2013 ANNUAL REPORT
A LEADING FORCE

For almost as long as there’s been an AIDS epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has been a leading force in the battle to defeat it.

We enlist a broad range of strategies to end new infections, improve the lives of people with HIV, and strengthen government and community responses to the epidemic.

Since the early days of the epidemic, we’ve seen incredible progress. But the epidemic continues to rage in vulnerable populations and low-income communities due to pervasive stigma, lack of access to health care, apathy, and competing societal and governmental priorities. AFC works to remove these barriers.

Founded in 1985 by community activists and physicians, we fortify local, national, and international HIV-related activities. We specialize in efforts to:

- Advocate with and for people affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Fund and coordinate prevention, care, and housing projects.
- Cultivate the capacity and expertise of individuals and organizations dedicated to ending HIV/AIDS.

Together with our individual, government, and community partners, we strive to make our collective efforts better and stronger. Steadfastly, we stand with the 43,000 HIV-positive people in Illinois.

We are a source of hope – a force for change.

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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT/CEO

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) approved a three-year strategic plan that we had the pleasure of unveiling at the 2012 Annual Meeting. We crafted it with ample input from community members, clients, and advisers, including our dynamic staff, Board and Junior Board.

It’s called Road to Health and serves as a guide to maximize scientific and policy developments in the uncharted era of health care reform. Cutting across the plan is AFC’s unwavering belief that health reform must—simply must—work for HIV-affected people and communities.

We will accept nothing less.

We have worked too hard to reach this point on the road, and we will not look back. The lives of our constituents and future generations depend on us getting this right, and we will move heaven and earth to ensure that our clients not only gain insurance but also see their health improve.

We believe passionately that the skills, wisdom, and capabilities of the AIDS safety-net system must be harnessed to make health care work for the people we serve. If we can shepherd emerging systems to cater to the needs of our vulnerable clients—people who face urgent barriers and discrimination daily—we can make it work for everyone.

This report highlights our first-year accomplishments in implementing our strategic plan, but these victories are not ours alone. So many of our partners and supporters played a pivotal role in advancing a progressive agenda on the road to health.

Thanks for your unwavering support on the Road to Health for all people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

J. Ben Stringfellow                  David Ernesto Munar
Chair, Board of Directors         President/CEO

View our 2013-2015 strategic plan at www.aidschicago.org/strategicplan
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

The first goal in AFC’s strategic plan is to strengthen the fabric, resilience, and power of communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

CHAMPIONING EQUALITY

A long-time champion of civil rights for LGBT individuals and families, AFC worked closely with community advocates and agency partners to bring marriage equality to Illinois.

As a member of the Coalition for Marriage Equality, AFC played a behind-the-scenes role supporting lobbying, grassroots advocacy, and the community rally at the Capitol.

Heartfelt thanks to Reps. Greg Harris, Sara Feigenholtz, Kelly Cassidy, State Sen. Heather Steans, and many others who led the way.

AFC staunchly supports equal rights and access to health care for all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or economic status. Stigma and homophobia fuel the AIDS epidemic, and this new law will help reframe negative perceptions of LGBT people and their families. Marriage equality also translates into greater access to benefits, hospital visitation rights, protections for family income and assets, household unification, and other privileges afforded to married people.

COMBATTING HIV STIGMA

In 2013, AFC and our allies including the AIDS Legal Council persuaded state lawmakers to repeal a 1980s law that heightened stigma and discrimination for HIV-positive young people and their families.

The law mandated public health officials to inform school principals of students with HIV. This served no public health purpose and in fact harmed HIV-positive young people by putting in jeopardy their confidentiality and safety. It also served as a powerful disincentive for HIV testing. Thanks to tenacious advocacy, however, this shameful law is no more.

EXPANDING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

To round out our 2013 Springfield victories, we succeeded in one of the worst economic climates to persuade lawmakers to reject more than $3 million in proposed funding reductions to the state’s HIV budget. And after a multi-year legislative campaign, AFC and other allies secured a state law that requires school curricula on sexual health to meet three core standards: lessons must be medically accurate, age appropriate, and comprehensive.

The impact of these accomplishments will ripple across our state for decades.
"Some of my fellow state legislators in Springfield have never met anyone who is openly living with HIV, but when AFC’s fierce and knowledgeable advocates come to town, it changes the story. That’s how we get real work done."

- State Rep. Greg Harris
“By leveraging our housing, healthcare and behavioral health networks, AFC’s Center for Housing and Health responds to the cycle of homelessness and hopelessness for hundreds of vulnerable people with severe mental health and chronic diseases, including HIV.”

- Arturo V. Bendixen, Executive Director – AFC’s Center for Housing and Health
INTEGRATED SERVICES

Our second goal aims to ensure that emerging networks provide integrated services that respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

EDUCATING CASE MANAGERS

In case management, our work focused on better integration of multiple payment sources needed to ensure that patients have a full continuum of vital services. We educated case managers and clients about CountyCare, a new health benefit for low-income Cook County residents. We helped case managers, community members, and even county officials understand how these new benefits can be integrated with the federally funded Ryan White HIV Program, which carries highly restrictive requirements to coordinate with other payers.

PREPARING ADAP FOR HEALTH REFORM

We spent considerable time working with the Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program to prepare for health reform. Because of our tenacious advocacy and strong leadership from the state, Illinois ADAP will help people with HIV cover their premium and out-of-pocket insurance costs. As a result, thousands of clients will be able to afford and fully utilize healthcare coverage for the first time.

MANAGING CHANGE

To fully realize the opportunities of service integration for our clients and partner agencies, AFC created a new senior management position for Strategy and Business Development. Kathye Gorosh joined the staff this summer to oversee this critically important category of work. Kathye is the former executive director of New Age Services and previously lead the CORE Foundation. At AFC, she is exploring new business relationships for our housing and case management networks with a focus on emerging insurance markets. In addition, she oversees AFC’s Change Management series, which has provided nearly a dozen training sessions to help service providers adapt to a rapidly changing nonprofit environment. A component of the series provided executive coaching to five organizations selected through a competitive process for the Sustainability Strategy Program. Led by Dr. Mark Light of DePaul University, the series assisted officials from each organization to craft a business and sustainability plan tailored for their particular agency needs.
IMPROVED OUTCOMES

In our third goal we aim to improve outcomes at every stage of HIV care from expanded HIV testing to sustained viral suppression through treatment adherence.

PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR PREVENTION

With decades of experience advocating for new methods to prevent HIV transmission, AFC launched a local education and awareness campaign for community members and service providers on PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). PrEP has been approved by the FDA as an effective option to reduce the risk of HIV acquisition. It involves an HIV-negative individual taking a pill every day to reduce the risk of HIV infection. The campaign provides accurate information so people can make informed decisions. Our project includes an engaging blog called MyPrEPexperience.blogspot.com featuring stories of actual PrEP users.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE

AFC is changing the way people gain access to care with our HIV-VIP program. Here’s how it works: somebody could be applying for food stamps at a public aid office. While waiting, they have an opportunity to receive an HIV test through an AFC-funded program. If the test result is positive, that person immediately receives an appointment for follow-up care at an HIV-specialty clinic within days, not weeks or months.

This program has had a huge impact on our linkage-to-care rates. Before the HIV-VIP program, 40 percent of those who tested positive were linked into care. We’ve increased this number to 82 percent.

EXPANDING MEDICAID

The Affordable Care Act has been at the crux of our work, which has given every state an opportunity to expand Medicaid. For states that accept expansion, the federal government will pick up 100 percent of the tab for three years and no less than 90 percent thereafter. Even so, many Illinois lawmakers bulked at the proposal, deeming it too risky given the state’s dire finances.

AFC co-led a robust advocacy campaign to persuade lawmakers to vote favorably for Medicaid expansion. We worked with the media, assembled a statewide coalition, and enlisted the support of uninsured people to explain to lawmakers how they would stand to benefit. After months of vigorous debate, we persevered. As a result, more than half-a-million Illinoisans, including nearly 10,000 individuals with HIV, will benefit.

And thanks to a new state grant, AFC is coordinating a multi-agency network of health care enrollment counselors. Their job is to help educate and enroll people in new health insurance benefits. Our network has hosted dozens of educational events, assisted more than 900 consumers with enrollment services, and has met with over 5,000 Chicago residents.
"As someone who has used PrEP, I believe that it is important to share my story. People have different opinions about PrEP and I can answer many of their questions. It is a big step to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and it all starts with knowledge."

- Gustavo Varela (pictured center, at a community "talk show" about PrEP)
“With T2, I conquered my first Chicago Triathlon and so much more – raised money for a worthy cause, made lasting friendships, and joined a family of athletes committed to my community. T2 changes people’s lives.”

– 2013 Team to End AIDS (T2) Life Time Tri Chicago Participant Helios Hugo Diaz
**Financial Statement**

**Revenues**

- **Total Revenue**: $23,266,792
  - **Private Sources**
    - Foundations/Corporations: $3,287,680
    - Fee for Service/Other: $682,810
    - Individuals/Memorials/Bequests: $283,589
    - Direct mail (net): $54,450
    - Special Events (net): $1,255,192
  - **Public Sources**
    - Chicago Dept. of Public Health: $7,009,697
    - IL Dept. of Public Health (Federal $): $3,117,415
    - IL Dept. of Public Health (State $): $414,624
    - IL Dept. of Human Services: $645,839
    - U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development: $5,371,532
    - U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Services Administration: $1,035,848
    - Other: $108,116
  - **Total Revenue**: $23,266,792

**Expenses**

- **Total Expenses**: $23,212,900
  - **Program & Policy**: $14,274,637
  - **General & Administrative**: $1,577,885
  - **Development**: $916,405
  - **Grants & Awards: Private**: $692
  - **Grants & Awards: Public**: $692
  - **Total Expenses**: $23,212,900

**Change in Net Assets**

- **Excess of Revenue over Expenses**: $53,200
- **Fund for the Future**: $53,892
- **Total Change in Net Assets**: $53,892
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Fighting HIV/AIDS with dance, athleticism and decadent chocolate.

AFC’s 2013 Spring Dinner gathered nearly 500 guests to experience the hilarious stand-up comedy of Paula Poundstone. AFC presented the 2013 Civic Leadership Award to renowned choreographer Randy Duncan, and honored Robert Neubert, a long-time member of AFC’s board and co-chair of Dance for Life, with the Lori Kaufman Volunteer Award. The event raised $125,000.

AFC’s TEAM TO END AIDS (T2) celebrated its 10th year by training 207 athletes to run the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, 66 runners to finish the Chicago Half Marathon, 50 multisport athletes to compete in the Life Time Tri Chicago, and 25 dedicated people to swim, bike, and run Ironman 70.3 Steelhead. Together, they raised $324,000 for the fight against HIV/AIDS! After the marathon, the Bank of America Foundation presented AFC with an additional $25,000 grant award, which will support AFC’s case management programs that link people living with HIV to lifesaving services and benefits.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2014

TEAM TO END AIDS Kick-off
Saturday, May 10

Spring Event: Ignite
Friday, May 16

Dance for Life
Saturday, August 16
Dance for Life raised more than $205,000 to benefit AFC, the Dancers’ Fund, and Chicago House with performances by DanceWorks Chicago, Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, River North Dance Chicago and Thodos Dance Chicago.

The 12th annual desserts and culinary gala moved to Chicago Union Station, where AFC supporters shared a night of decadence and irresistible chocolate creations, celebrating progress made in fighting HIV/AIDS. Along with A-list food critics, 29 vendors created an unforgettable experience for more than 1,200 guests. The event was hugely successful, raising $137,000.

AIDS Run & Walk Chicago
Tentative date: Saturday, October 4

World of Chocolate
Thursday, December 4

Proceeds are net of expense.
PARTNERSHIPS

AFC is proud to partner with a wide variety of dedicated organizations delivering high-quality prevention, care, housing and other essential services to HIV-affected people across metropolitan Chicago. In 2013, AFC awarded 55 partner agencies nearly $16 million, through 200 grants and contracts, for vital HIV-related services.

HIGHLIGHTED BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF THE MANY PARTNERSHIPS AFC MAINTAINS TO SUPPORT LOCAL RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE EPIDEMIC.

A. Austin West Side Health Center
AIDS Run & Walk, CommunityDirect– A total of 35 HIV/AIDS service organizations form AIDS Run & Walk teams to raise money directly for their services. In 2013, over $250,000 was raised by providers.

B. Erie Family Health Center
Care Providers– AFC and its partners provide numerous services, including medical care, oral health services, legal assistance, mental health, transportation, and many more, to HIV positive individuals throughout Chicagoland.

C. South Side Help Center
Case Management Providers– AFC’s network of case managers provide high quality services to HIV positive people who need help finding medical care, attending appointments, taking their medicine, and connecting to other essential support services.

D. Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Challenge Grant Recipients– Through a competitive process, Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance received a two year AFC grant to improve clients’ employment and health outcomes. A total of 11 organizations received Challenge Grants for diverse and innovative projects that address the screening, prevention, care, housing and/ or employment needs of Chicagoland residents.

E. Christian Community Health Center
Housing– AFC collaborates with housing agencies, hospitals, prisons, and shelters to provide rental subsidies, case management, mental health, substance use treatment and other essential services. On a monthly basis, AFC makes approximately 1,000 rental, mortgage, and utility payments to keep people with HIV safely housed. Our housing network ensures vulnerable individuals and families have safe and affordable homes.

F. AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Insurance Enrollment Assistance Program– Through the In-Person Counselor program, AFC and its partners provide insurance application assistance to thousands of individuals. Navigators help highly vulnerable populations learn about their health insurance options and enroll into Medicaid or other health plans.

G. Howard Brown Health Center
Prevention, HIV Testing – To reduce the number of people who do not know their HIV status, AFC and its partners provide testing services in various venues including public aid offices, the Cook County Jail, bars, and at special events. In the past year, over 7,500 tests were performed and 121 people newly diagnosed with HIV were linked to medical care.

H. Open Door Clinic
Service Providers Council, Executive Committee– The Service Providers Council, a membership coalition of local HIV/AIDS services organizations, is led by a strong and active Executive Committee. The Executive Committee informs AFC’s advocacy priorities and works together to improve programs region-wide.

I. Mount Sinai Hospital
Sustainable Strategy Program– Mount Sinai Hospital was one of the five organizations that participated in an intensive workshop series to ensure sustainability. Agency leaders successfully developed strategic goals, identified alternative payment sources, and crafted business plans to thrive in the changing healthcare landscape.
AIDS RUN & WALK
Agape Missions, Inc.
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Asian Human Services
Austin West Side Health Center
CALOR
Canticke Ministries
Catholic Charities of Chicago
Center on Halsted
Chicago House
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chicago Woman’s AIDS Project
The Children’s Place
Christian Community Health Center
Families and Children’s AIDS Network
Greater Full Gospel Church
Heartland Alliance
Howard Brown Health Center
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Midwest AIDS Training + Education Center
Men and Women in Prison Ministries
Michael Reese HIV Program
Mount Sinai Hospital
New Age Services
New Life Covenant
Open Door Clinic
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI)
Puerto Rican Cultural Center (VIDA/Sida)
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
South Side Help Center
Test Positive Aware Network
The Night Ministry
University of Chicago
Care2Prevent
Youth Outlook

CARE PROVIDERS
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Catholic Charities of Chicago
Children’s Place Association
Chicago Women’s AIDS Project
Christian Community Health Center
Erie Family Health Center
Heartland Health Outreach
Howard Brown Health Center
Open Door Clinic
Near North Health Center
Provident Hospital
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
Test Positive Aware Network

CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDERS
Access Community Health Center
Agape Missions, Inc.
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Asian Human Services
Austin Health Center
CALOR
Catholic Charities
Chicago House & Social Service Agency
Chicago Women’s AIDS Project
Children’s Place Association
Christian Community Health Center
Erie Family Health Center
Fifth Street Renaissance Center
Haymarket Center
Healthcare Alternative Systems
Heartland Health Outreach
Howard Area Community Center
Howard Brown Health Center
Jackson County Health Department
Lake County Health Department
Men and Women in Prison Ministries
Michael Reese Education and Research Foundation
Mount Sinai Hospital
Near North Health Center
Open Door Clinic
Project VIDA
Provident Hospital
Regional CARE Association
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
South Side Help Center
South Suburban HIV/AIDS Regional Clinics
Test Positive Aware Network
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
University of Chicago
University of Chicago Children’s Hospital
University of Illinois at Chicago
Community Outreach
Intervention Projects

CHALLENGE GRANT RECIPIENTS
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Heartland Health Outreach
New Age Services Corporation
Open Door Clinic
South Side Help Center
Test Positive Aware Network
The Night Ministry
University of Illinois at Chicago, Community Outreach
Intervention Project
Young Women’s Empowerment Project
PARTNERSHIPS

HOUSING
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Beacon Therapeutic
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Christian Community Health Center
Cook County Stroger Hospital
Deborah’s Place
Health & Disability Advocates
Heartland Health Outreach
Heartland Human Care Services
Housing Opportunities for Women
Howard Area Community Center
Inspiration Corporation
Interfaith House
Mercy Housing Lakefront
Mount Sinai Hospital
Northside Housing & Supportive Services
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Sarah’s Circle
Test Positive Aware Network
Thresholds

INSURANCE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Chicago House
Howard Brown Health Center
Thresholds

HIV TESTING
Brothers Health Collective
Cook County Jail
Howard Brown Health Center
Making a Daily Effort

SERVICE PROVIDERS COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance
Asian Human Services Association for Latino Men in Action
Austin Health Center CBC Initiative
Catholic Charities of Lake County
Chicago Center for AIDS Research
Christian Community Health Center
Connect-to-Protect
DuPage County Health Department
Erie Family Health Center
Faith United Methodist Church
Heartland Health Outreach, Vital Bridges
Howard Brown Health Center
Human Resources Development Institute, Inc.
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Public Health Association
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Making a Daily Effort
Michael Reese HIV/AIDS Program
Midwest AIDS Training + Education Center
Open Door Clinic
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Rafael Center of Heartland Alliance
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
South Side Help Center
Test Positive Aware Network

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY PROGRAM
Howard Brown Health Center
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Mount Sinai Hospital
Project VIDA
South Side Help Center
Thanks to supporters like you, hope continues.

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Together, Sable and Sherer stood at the forefront of health and gay-rights activism. “Ron Sable worked to fight stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV disease, and to ensure equal access to high quality primary health care for all people,” Sherer said. “I am honored to join my life-long friend and colleague as the namesakes for the new AFC Legacy Society.”

For more information, please visit aidschicago.org/legacy or call (312) 334-0917.
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