dissolves some of the stereotypes surrounding the virus. I'm discouraged with the treatment and isolation people affected with the virus receive in our society."

"The Winter Aids Walk creates a space for people to stand in support of those affected," Estill said.

Guilford had some events of its own in support of AIDS awareness. Sophomore Daniel Raeder is the HIV and AIDS fellow.

"World AIDS Day is important because it takes the time to remind the public as well as governments that HIV/AIDS has not gone away," Raeder said.

Raeder and other members of the Community Aids Awareness Project, sophomores Rose McIntyre and Jodie Geddes, arranged for activities like sexual health Jeopardy, a conversation about HIV and AIDS with a Guilford professor, and a poetry reading.

There was also a display in Boren Lounge of photographs taken by junior David Kinchen. The photos are of students covering their eyes, symbolizing this year's theme: "Open Your Eyes to AIDS."

"Something about the state that HIV/AIDS is in now is that it has fallen off the radar ... it is something that is not talked enough about or taught enough about," Raeder said.

However, Raeder hopes that the events of the week helped to raise awareness.

"It has become too easy to say, 'I am not a high risk group, I won't get AIDS, I don't need to spend my time thinking about it, it doesn't matter,'" said Raeder. "But by putting these photos up in such a common area there is no way to ignore its message, you have to stop, look and think."



BRITTANY MOORE/GUILFORDIAN

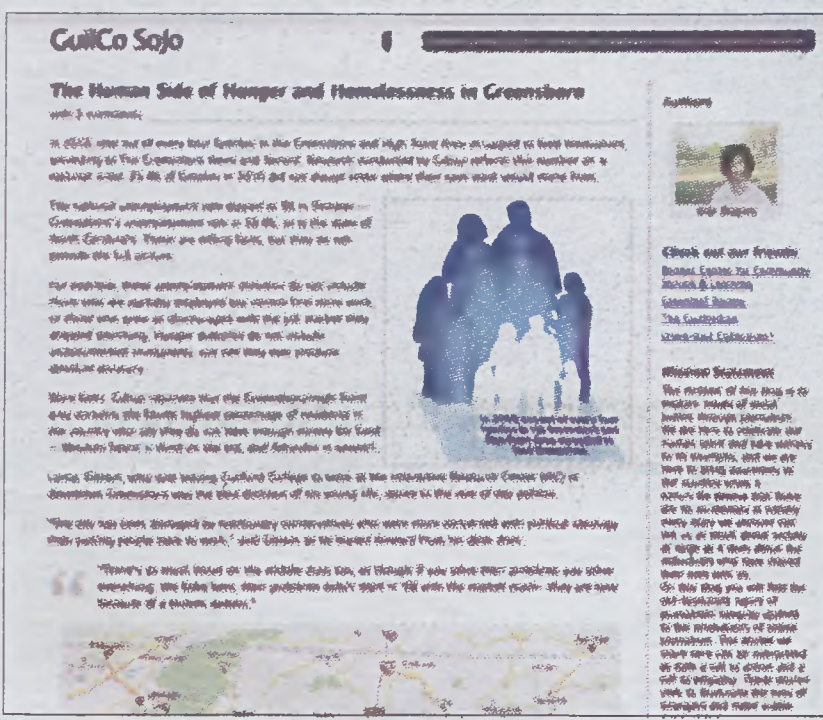
Walkers show their support for the AIDS fight in Greensboro. The event provides funding for the Triad Health Project.

GuilCo SoJo

GuilCo SoJo is a Guilfordian blog dedicated to exploring issues of social justice in the Greensboro, Guilford County, and Guilford College community.

Check us out <http://guilcosojo.wordpress.com/>

Take a peek at the blog to find our first post on hunger and homelessness in Greensboro, an article with statistics and interviews that show the human side of hunger in Greensboro.



Join our online community. We invite you to share your social justice stories with us. Email [dahilmooreak@guilford.edu](mailto:dahilmooreak@guilford.edu) to submit a story request. Social Justice Team

Guilford Shares open to students for first time

By Karen Turner  
STAFF WRITER

Guilford is known to be a caring community, but now the Guilford Shares Giving Campaign is trying to turn that caring into sharing.

The Guilford Shares Giving Campaign is an annual campaign that gives faculty, administration and staff the chance to donate money to one of three charities: United Way, United Arts Council or Earth Share.

"Through this campaign, Guilford gives back to our community and makes a difference in the lives of countless people and families in Greensboro, North Carolina and beyond," according to the official donation website.

Kent Chabotar, president and professor of political science, initiated the campaign in 2001 in order to expand Guilford's giving opportunities.

"When Kent Chabotar came on board he really wanted to make it more, more of the campus coming together as a community to give back to the community we are part of," said Information Systems Project Manager and Support Sonya Mitchell, one of the tri-chairs of the Guilford Shares Committee.

The campaign has a new aspect to it this year: For the first time, students are allowed to participate.

"We are very excited that students are involved," said Assistant to the President for Planning and Management Jeff Favolise in an email. "This year, at the beginning of the campaign, we talked to both student government chairs, attended Senate and CCE SGA, and we received

their overwhelming support. They are working to get the word out and increase participation."

Over the years the program has expanded drastically. Eight years ago barely \$3,000 were raised, but last year there was 49 percent participation and \$24,619 was raised. Organizers hope that this number will continue to increase with the addition of the student body to the contributors.

"This is a very special Guilford-wide effort that puts our values to action and compassionately serves the needs of our community," said Favolise.

All of the participating charities are active within the local Greensboro community. United Way works to improve people's quality of life through various aspects such as education and health care. United Arts Council supports artistic programs and opportunities within Greensboro and strives to transform Greensboro into a cultural hub. Earth Share helps protect the environment through educational, water, land and clean-air programs.

"It's good to stand up and say what you're not about, but this is a way to say this is what I am about, this is what I believe in," said Mitchell. "I don't believe in greed and I do believe in sharing."

The campaign ends today. Students can now be a part of this by donating into the boxes located around campus.

"The donation boxes that we have are dream boxes; every box that you look at is someone's dream," said Mitchell. "There are hundreds of people who dream of making something happen to the world, and when you put a dollar in that box, you're investing in that person's dream."