

Rooted in the history of our fight against HIV, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond advances prevention, access to healthcare, community research and advocacy.

Letter from Our Leadership



As you read this newsletter, you will see that we are busy providing life-saving prevention and care services to people living with HIV, as well as community members who are at risk for HIV and those struggling with opiate addiction.

Our services continue to grow and seek to address the health of the whole person in a client-centered and comprehensive manner. We are building upon our community partnerships and collaborations to strengthen the health of our clients and our neighborhoods.

Of course, we could not do this without your support and the commitment of many local businesses, funders, churches, community organizations and volunteers. That support was particularly evident this past May when we held our 21st annual Dining for Dollars dinner and silent auction. Close to 200 guests gathered at Zingerman's Roadhouse to raise more than \$45,000 for local HIV prevention and care services! We so appreciate the generosity of our community that was evident during that evening and throughout the year.

As we look ahead to the remaining months of 2016, we look forward to showcasing our work on the HIV Stigma Index and advocacy at the U.S. Conference on AIDS in September and the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in late October. Building on our participation in the Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety Advocacy Day in Lansing in early May, we will continue to advocate for modernization of Michigan's outdated HIV criminalization laws, partner with fellow advocates to fight discrimination against the LGBTQ community and work to ensure people living with HIV and Hepatitis C have adequate access to and coverage of their medications.

All of these efforts are helping our post-merger organization become unified in strengthening comprehensive HIV services for all who need them. Life continues. Live healthy.

William VanHemert, MSW
President/CEO

IT'S HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT TIME!

November 1, 2016 – January 31, 2016

Need help enrolling in health insurance for 2016? Our trained Health Insurance Navigator, Rayshaunda Gipson, is here to help. Whether you qualify for the expanded Medicaid Healthy Michigan Plan or need assistance with the Healthcare Marketplace, we can help you navigate the system and find the best coverage for you and your family free-of-charge.

Call Rayshaunda at 734-572-9355, ext. 233, Monday through Friday, to learn more or to make an appointment.

Upcoming Events

Sept 24	Volunteer Training
Sept 25	Detroit AIDS Walk
Oct 15	National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
Nov	13th Annual Wine Cellar
Dec 1	World AIDS Day
Feb 7	National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

VOLUNTEER TRAINING Have some time, skills or talents you're willing to share? Come learn how you can help.

Saturday, September 24th from 9 a.m. – Noon
St. Joseph Mercy Health System - Ann Arbor
Education Center, Rm. B225

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Calvin Dishmon, at 734-572-9355, x232 or cdishmon@miunified.org.

DETROIT 3011 West Grand Boulevard, Suite 230, Detroit, MI 48202 | P: 313-446-9800 | F: 313-446-9839

JACKSON 211 West Ganson Street, Suite 110, Jackson, MI 49201 | P: 517-780-3262 | F: 517-780-0936

YPSILANTI/ANN ARBOR 3075 Clark Road, Suite 203, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 | P: 734-572-9355 | F: 734-572-0554

Visit us online at: www.miunified.org     

SMOKING CESSATION

Helping Clients Kick the Habit

Over the past year and a half, we have gone the extra mile for our clients by participating in the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Tobacco Reduction Program. This is a three-year pilot project focused on reducing smoking and tobacco use among people living with HIV. Fifty percent of people living with HIV in Michigan smoke cigarettes compared to 21.4% of the general population.

Work in 2015 focused on data collection and staff tobacco treatment specialist training. We screened 320 people living with HIV for tobacco use. Of that number, 193 (60%) used tobacco products. Eighty-nine people were assessed for nicotine dependency and readiness to quit. Forty-nine people living with HIV were assisted with quitting through individual cessation counseling, referral to medical

MICHIGAN TOBACCO QUITLINE
1.800.Quit.Now | 784.8869

providers for Nicotine Replacement Therapy or referred to the Michigan Quitline. Eight individuals attempted to quit.

We are now focusing on using information and recommendations from focus groups and surveys to:

- Screen for tobacco use during every client interaction
- Advise clients about health risks of tobacco use
- Assess for readiness to quit and
- Assist with Nicotine Replacement Therapy

Do you need help quitting? Call the **Michigan Tobacco Quitline** or contact Sheyonna in our Ypsilanti office at 734-572-9355 or Clarence in our Detroit office at 313-446-9800.



COME WALK WITH US!

Join UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond as we walk the streets of Royal Oak to raise \$15,000 to support HIV care and prevention in our 10-county Southeast Michigan service area. **Funds raised will stay in your community!** From metro Detroit to Washtenaw County, your support will help us bring our services to those who count on us.

Visit our team page at aidswalkdetroit.kintera.org/unified to join our team, donate in support of an individual team member or make a general team donation to help us reach our goal!

Need a ride? Email cmcmullen@miunified.org.

Questions? Contact Chris at 734-572-9355

Sunday, September 25
Royal Oak Farmers Market
316 Eleven Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
AIDS Memorial Quilt Ceremony: 9 a.m.
Opening Ceremony: 10 a.m.
Walk Kicks Off: 10:30 a.m.

HELP IS ON THE WAY!

Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (HELP) and UNIFIED – HIV Health & Beyond have joined forces in a collaborative effort to increase awareness, support and visibility of the underserved LGBT community in Detroit. The program “Transgender Answer” is targeted to gender minorities in our community who experience significant disparities in access to medical and supportive services in order to maintain optimal mental and physical health. Funded by the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, our focus is to serve Trans women, MSM (men who have sex with men) and high risk heterosexual women of color that engage in commercial sex work.

PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH

We’re partnering with the Washtenaw County Public Health Department to encourage healthy eating! Case managers write “prescriptions” for eating more fruits and vegetables, and clients redeem their “prescriptions” at local farmers markets. Prescription for Health staff are available at the farmers markets to provide individual nutrition education. Our “prescription” partners include: Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, The Farm at St. Joe’s, Pittsfield Township Farmers Market, Growing Hope’s Mobile Farm Stand and YpsiPlant Garden Supply.

“I use the farmers market regularly and find fresh fruits and vegetables – good quality and prices. I am eating healthier and feeling better.” – Carol, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond client

ON STAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE: Diverse in Culture. Alike in Need.

By Akilah Benton, Community Research Manager

It's been over 15 years since The International AIDS Conference last convened in an African country. This July, I was fortunate to represent our organization in Durban, South Africa to share our research and advocacy findings from The People Living with HIV Stigma Index project (www.stigmaindex.org) with over 200,000 attending researchers, community members, celebrities, clergy and activists. The Stigma Index has been implemented in over 45 countries. We are proud to be the first site in the United States.

We have had amazing opportunities to share our work at many domestic conferences. This conference was very different. People from all walks of life came together to share their triumphs and challenges in the fight to end HIV. It was not about sitting in meeting rooms all day. It was about speaking out, standing up and advocating for your beliefs and for your



Akilah at IAC 2016

community. Young people from many African countries came together to urge leaders to stop ignoring their needs and voices.

People protested and demanded that pharmaceutical companies stop getting rich off the vulnerabilities of the poor. We heard from some of the world's foremost philanthropists like Sir Elton John, Prince Harry and Charlize Theron on how they will use their platforms to support young people and respond to community needs.

Hearing the stories surrounding HIV stigma was heartbreaking and at the same time inspiring. I am inspired to be a better liaison for populations in need, letting our youth know that we will listen and will not disregard their needs. We are diverse in our cultures yet alike in our dreams to end HIV by 2030.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT IN 2016

360 people living with HIV have received medical case management, medical care and treatment.

10,800 lbs. of food received from Food Gatherers has been distributed to clients experiencing food insecurity.

1,852 people have received HIV prevention and education services via outreach programs.

700 people have received health insurance assistance and information from our Health Insurance Navigator.

716 HIV tests have been performed.

20 Hepatitis C tests have been performed.

92 individuals have received Naloxone and overdose prevention/training through our Harm Reduction Program.

MAKE A GIFT FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

There are many ways you can make life better for our clients and community through a tax-deductible donation.

MAKE AN ANNUAL GIFT We gratefully accept donations every day of the year.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR Your commitment will provide consistent, reliable support.

MEMORIAL / HONORARIUM / SPECIAL OCCASION GIFTS Make a gift in memory, honor or on behalf of a special person or event in your life.

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE

Visit www.miunified.org and click the Donate button.

For additional information, contact Chris McMullen, Development Director, at 734-572-9355, x261 or cmcmullen@miunified.org.

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS CAN DO

\$25 - provide 75 meals for clients who access our food pantry.

\$50 - purchase educational materials for our Early Intervention Program.

\$75 - purchase 1,000 condoms for distribution to the community

\$100 - cover the cost of five Hepatitis C tests.

\$200 - support one medical case management session.

\$500 - cover rent for one month for a family of four whose head-of-household is living with HIV.

\$1,500 - keep our Mobile Health Unit on the road in SE Michigan for one month.



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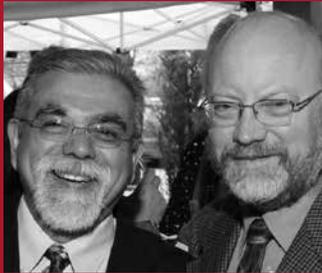


Same Day HIV Testing
FREE ANONYMOUS CONFIDENTIAL
CALL 734-572-9355 (Ypsilanti) or 313-446-9800 (Detroit) TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

WE NOW OFFER COUPLES TESTING!

www.miunified.org     

Coming in November: Stay Tuned! 13th Annual Wine Cellar



Join us as we honor event co-founders, Martin Contreras and Keith Orr, for an evening of wine tasting, hearty appetizers, desserts and live music to warm your spirit. At the heart of the event is a raffle of over 100 bottles of wine donated by wine collectors, bon vivants, local performers, sports figures and chefs. Grand Prize – an instant wine cellar!

Over 50 bottles of wine go to one lucky winner. But, don't worry. Smaller lots will also be awarded to lucky raffle ticket holders. Raffle tickets can be purchased at our Ypsilanti and Detroit offices, \aut\BAR and Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor or at the event. Winners need not be present to win.

Questions? Contact Director of Development, Chris McMullen, at cmcmullenr@miunified.org or call 734-572-9355, ext. 261.

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