

AIDS Athens
ANNUAL REPORT **2013/14**



providing housing
for a stronger,
healthier community

VISION AIDS Athens exists to enhance and enrich the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as their friends, families, and partners. The organization also seeks to effect a fundamental change in society's attitude toward persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

HISTORY AIDS Athens was founded by a group of Athens residents who attended an AIDS forum at the University of Georgia in 1987. Non-profit 501(c)(3) status was obtained two years later. The organization has grown to serve 10 Northeast Georgia counties.



2013/14... SERVED **406** INDIVIDUALS, **185** CHILDREN, AND **264** HOUSEHOLDS

ON COVER AIDS Athens staff clockwise from upper left – Adriane, Mary Beth (Bee), Justine, Karen, Cassandra, Stephanie, Lynnsey, Cathryn, Olivia, and Brittany.

DEAR FRIENDS,

For 27 years, AIDS Athens has been a support anchor for the Northeast Georgia community. We continue to be a strong force and partner in the field of HIV/AIDS for the state and a home for creative solutions to ending HIV transmission in our community.

With your help, we continue to develop programs and devise strategies to improve the lives of our clients while being great stewards of funding entrusted to our organization. Often the best way to help those living with HIV/AIDS improve their lives is to provide them a home.

Housing strengthens our community. It improves quality and quantity of life, increases medical adherence and employability, and decreases hospitalizations, incarcerations, and mental health stabilizations.

Years of research and evaluation have also shown that housing can reduce HIV/AIDS transmission. When housed, positive individuals are more likely to become adherent to medications, achieve an undetectable viral load, and reduce HIV transmission by 96%.

Last year, AIDS Athens developed a new Family Advocacy Program. Stress related to housing instability impacts the entire family. By providing each family with an advocate, we strengthen the parent/child relationship and help parents navigate the school system while monitoring grades and attendance. Our hope is that this program will reduce homelessness and HIV/AIDS for future generations.

This year, with your help, we will secure 40 additional safe and affordable housing units for our clients; significantly reducing our waiting list and helping to end homelessness and HIV/AIDS transmission in our community.

Our donors, grantors, volunteers, and community partners make all this possible.

Your support has kept us housed for 27 years.



Olivia C. Long, MPH, MA-NPO
Executive Director

AIDS ATHENS STAFF

Olivia Chelko-Long, MA-NPO, MPH
Executive Director

Cassandra Bray
Assistant Director

Justine Sher, LCSW
Intensive Case Manager

Lynnsey LaFayette, MS
Residential Services Manager

Cathryn Mollenberg, MSW
Client Services and Family
Advocacy Coordinator

Karen Hodge, LMSW
Case Manager – Monroe Office

Adriane Brown
Residential Services Coordinator –
Monroe Office

Stephanie Peck, MSW
Case Manager – Athens Office

Mary Beth Swan
Case Manager – Gainesville Office

Brittany Lahr
Business Operations Manager

AIDS IN ATHENS

AIDS Athens serves a U.S. region that still has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS mortality, the highest rate of new cases of HIV and AIDS, and the highest estimated number of people to be living with HIV/AIDS. In fact, 8 of the 10 states with the highest rates of new HIV infections are in the South – Georgia ranking number 2.

AIDS Athens has the difficult job of combatting the stigma of testing and treatment, covering a large rural service area, and addressing transportation barriers for our clients. Yet, we continue to serve more with less as we experience decreased funding and increased caseloads.

The South has 37% of the country's population, but:

- 50% of new HIV diagnoses
- 46% of new AIDS diagnoses
- 43% of all people living with HIV
- 9 of the 10 states with the highest HIV fatality rates
- 9 of the top 10 metropolitan cities with highest AIDS case rates¹

HIV/AIDS is a significant problem in our community, but one we can still do something about. With AIDS Athens' attention to medical adherence for positive individuals, prevention programming, testing, and community support, we can make a difference while expanding our reach and services.

2013/14... 86 SUPPORT GROUPS AND 178 INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS

¹The Southern States Manifesto, 2012, Southern AIDS Coalition.

SAFE Neighborhood PROJECT

AIDS Athens has partnered with the Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Police Department, Economic Development, and other housing focused non-profits to develop a Safer Neighborhood Coalition. This coalition, headed by Sgt. Anthony Schuble, strives to ensure neighborhoods in which our clients live are secure. Residents are providing great feedback resulting in better lighting and transportation, as well as increased patrols by police officers. Given that our clients are housed in diverse neighborhoods in Athens, we are making great strides to improve the safety and security of Athens, as a whole. In the last year, there has been a significant reduction in crime due to Sgt. Schuble's dedication to this project.



BACK TO SCHOOL FUZIONS

This past year, AIDS Athens focused more attention on family advocacy, knowing that all family members are impacted by HIV/AIDS. Every parent knows the financial stress of back to school needs, so we put out the call for donations. Over the course of several weeks, the community responded and our conference room was full of needed school supplies.



One group, the Gender Fuzions Cabaret, hosted a Back to School benefit in Monroe, GA. The Show Director, Bryan Harris, has always been touched by AIDS Athens' work in the community and thought what better way to celebrate the show's 2nd anniversary performance. The event collected over 30 book bags filled with school supplies and raised \$600 for school uniforms. Because of the community's response, all our kids were set for school this Fall.

4250 CASE MANAGEMENT VISITS

1556 VISITS TO THE FOOD PANTRY

HOUSING

According to the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC), 70% of positive individuals will experience some form of homelessness during their lifetime. For this reason, AIDS Athens understands the important relationship between housing and HIV prevention and treatment.

Unstable housing is closely related to poor health outcomes. Positive individuals in unstable living environments risk early death at rates five times higher than those housed because of much lower CD4 counts and higher viral loads! The ability to adhere to HIV medications is unlikely when the daily focus is on food and a place to sleep. Rates of HIV infection can also be 10 times higher in the homeless population, and that population is 2 to 6 times more likely to have recently engaged in risky drug or sexual behaviors that can transmit HIV. Therefore, homelessness is a major risk factor for HIV transmission!

HOUSING WORKS!

Those AIDS Athens' housed in 2013/14 experienced a

69% reduction in incarceration rates

93% compliance with medical care

17% increase in earned income due to improved health

AIDS Athens works with local homeless services agencies every year to partner on programs and projects to house some of the hardest to serve populations and increase the number of affordable housing units in Northeast Georgia. Stable housing improves health functioning,

reduces HIV risk behaviors, and decreases health care expenditures by reducing emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and mental health stabilizations. Each new infection prevented through housing saves an estimated \$400,000 in lifetime medical costs!¹ For all these reasons, the majority of our funding is directed towards providing stable, safe, and affordable housing for our clients. We work hard to improve their overall health and the community as a whole. Despite the lack of affordable housing, AIDS Athens is committed to

increasing the number of units we provide each year and providing the wrap-around services to make those programs and clients successful.

2013/14... 195 FAMILIES ASSISTED WITH HOUSING

¹NAHC, 2011 & Southern States Manifesto, 2012.



SUPPORT

Eric and Mysti Outler, realtors in the Metro Atlanta area, have a passion for serving the HIV/AIDS community. As public speakers, they travel to speak at universities, high schools, churches, and community and business events to change the public perception of, and bring awareness to, this epidemic. Eric and Mysti have been married for 6 years; Eric is HIV negative and Mysti is an 11 year survivor. For Mysti, support groups were the life-line in helping her out of depression and isolation when diagnosed.

Mysti and Eric lead a support group the second Thursday of every month at AIDS Athens. They are committed to providing a safe and non-judgmental environment, so that those infected, or affected by HIV/AIDS can experience hope, support, acceptance, and love, without guilt or shame.

client services

HOUSING

CASE MANAGEMENT

NUTRITIONAL MEALS

FAMILY ADVOCACY

EDUCATIONAL TRAININGS

MEDICAL REFERRALS & SUPPORT

SUPPORT GROUPS

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

TRANSPORTATION

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

EMPLOYMENT COACHING

1027 HIV TESTS CONDUCTED

financial statement

Each year, AIDS Athens commissions an audit of our finances by an independent accounting firm. The agency's fiscal year is July 1st–June 30th. The 12 month year, July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014, is reflected below and compared to the last operating year.

BALANCE SHEET

	FY12–13	FY13–14
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$4,837	\$22,321
Account Receivables	\$170,222	\$135,446
Other Assets	\$10,469	\$10,469
Total Assets	\$185,528	\$168,236
LIABILITIES		
Payables	\$15,766	\$1,882
Total Liabilities	\$15,766	\$1,882
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$167,764	\$156,301
Restricted	\$1,998	\$10,053
Total Net Assets	\$169,762	\$166,354

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	FY12–13	FY13–14
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$90,606	\$102,131
Grants	\$913,229	\$971,185
Other Income	\$9,511	\$13,306
Total Revenue	\$1,013,346	\$1,086,623
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$988,606	\$1,064,616
Management/General	\$16,354	\$19,158
Fundraising	\$18,128	\$6,257
Total Expenses	\$1,023,088	\$1,090,031
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	\$179,504	\$169,762
End of Year	\$169,762	\$166,354
Total Change	(\$9,742)	(\$3,408)

FUND-RAISING
0.6%

MANAGEMENT/GENERAL
1.7%

PROGRAM SERVICES
97.7%

2013/14...68

Complete financial
statement available at
www.aidsathens.org.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SESSIONS CONDUCTED

Your contribution provides the foundation that allows our organization to be a self-sustaining force for our community. As a 501(c)(3) designated non-profit, tax deductible contributions may be made the following ways:

GENERAL DONATIONS are among the most valuable gifts because they allow the organization to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest.

PLANNED GIVING is a way to create your legacy of service to others through support of AIDS Athens in your estate plan.

SPECIAL EVENTS are an opportunity to attend one of our events or make us the beneficiary of your event or social activity.

WORKPLACE GIVING allows employees to make donations through payroll deduction. AIDS Athens is a member of Georgia Shares and the Athens-Clarke County Employee Charity Drive.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP is an opportunity to demonstrate your company's commitment financially or in-kind.

DONATING SECURITIES in the form of appreciable assets like stocks, bonds, or mutual funds.

VOLUNTEERING is a way to support our mission with your time, energy, and talent. Apply online to become a volunteer.

Would you like to make a sustainable gift to AIDS Athens? We partner with the Athens Area Community Foundation for planned giving and donations of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Contact Delene Porter, CEO, at 706.542.7044 or dporter@athensareacf.org.

AIDS Athens serves HIV-positive individuals and families with the basic needs of medication, housing, clothing, food, and emotional support. We also provide community-wide HIV testing and prevention programming.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

\$48 (\$4/month) = Apartment start-up kit for a homeless individual entering housing

\$120 (\$10/month) = 750 pounds of food for 20 low-income families a week

\$240 (\$20/month) = Deposit & reconnect fees for a family living without basic utilities

\$360 (\$30/month) = Work uniforms for 15 individuals entering the work force

\$480 (\$40/month) = Co-pay help to a pregnant mother to prevent transmission

\$780 (\$65/month) = Educational materials to 2,000 local high school students

\$1,200 (\$100/month) = 100 HIV rapid tests to provide early detection & prevention

\$1,440 (\$120/month) = 50 school-age children with HIV+ parents provided school uniforms for the year

GIVE SUPPORT

Please provide all contact information so that we may appropriately recognize your meaningful contribution.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

I would like to Give Support through a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____
I would like more information on:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> planned giving | <input type="checkbox"/> workplace giving (Georgia Shares) | <input type="checkbox"/> special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> corporate sponsorship | <input type="checkbox"/> vehicle donation | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> donating securities | <input type="checkbox"/> volunteering | |

- ☐ I would like AIDS Athens to be the beneficiary of my event, contact me.
☐ I would like to opt out of the AIDS Athens mailing list.

Please mail with your check to:
AIDS Athens, 112 Park Ave,
Athens, GA 30601

or make a donation online at:

www.AIDSathens.org

thanks to...

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MFA Drama Performance

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 2014/15

Tracy Stroud
Advertising Account Executive
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JP Lemay
IT Systems Analyst
AthenTrke County

HOUSING SUPPORT AGENCIES



SPONSORS SPOTLIGHT

BOYBUTANTE AIDS FOUNDATION

For 26 years, AIDS Athens has been blessed to have The Boybutante AIDS Foundation raise money for needed HIV/AIDS services and prevention throughout Northeast Georgia. We want to thank the Foundation for another amazing year, raising more than \$35,000, the largest donation from this Foundation to date. Over the past 26 years, the Boybutante AIDS Foundation, Inc. has raised more than \$700,000 for AIDS support services in Northeast Georgia, making AIDS Athens their primary beneficiary. The Foundation, however,

does more than provide much needed funds to our agency.

They also raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in our community.

By hosting fun and energized events that are low cost, they bring in an audience that we, as an agency, just could not reach on our own.



PHOTO: Craig Gum Photography



THANK YOU
SPONSORS!

MARATHON SUPPORT



HALF MARATHON SUPPORT

Athens Bagel Co.

Higgins Party & Event Rentals

New Earth Music Hall

Terrapin Beer Co.

Student Notes

2013
AIDS WALK

photos by
Beth Richardson



AIDS
athens
serving northeast georgia

aidsathens.org

Member of Georgia Shares
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