

The mission of the HIV/AIDS Resource Center is to provide HIV related services to our community through compassionate direct care, prevention and outreach activities.

WINTER 2015

Serving the residents of Washtenaw, Jackson, Livingston and Lenawee Counties since 1986

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JACKSON 211 Ganson St., Ste. 110 Jackson, MI 49201 P: 517-780-3262 F: 517-780-0936

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10 National Women and

Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 20 National Native HIV/

AIDS Awareness Day

April 10 National Youth HIV &

AIDS Awareness Day

May 13 20th Annual Dining

for Dollars

May 19 Hepatitis Testing Day

May 30 HARC Volunteer

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



As we begin a new year, 2015 will be transformative for HARC. We will mark the 20th anniversary of our signature fundraising event, Dining for Dollars, and will be only one year away from the 30th anniversary of the creation of our organization. We have spent the past year exploring a strategic partnership with AIDS Partnership Michigan (APM) to proactively respond to the many changes occurring in the areas of HIV service delivery, funding and policy.

Meeting the needs of people who rely on HIV services in this quickly changing healthcare landscape requires an innovative model for comprehensive service deliv-

ery in Southeast Michigan. With active involvement of the boards and staff of both organizations, APM and HARC have decided to merge operations to create a regional organization that will address the HIV and related healthcare needs of our clients in Southeast Michigan.

Our goal is to enhance our capacity in key areas, including programming, funding and community-based research. Building on our history of collaboration and excellent service, together we are poised to lead the way in ensuring sustainability of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in our new 11-county service area. As our supporters and partners, you will be hearing more about this process throughout the year and have opportunities to contribute as we engage in a rebranding project that will reflect these many changes.

The constant is our commitment to compassionate HIV prevention and care services. With your continued support, we can ensure these services remain available and accessible to all who need them.

Jimena Loveluck, MSW President/CEO

TARA'S STORY

A Journey Toward Health and Happiness

Tara is a 30 year-old mother of two boys. She was first diagnosed with HIV in 2008 in Tennessee while working as a Medical Assistant at an assisted living home. One day, one of Tara's patients had an accident. Tara assisted her patient without gloves and remembers having a few open wounds on her arms, but really did not give it much thought. Two and a half months later, Tara was called into her boss's office and told that the patient she had assisted was HIV positive. She needed to get herself tested. The result: her test was positive.

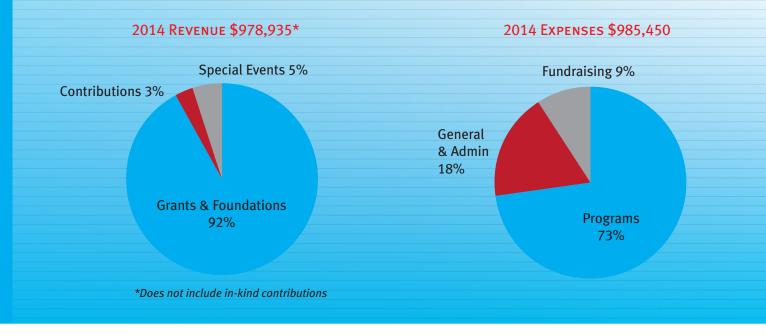
Tara's journey towards acceptance of her diagnosis has been full of challenges. She became addicted to opiates, made several unhealthy choices, and temporarily lost full custody of her boys. Tara started getting sick and realized she needed help. She wound up back in Michigan and luckily found HARC.

At HARC, Tara found life changing assistance with linkage to medical care, HIV medication, housing,

food, transportation and most importantly--SUPPORT. Tara soon realized she was not alone and could live a happy, successful life even while living with HIV.

Today, Tara feels her life is back on track. She has full custody of her children and does not use any substances. She has a job and enjoys being a healthy, loving mother to her two young boys. Tara takes her HIV medication daily and is virally suppressed—a sign that her medication is successful. She surrounds herself with other happy, healthy people and is enjoying her life with her family and children.

Tara's advice to anyone who is newly diagnosed or struggling with acceptance of their diagnosis: "Get help and support. Educate yourself.. Don't wait until it is too late. This disease is not the end, but instead a new beginning. HIV does not have to break you!"



Prevention

HARC's Prevention Team provides outreach and education to prevent the spread of HIV and to increase knowledge, skills and resources for maintaining sexual health.

Free, anonymous and confidential same-day HIV testing, counseling and referral services are available by appointment at our Ypsilanti office. Outreach staff also travel to a variety of locations providing risk reduction and safer sex materials, harm reduction services, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and referrals to community resources.

In addition to the above services, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) screening is now available through our mobile outreach vehicle via the Washtenaw County Public Health Department, as well as Medicaid outreach and enrollment. A new mobile outreach site was established at Walgreens on Washtenaw and Hewitt in Ypsilanti. Other regularly scheduled outreach sites include Ayenne Market, Currie's Barber Shop, Willow Run Party Store and St. Andrew's Breakfast Program. Two HIV Testing Tours took place in support of National HIV Test Day and World AIDS Day.

Harm Reduction services offer education and counseling on risk reduction, overdose prevention and syringe access. The Healthy Relationships Program creates a safe place for participants to deal with the psychological impact and challenges of living with HIV/AIDS while providing education and increasing skills to prevent further transmission and build a supportive social network.

With Your Help

- **2,400** people received HIV prevention outreach and education services.
 - **618** HIV tests were performed by HARC's Prevention Team and certified volunteers.
 - 317 community outreach events were attended throughout our four-county service area.
 - **324** individuals enrolled in the harm reduction program receiving overdose prevention services and referrals to substance abuse treatment.
 - 33 individuals were tested for Hepatitis C.

Client Care

HARC's Care Team is comprised of certified medical case managers that assist clients in connecting with services and community resources that promote a healthy lifestyle. Case managers provide unique emotional support to individuals living with HIV/AIDS on a daily basis.

In addition to medical and non-medical case management, clients receive help with their nutritional and hygiene needs through the Conover Food Pantry. Eviction prevention and rental assistance is provided for eligible clients through housing services. Clients receive transportation assistance to help them get to and from medical appointments. For women dealing with the complex issues surrounding living with HIV, an informative and compassionate social group—Respect Is Self-Empowering (RISE)—provides support and camaraderie.

Thanks To You

- 250 clients received support and assistance in 2014.
- 2.652 medical case management sessions were provided.
- **28,450** lbs. of food from Food Gatherers was distributed to clients.
 - 48 client households received support in maintaining permanent housing.
 - **490** rides were provided to and from doctor's appointments.
 - 700 individuals received health insurance enrollment assistance from our two trained marketplace navigators.
 - clients received holiday food baskets which helped feed 180 people.

VISIT HARC ONLINE AT: WWW.HIVAIDSRESOURCE.ORG.







WISH LIST

In-kind gifts play a large role in supporting the needs of our clients. From food and personal care products for the Conover Food Pantry to donations for our special event auctions and raffles, we appreciate each and every gift. For a complete list of our needs, go to www.hivaidsresource.org/get-involved/donation-wish-list/.

Pasta Rice Shampoo and Conditioner Soup Boost/Ensure

Cleaning Supplies Beans Tuna Paper Products Hot cereal Milk

Food Gift Cards

Eggs Bread Multi-Vitamins

Volunteers

HARC relies on the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. We take pride in the diversity and compassion of the corps of individuals who give their valuable time and talent.

Our volunteers make it possible for HARC to offer the care and prevention services our clients and community members need. You will find HARC volunteers assisting in:

- Testing clinics
- Mobile Health Program
- Education tables at community events
- Conover Food Pantry
- Marketing and PR
- Social media
- Special events
- Office support

May Volunteer Training

Join us on Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Joe Mercy Health System – Education Center, Rm. B225 Call our Volunteer Coordinator, Calvin Dishmon, at 734-572-9355, x232 to register.

INTRODUCING THE MFIERCE PROJECT



This new project, one of four in the country funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, kicked-off in October and was named Michigan Forward in Enhancing Research and Community Equity

(MFierce) by its Youth Advisory Board. MFierce is working with dozens of agencies, including HARC, and community stakeholders in Southeast Michigan to develop innovative structural approaches that aim to reduce disparities in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among young gay and bisexual men. A coalition comprised of a core steering committee, community and youth advisory boards, and the research team will work together to create sustainable change and leverage the many resources that the cities of Southeast Michigan have to offer.

WE MISS YOU BILL



On December 4, 2014, HARC lost one of our most beloved and dedicated volunteers and supporters. Bill Wolff was passionate about HARC's mission and was one of our longest serving volunteers – more than 15 years! He had great compassion for our clients and an unwavering commitment to prevention. We will miss his quick wit, fascinating (and educational) stories and contagious enthusiasm. We learned so much from him. There is an empty spot at our front desk and in our hearts.

WHAT'S UP WITH PrEP? (Pre -Exposure Prophylaxis)

PrEP has been making headlines lately. PrEP is taking a single pill called Truvada once daily to prevent HIV in people who are at high risk. It is used along with other prevention methods, such as condoms and must be prescribed by a health provider.

HARC endorses PrEP as an addition to an individual's risk reduction tool box. We ask about PrEP on our HIV testing in-take form, and it is reviewed by our test counselors with those consumers who might be at high risk for HIV transmission.

Individuals in our service area who want access to PrEP can contact U of M Hospital (Ask for Mark at 734-936-8186.), St. Joe's Hospital and the Washtenaw County Health Department. For more information on PrEP go to www.whatisprep.org.

MAKE A GIFT. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Without gifts from the community, our staff and volunteers would be hard-pressed to make good things happen for our clients and the health of the community. There are many ways you can make a difference through a tax-deductible donation.

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MAKE AN ANNUAL GIFT

We gratefully accept donations every day of the year.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Your commitment to a monthly gift provides consistent, reliable support

MEMORIAL / HONORARIUM / SPECIAL OCCASION GIFTS

Make a gift in memory, honor or on behalf of a special person in your life – family, friends, co-workers. Or celebrate an important life event – a wedding, anniversary, retirement, graduation or significant accomplishment.

IT'S EASY TO MAKE A GIFT ONLINE Visit www.hivaidsresource.org/getinvolved/donations/

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



3075 Clark Rd., Ste. 203 Ypsilanti, MI 48197 hivaidsresource.org







Wednesday, May 13, 2015 Zingerman's Roadhouse 2501 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor | 6:00 pm

Join community supporters for a night of festivities at HARC's largest annual fundraiser! The event features a fabulous dinner prepared by James Beard award winner, Chef Alex Young, a chance to win prizes in a fun-filled strolling raffle, a scintillating silent auction and a mouthwatering homemade ice cream sundae bar.

Want to help us make this event a roaring success? We could use your help NOW in the following areas: Event Planning and Day-Of Help Sponsorship Program Advertising Silent Auction/Raffle

Donations Event Décor Marketing & Promotion

To learn more, call or e-mail Chris McMullen at 734-572-9355 or cmcmullen@hivaidsresource.org

SAME DAY HIV TESTING FREE ANONYMOUS CONFIDENTIAL CALL 734-572-9355 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

HARC Board of Directors 2014

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Jimena Loveluck (ex-officio) President/CEO HIV/AIDS Resource Center