



Prevention Initiative

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Pediatric AIDS Chicago Dissolves; Evolves Prevention Initiative to Tackle Pediatric AIDS in Chicago

As of December 21, 2008, the organization known as Pediatric AIDS Chicago (PAC) has ended its 18 year history as a fundraising entity for pediatric HIV/AIDS services in Chicago, dissolving as a nonprofit organization to concentrate on the direct service organization known as PACPI; the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative. This transition is a result of the need for a centralized approach to ending mother-to-child HIV transmission, by combining forces in the fight against pediatric AIDS in Chicago.

Pediatric AIDS Chicago (PAC) began in 1991 from a friendship between Debbi Klein, Lynne Weber, Susie Ortner and Elizabeth Glaser (co-founder of Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation). When Elizabeth's daughter, Ariel, was diagnosed with AIDS (Elizabeth and her son, Jake, were HIV-positive), they decided to help her in her fight to raise funds for pediatric AIDS research.

Out of this collaboration came Pediatric AIDS Chicago, a nonprofit organization, staffed by volunteers committed to improving the lives of children with HIV and their families. Throughout the years PAC has experienced many great successes including its greatest accomplishment: establishing the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI) in 2000, whose goal is to provide a safety net of care to high-risk HIV-positive pregnant women through collaborations with public and private institutions and community-based organizations. Today, PACPI is an independent nonprofit organization that has worked to significantly reduce the rate of HIV transmission from pregnant mothers to their babies in Illinois and is one of two organizations nationally recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its outstanding case management services to HIV-positive pregnant women.

“The loss of Pediatric AIDS Chicago will be felt by the organizations that they were able to support with small targeted grants, but the people, the real caring hearts behind PAC are NOT going away. They are committing their time, talent and treasure to ensuring that

PACPI continues to be successful in reaching out towards our shared mission of preventing transmission of HIV from mothers to babies” says Anne Statton, Executive Director of PACPI.

To support the continued success of PACPI’s programs and its need for support, PAC’s directors and volunteers will work with PACPI and its executive board to further PACPI’s mission.

If you would like more information about PACPI or how you can donate to its efforts, please contact Cecilia Boyd, PACPI Development & Media Coordinator at (312) 334-0972 or PACPIDevelopment@gmail.com.

Major Accomplishments of Pediatric AIDS Chicago

- Through grants awarded to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Pediatric AIDS Chicago (PAC) supported research, which contributed to the development of medical practices effective in blocking the transmission of HIV from a pregnant HIV-infected mother to her newborn.
- PAC provided grants to local social and care-giving services, which target children infected with HIV and affected by AIDS.
- PAC awarded grants to educational programs designed to increase the awareness of adolescents and young people, who are at-risk for transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Most importantly, PAC provided a start-up grant of \$1 million dollars to establish the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI) in 2000. Since that time, PACPI has been PAC’s primary grantee.

PACPI is dedicated to eliminating deaths from pediatric AIDS and to reducing the transmission of the virus from mothers to their children in the state of Illinois.

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