



GROWING

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

2015/16

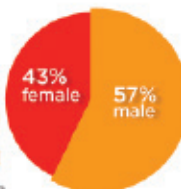
AIDS Athens ANNUAL REPORT

Live Forward **serves all 10 counties** in the Northeast Health District (District 10) of Georgia. Our service area includes: **Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton counties.**

While we help people of all ages,
57%
of those served fall between the age of
25–54



In 2015–2016,
WE SERVED
462
people through
our support services



MORE THAN
49% of those served lived in Clarke County **BUT** **51%**



were located in Walton, Barrow, Hall, Jackson & Madison counties.

MISSION The mission of Live Forward is to build healthier communities through stable housing, improved health management, strong community outreach and widespread prevention services, ensuring those we help live with dignity and a positive quality of life.

VISION The vision of Live Forward is to meet clients where they are by providing secure housing, increased independence and giving a voice to break down stigmas and end the cycle of poverty in our community.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In the past year, AIDS Athens experienced much change and growth. This was true of many AIDS service organizations around the country. Over the past three years many of these agencies closed or merged with other agencies, while others broadened their scope to ensure that their core clients continued to receive services. Two years ago, after much thought, AIDS Athens Board of Directors decided to expand our mission. This expansion aims to ensure the sustainability of the agency and continued service to people infected and affected by HIV in our 10-county service area. The decision included changing the name of the agency to reflect that our mission has changed. It is important to note that people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are our core population and will continue to be until there is cure. However, we will also serve other related populations as a means of diversifying our funding streams to ensure we are able to serve our core population.

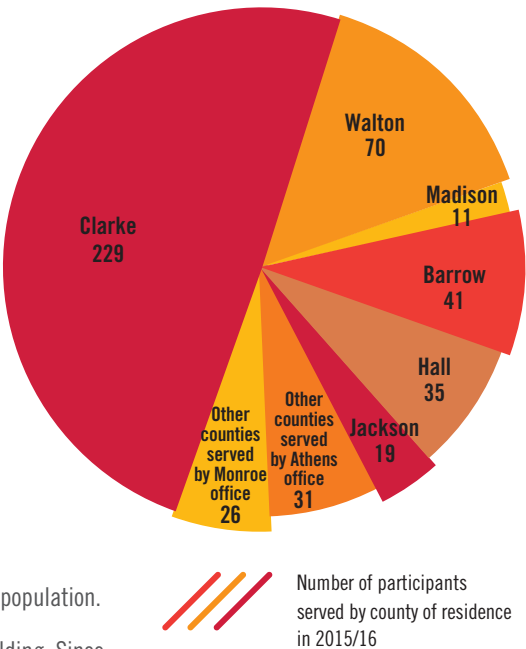
Another change, and sign of growth, is our new location in the ARCH building. Since the move into the ARCH building in April, we have strengthened our relationship with two existing partners, Advantage Behavioral Health System and Athens Nurses Clinic. We are also currently negotiating a partnership with an Infectious Disease Doctor in Atlanta to begin providing HIV medical services at the ARCH building. These partnerships will allow us to expand testing and prevention services among several populations at risk for HIV/AIDS and increase linkage and retention in medical care for our HIV positive patients.

As AIDS Athens becomes Live Forward we will continue to embrace the history and values that have been a part of the agency since 1987. However, we need your support to continue growing.

Thank you for 29 years of support.

Respectfully Yours,


Cassandra Bray
Interim Executive Director



“...people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are our core population and will continue to be until there is cure.”

Why Live Forward?



HOUSING INDEPENDENCE VOICE

AIDS Athens was created out of necessity because members of the Athens community were witnessing neighbors, friends, and family become sick and die with HIV/AIDS. Rather than stand by idly, a group of Athens residents decided to do something. After attending an AIDS forum at the University of Georgia in 1987 that group decided to found AIDS Athens. In the beginning, the focus was not case management services, but to support those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in whatever ways they needed. Non-profit 501(c)(3) status was obtained two years later in 1989. AIDS Athens's early sustainability was largely due to dedicated volunteers. Then, in 1989, a music group, well-known as The B-52's, made a financial gift to AIDS Athens which allowed the agency to hire one paid staff at 8 hours a week.

As the year 1992 passed, staff and volunteers continued to work with people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and discovered a crucial difficulty among patients: poverty. Studies have shown that 75% of HIV positive individuals will experience either an episode of homelessness or housing vulnerability in their lifetime. This was a pivotal discovery to the organization's future as AIDS Athens began to develop a niche in housing, case management and other support services. In October 1995, members of AIDS Athens approved changes in the structure of the organization and renamed it the AIDS Coalition of Northeast Georgia due to the organization's growth in serving clients living in 10 Northeast Georgia counties. Later, in August 2004, the AIDS Coalition was renamed AIDS Athens to emphasize the reaffirmation of its mission to serve the local community.

There have been countless remarkable moments of community in AIDS Athens's history. The year 1991 marks the first appearance of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Athens, which was viewed by over 5,000 community members. The following year, in 1992, the first annual AIDS Walk commenced. Not too soon after, through contacts with music group R.E.M., a New York art auction raised \$17,000 for the organization in 1994. After that, in 1998, a 70-foot AIDS Awareness Ribbon was laid on UGA's North campus lawn. 2006 brought a certificate of appreciation awarded to AIDS Athens by the Georgia Department of Human Resources in recognition of valuable contributions to the 2006 World's AIDS Day. With countless fundraising and outreach events from its creation, AIDS Athens is the organization it is today because of such strong community support.

SERVING NORTHEAST GEORGIA FOR 29 YEARS

Housing Case Management / Medical Referrals & Support / Nutritional Meals / Support Groups / Family Advocacy



Today there are now two AIDS Athens offices, one in Athens and one in Monroe. The agency has 14 paid staff members, compared to one in 1989. As we reflect on the strides we've made in our community and with our clients, we're excited to embark on a new adventure. As of 2017, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our new name and brand – Live Forward.

While the organization has changed shape since its creation in 1987, Live Forward will maintain AIDS Athens legacy. In order to best serve those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the greater 10-county Northeast Georgia community – the organization has taken a broad stroke. Here at Live Forward, we know clients face issues beyond HIV/AIDS. We have created a niche service where we are skilled in providing residential services, housing needs, case management and supportive services as well as outreach and prevention. In order to create the greatest impact, the AIDS Athens Board of Directors decided to broaden our mission. Through this new outlook, Live Forward will be able to apply for a larger range of funding sources, while staying true to the core population we've always served.

When AIDS Athens was created, the focus was about the disease of HIV/AIDS. Now, our focus is assisting clients with making HIV a manageable chronic condition and assisting clients with moving towards independence. As we move forward, we aim to eliminate the stigma attached to the intersecting issues our clients face. We stabilize. We destigmatize. We Live Forward.

Individual Counseling / Educational Trainings / Transportation / Financial Counseling / Employment Coaching

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

/// Coffee and Conversation

In the fall of 2015, Coffee and Conversation began as a support group in the Monroe Office. Under the guidance of our two UGA counseling interns, Michael and Claire, the monthly group provided an outlet for clients to freely discuss any topic they desired. As the group progressed, Michael and Claire realized that both poetry and art were avenues the clients could use to express thoughts and emotions. The participants of Coffee and Conversation began compiling their work and, within a couple of months, had enough material to create a book to share with loved ones. Their artwork has also been utilized by Michael and Claire to showcase the great work they have done with our agency at various conferences across the country.

After Michael and Claire completed their internship, our clients expressed an interest in continuing what they started. The clients even felt that they could commit enough time to turn Coffee and Conversation from a monthly group into a weekly group.

Now, under the guidance of Arron Giles, the group continues to meet weekly to discuss topics deemed relevant to the participants. These topics range from stigma to belonging to empathy. Throughout the past year, Coffee and Conversation has seen great growth; the number of participants has increased from 2–3 clients at each group to 10–12 clients. Coffee and Conversation has become a staple group of the Monroe Office and each client who participates brings as much to the group as they take away.





“The changes he sees in clients motivate him to continue his work with Coffee and Conversation.”

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

/// Arron Giles

Arron Giles is a very influential individual through his role as facilitator of the Monroe Office's Coffee and Conversation support group. Arron views this support group as a form of talk therapy that helps participants navigate the ins and outs of living daily with HIV. Arron uses his associate and bachelor's degrees in psychology to guide the topics and talking points for the weekly group. He intentionally chooses topics that help keep clients informed and to encourage awareness of what they may encounter in the community.

Arron hopes that by attending the support group, clients will be able to take the message and apply it to their lives to help them better handle stress, resolve conflict, and especially to motivate themselves to remain in care. Arron would like to see the number of participants of Coffee and Conversation grow to 15–20 people. To do this, he encourages new and established clients to make connections with those they think would benefit from the group.

Arron enjoys working with our organization because he wants to “help those in the community that suffer from chronic conditions.” No matter what is occurring in a client's personal life, Arron would like to assist that person in finding an appropriate level of coping so they are able to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The changes he sees in clients motivate him to continue his work with Coffee and Conversation. Through this support group and other resources available at Live Forward, Arron feels he has been able to work toward his goal of aiding those in our community.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

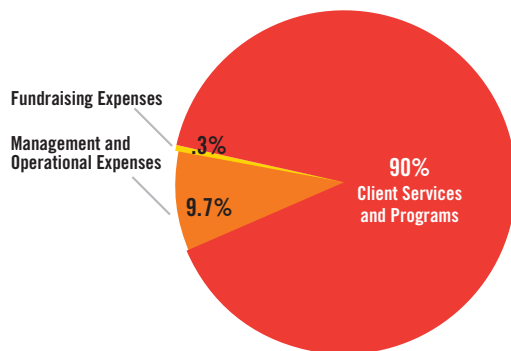
Each year, AIDS Athens (now Live Forward) commissions an audit of our finances by an independent accounting firm. The agency's fiscal year is July 1st–June 30th. The 12 month year – July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 – is reflected below and compared to the last operating year.

BALANCE SHEET

	FY14–15	FY15–16
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalent	\$19,998	\$62,100
Account Receivables	\$166,985	\$222,438
Other Assets	\$21,195	\$21,330
Total Assets	\$208,178	\$305,868
LIABILITIES		
Payables	\$3,333	\$105,655
Total Liabilities	\$3,333	\$105,655
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$203,317	\$194,644
Restricted	\$1,528	\$5,569
Total Net Assets	\$204,825	\$200,213

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	FY14–15	FY15–16
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$89,670	\$90,512
Grants	\$1,228,403	\$1,320,510
Other Income	\$9,782	\$16,768
Total Revenue	\$1,327,855	\$1,427,790
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$1,264,072	\$1,287,905
Management/General	\$18,159	\$140,150
Fundraising	\$7,133	\$5,130
Total Expenses	\$1,289,364	\$1,433,185
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	\$166,354	\$204,845
End of Year	\$204,845	\$200,213
Total Change	\$38,491	\$(4,632)



FY 15/16 BY THE NUMBERS

297 households served

463 individuals served

204 families and 100 children
received housing assistance

57 new client intakes conducted

130 new families received
housing assistance

3,778 case management visits

582 family advocacy sessions

225 adult counseling sessions

1,078 support group and
workshop attendees

1,719 visits to our food bank as
part of our nutritional program

801 HIV tests performed



Live Forward provides community-wide HIV testing and prevention programming. We offer HIV-positive individuals and families with the basic needs of medication, housing, clothing, food, and emotional support.

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 & connection 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 uniforms for school-age children with HIV

Thank you for
your support!

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 Live Forward to be the beneficiary of my event, contact me.
☐ I would like to opt out of the Live Forward mailing list.

Please mail with your check to:
Live Forward, 240 North Ave,
Athens, GA 30601

or make a donation online at:

liveforward.org



With your help, Live Forward can be a self-sustaining force for our community. As a 501(c)(3) designated non-profit, tax deductible contributions include:

general donations Help wherever the need is greatest.

planned giving Leave a legacy of service by including Live Forward in your estate plan.

special events Attend one of our events or make Live Forward the beneficiary of your event or social activity.

workplace giving Given through payroll deduction. Live Forward is a member of Georgia Shares and the Athens-Clarke County Employee Charity Drive.

corporate sponsorship
Demonstrate your company's commitment financially or in-kind.

donating securities Appreciable assets like stocks, bonds, or mutual funds are welcome.

volunteering Share your time or talents. Apply at liveforward.org to become a volunteer.

Would you like to make a sustainable gift? 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.

THANK YOU

STAFF/INTERNS

Olivia Long, MPH, MA-NPO
Executive Director

Cassandra Bray
Assistant Director

Lynnsey Lafayette, MS
Residential Services Manager

Adriane Brown
Manager, Monroe Office

Cathryn Lapka, MSW
Case Manager and Family
Advocate, Athens Office

Chris Richards
Case Manager, Athens Office

Chris Williams, LMSW
Case Manager, Athens Office

Hannah Craswell, LMSW
Case Manager, Athens Office

Shelley Fadeley, MSW
Case Manager, Monroe Office

Angie Waller
Part-time Case Manager

Taylor Yates, LCSW
Clinical Supervisor

Jason Blizzard, M.Ed.
Counselor

Sarah Rupnaraine
Counselor

**Marilyn Davis, Certified Addiction
Recovery Empowerment Specialist**
Facilitator

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Executive Director, AIDS Athens

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Marcus Head
Microbiologist, USDA's Food Safety
Inspection Service

HOUSING SUPPORT AGENCIES



MAC AIDS FUND



AIDS WALK 2015



Thank you to our
sponsors, donors and
all the walkers!



AIDS
Athens
is now



LIVE FORWARD

liveforward.org

HOUSING INDEPENDENCE VOICE

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mprintdesign.com