

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

2015 was a busy year for us! We started the year with the announcement of the merger between the HIV/AIDS Resource Center and AIDS Partnership Michigan and ended the year with the launch of our new name and brand. We are so excited to share this annual report with you as UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond.

We are looking forward to staying true to our new mission: Rooted in the history of our fight against HIV, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond advances prevention, access to healthcare, community research and advocacy. Our vision is to be a nationally recognized multi-service center creating

We are committed to being an effective and powerful voice, providing leadership and advocacy for the communities we serve.

positive change through regional impact, innovation and sustainability to promote HIV health and beyond. We are committed to being an effective and powerful voice, providing leadership and advocacy for the communities we serve.

No doubt, more changes will be coming in 2016. We will implement a new regional fundraising plan, continue to work on integrating our operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, and expand services that are most needed across our service area.



We are thankful for the support of AIDS United, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and Washtenaw Coordinated Funders (including the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and United Way of Washtenaw County) throughout our merger process. We also could not do this work without our community's continued support, engagement and partnership. Thank you for helping us become unified in strengthening comprehensive HIV services for all who need them.

William VanHemert, MSW
President/CEO

Jimena Loveluck, MSW
Vice President,
Community Research & Innovation

Create positive change!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Join us on **Saturday, May 21st** for our **VOLUNTEER TRAINING**. You can help us get things done!

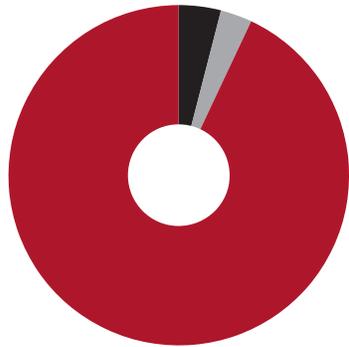
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. Joe Mercy Hospital, 5301 McCauley Dr. Ypsilanti – Education Center, Rm. B225

Call Volunteer Coordinator, Calvin Dishmon, at 734-572-9355, x232 to register or learn more.

Upcoming Events

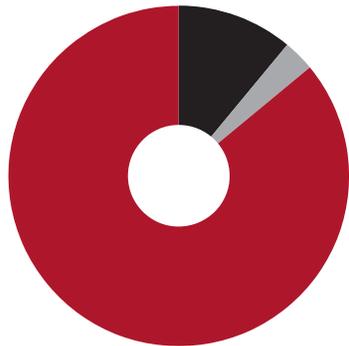
- 4/10 National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day
- 5/18 21st Annual Dining for Dollars
- 5/19 Hepatitis Testing Day
- 5/21 Volunteer Orientation
- 6/11 First Annual Motor City Pride Ball
- 6/27 National HIV Testing Day

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



2015
REVENUE
\$2,420,282

- Contributions 4%
- Special Events 3%
- Grants & Foundations 93%



2015
EXPENSES
\$2,493,569

- General & Admin 10.9%
- Fundraising 2.5%
- Programs 86.6%

*2015 Unaudited Figures

MFierce Launches Health Access Initiative

MFierce (Michigan Forward in Enhancing Research and Community Equity), a coalition working to reduce the burden of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young gay and bisexual men and transgender women, is very excited to launch our new Health Access Initiative. This initiative is a free quality improvement program for local primary care clinics and health centers to better serve this population.

In 2016, we will continue to strengthen our research partnership with the University of Michigan Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities through the SUBI Study (Substance Use Brief Intervention). The SUBI collaboration aims to study the impact of adding a substance use brief intervention counseling session about substance use and sexual risk behavior to the standard of care in HIV testing and counseling for relevant populations.

The final report for the pilot of the HIV Stigma Index in metro Detroit will be released later this winter. Guided by the project's Steering Committee made up of people living with HIV, the HIV Stigma Index was featured at the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting in Chicago in November and the National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta in December.

CLIENT CARE

Our Care Team is comprised of certified medical case managers that assist clients in connecting to medical care, treatment and community resources that promote a healthy lifestyle.

In our Ypsilanti and Jackson offices, clients also receive help with nutritional and hygiene needs through the **Conover Food Pantry**. Eviction prevention and rental assistance is provided for eligible clients through **housing services**. As a result of our merger, **behavioral health services** are now available in both our Ypsilanti and Detroit offices. In addition, our Detroit

office provides **prisoner re-entry services**, as well as linkage to care.

Support groups provide opportunities for sharing and living a healthy lifestyle. An informative and compassionate social group for women—Respect Is Self-Empowering (RISE)—provides support and camaraderie. Free to Be Me helps individuals in our prisoner re-entry program. WISE is a group open to all clients, and monthly Treatment Adherence Workshops provide education and guidance. A client advisory board also meets quarterly in Ypsilanti.

YOU HELPED MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE IN 2015!

660 clients received medical case management and care.

34,000 lbs. of food distributed.

57 client households received permanent housing.

4,600 individuals received health insurance enrollment help.

104 holiday food baskets.

100 clients received mental health services.

82 individuals received help transitioning from the state correctional system into the community.

PREVENTION

Our Prevention Team provides education, outreach, risk and harm reduction to prevent the spread of HIV/STDs 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 at our Ypsilanti and Detroit offices. 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.

Our **mobile health unit** travels to regularly scheduled locations in Washtenaw County to provide counseling, safer sex materials, testing and harm reduction services. Outreach sites include Currie's Barber Shop, Willow Run Party Store and St. Andrew's Breakfast Program.

Two **HIV Testing Tours** took place in 2015 in support of National HIV Testing Day as part of Hotter Than July. We were also part of a national HIV testing event at Palmer Park and the Woodward Bar in Detroit. For World AIDS Day, Siena Heights University in Adrian held a large testing event which attracted many more individuals than expected for HIV testing.

Harm Reduction services at our Ypsilanti office provide education and counseling on reducing risk, overdose prevention and syringe access. We are also involved with local and state overdose prevention and awareness work groups.

The **Healthy Relationships Program** creates a safe place for participants to deal with the psychological impact and challenges of living with HIV. Participants learn skills to prevent further transmission, while building a supportive social network.

THANKS TO YOU...

2,137+ people received HIV prevention, outreach and education services.

1,103 HIV tests performed.

34 Hepatitis C tests performed.

256 community outreach events attended.

315 individuals received overdose prevention services and referrals to substance abuse treatment.

25 overdoses were reversed.

1,976 hotline calls taken and **500** e-mail inquiries answered.



HERBERT'S STORY – LIVING A LIFE OF POSITIVE CHANGE

a story of success made possible by YOU!

Herbert had been living with HIV since 1998. Prior to that, he readily admitted that he used a lot of intravenous drugs and alcohol and had multiple sex partners. He was in substance abuse treatment at the time of his diagnosis. When he decided to share his diagnosis with peers and group members, he felt ostracized. He felt shame and questioned his own survival. His doctors stressed no more drugs or alcohol. He needed to educate himself about HIV.

Through treatment, recovery and UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond (formerly HIV/AIDS Resource Center – HARC), Herbert found hope. He was referred to our organization by the doctor who diagnosed him and soon became actively engaged with client services. Through medical case management, education, client social events and getting to know other people living with HIV, Herbert not only survived, he thrived! For Herbert, "not only has HARC helped me find

hope, but helped me to pass hope along to others...I have learned not to be ashamed of my HIV diagnosis."

Herbert remained clean and sober and working a program of recovery by helping others. When asked how he was doing, Herbert's reply: "Doing FABULOUS! The best part of my life is right now."

Herbert's words of advice to individuals living with HIV: "Educate yourself by learning all you can about HIV and most importantly, don't be ashamed."

Sadly, Herbert left us in January 2016, losing a bravely fought battle against cancer. We miss him. But, we smile when we think of his courage to live a life unashamed and dedicated to helping others find strength, health and hope. He was, without a doubt, a force for positive change.



3075 Clark Road, Suite 203
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

CALL OR
CHAT WITH
US ONLINE!



SAME DAY HIV TESTING FREE, ANONYMOUS, CONFIDENTIAL
CALL 734-572-9355 (YPSILANTI) OR 313-446-9800 (DETROIT)

Michigan HIV/STD Hotline: 800-872-2437

www.miunified.org     

21ST ANNUAL DINING FOR DOLLARS ZINGERMANS ROADHOUSE WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016 AT 6 PM

Enjoy 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!

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@miunified.org

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It's easy to contribute online.

www.miunified.org

Contact Chris McMullen, Development Director, at 734-572-9355, x261 or cmcmullen@miunified.org.

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