

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont



*16 Years
of service to
the community*

ANNUAL
REPORT
2004

GREETINGS!

I invite you to page through this record of the year 2004 at the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

Inside, you'll find updates on the AIDS Project's programs, photos of our staff and Board of Directors, and photos that capture the sense of our year together. And of course, you'll find the Project's financial statements.

As you'll see, our capacity to serve the community grew in important ways in 2004. One of the most tangible new contributions to the AIDS Project's services was the expansion of our food programs. As the result of collaboration with the Vermont Food Bank, we can now offer prepared meals to our clients and their families. See the Program Spotlight on page 5 for more on this exciting development.

While we are on the subject of good news, the AIDS Project received news at year's end that our programming for men and women at higher risk for HIV infection is expanding, with the addition of two new staff members, and that both programs have received funding commitments for the next three years.

Once again, our friends at North Hill, Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd thrilled the crowds that came to view their gardens. 2004 was our best year yet, with more people visiting and more people contributing than ever before!

This year, we also had the pleasure of introducing the author Michael Cunningham to an appreciative group of friends at the Brattleboro Museum of Art, in a special collaboration during the Andy Warhol exhibit. Michael was the perfect guest of honor, mingling with those gathered and reading from his work.

At our Annual Meeting in September, the Board of Directors elected six new members. These men and women will be essential in providing leadership for the organization in the years to come, and we welcome and

thank them for choosing to join with us in this important service to our community.

We have once again compiled the names of our many benefactors on a poster, inserted at the back of this report. We hope you like it. I personally can think of no better way to illustrate the depth of generosity and the range of commitments that our communities in southern Vermont have shown in helping those living with HIV and those at risk for infection. To those of you who have contributed to the success of the Project's work this year, I would like to express the profound gratitude of the Project's staff, our Board of Directors and our clients and their families and friends.

Best regards to you,

Mark Melchior
Chairman of the Board of Directors



PROGRAMS

The AIDS Project's mission is to provide direct services to those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS. The Project also offers education about HIV/AIDS to help prevent its spread and to promote understanding within the communities served.



Services to people living with HIV and their partners and families

The AIDS Project assists persons with HIV/AIDS and their partners and families in the following ways:

- Service Coordination assists HIV positive individuals and their families to access needed medical care, social & educational services and benefits.
- Assistance with the activities of daily life and emotional support as needed.
- Assistance in acquiring food and other household items, through the AIDS Project's Dove Program and Gathering at Mealttime Program (see Program Spotlight page for more information).
- Risk reduction education, which helps to lower the incidence of transmission among sexual and syringe-sharing partners of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Limited financial assistance in cases of emergency.

HIV Prevention Services

The AIDS Project provides assistance in reducing the risk of contracting HIV, with a special emphasis on those populations at greater risk for infection. Risk reduction programming includes:

- Oral HIV counseling and testing for persons who wish to know their present HIV status. Oral HIV testing is easier and less intrusive than blood-based tests, therefore enabling us to reach people at greater risk of infection.
- Legal syringe exchange and harm reduction services located at the Brattleboro Drop-in Center.
- We Stop AIDS: Women's Education Exchange is a community-based prevention program aimed at heterosexual women and their partners that includes peer outreach and Safe Talk—in-home parties where women gather to share life-saving information.
- T.H.E. Men's Program is a community-building HIV prevention program for men who have sex with men.

Also the AIDS Project advocates for people with HIV or those at risk by training staff at other service agencies in Vermont on how to respond to issues related to HIV within the agency's scope.

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

Direct Services to people living with HIV and their partners and families

In 2004, Direct Services staff and volunteers served 61 people living with HIV/AIDS and 54 family members and partners in Windham, Bennington, and southern Windsor Counties in Vermont, and in adjacent areas of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Over 86 people received food and household items valued at over \$20,940. Volunteers who collected and distributed food for the Dove Program contributed over 200 hours of volunteer time.

HIV Prevention Services

In 2004, prevention staff and volunteers provided prevention or HIV counseling and testing services to approximately 700 people at risk for HIV infection.

- APSV provided over 110 oral HIV counseling and testing sessions in Bennington and Brattleboro.
- APSV distributed over 14,000 syringes and provided harm reduction services to 55 participants of the Syringe Exchange.
- T.H.E. Men's Program organized the Core Group—a group of local gay and bisexual men who meet monthly, taking action against HIV by planning and producing events and outreach. The men's monthly newsletter, small group workshops, and HIV counseling and testing continue to attract more and more men at high risk for HIV and AIDS.



- Women on the Way (WOW), an intensive HIV prevention workshop for adult women that focuses on empowerment, reached 18 women.
- The Sh-O-U-T program reached 17 girls between the ages of 13 and 15 affected by issues such as domestic & sexual violence and substance abuse.
- APSV conducted in-home Safe Talk parties for women from ethnic and racial minority communities across Vermont. We reached 229 women at 39 parties.
- APSV provided training to staff members of ten human services agencies in Windham and Bennington Counties, and to other AIDS Service Organizations in Vermont.

Over 200 volunteers provided 5,700 hours of services—worth an estimated \$94,000!
Our community—local individuals and businesses—donated \$96,871 to the AIDS Project.

FOOD PROGRAMS

We are making a difference!

Dove Program

Since 1998, the Dove Program has provided food and other essential household items to families affected by HIV. Here is how the Dove program works. Families request specific items such as Progresso chicken soup or Ivory Soap. Each request is printed on a white paper dove. These doves are displayed at participating faith communities and at the Brattleboro Food Co-op. Members of the community then select a dove and buy the item listed on it. The purchased items are collected by volunteers at the church or Coop and distributed by the AIDS Project to the family making the request. This program has been enormously successful and has helped families struggling with HIV illness to maintain a happier and healthier household.

The Dove Program works to provide exactly what clients need. Community members like this program because they know they are responding to a real unmet need.

Fourteen area faith communities and the Brattleboro Food Co-op currently participate. In 2004, APSV provided \$20,940 worth of food and other essential items to client families.



Gathering for Mealtime

In 2004, the AIDS Project started a new meal program called "Gathering for Mealtime." This program, conducted in collaboration with the Vermont Foodbank and with partial funding from the Altria Group, supplies complete frozen prepared meals to the Project's clients and their family members. APSV's clients are able to select from over sixteen different meals.

APSV also buys non-perishable food from the Vermont Foodbank. As a non-profit, we are able to buy food in large quantities at greatly reduced prices and distribute it to the client families. This is just another way that the Project can help our clients and client families with important things that they need.

How can you get involved?

We would welcome your participation in our Dove Program if you are not already involved! You can find a Dove Board near you at the following locations in Brattleboro or Bennington.

In the Brattleboro area at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, the Brattleboro Food Co-op, Centre Congregational Church, Dummerston Community Church, First United Methodist Church, Genesis Church of The Brethren, Guilford Community Church, St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, and St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

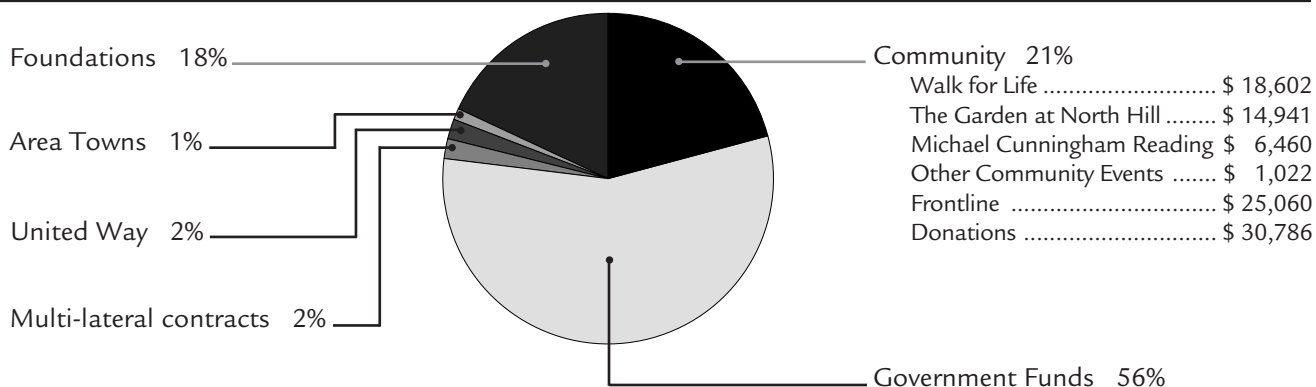
In the Bennington area at Congregation Beth El, First Baptist Church, Sacred Heart-Saint Francis Church, St. John the Baptist Church, and Second Congregational Church.

Cindy Hutcheson coordinates the AIDS Project's food programs. Should you wish to volunteer or if you would like to involve your church or community center in the Dove Program, please contact Cindy at our Brattleboro office.

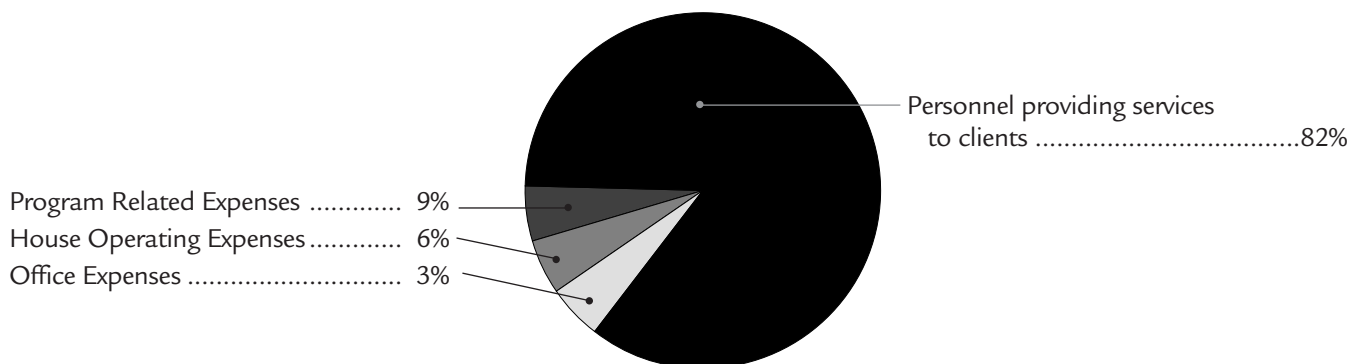
2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



2004 REVENUES: \$450,387



2004 EXPENSES: \$450,387



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FRONTLINE DONORS AND FOUNDATIONS

Many thanks to our Frontline Donors and Foundations

Frontline

Our Individual and Business Donors who contributed \$500.00 or more in 2004

Pip Bannister & Basha Freudenberg
Diana Bingham
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Vermont
Brattleboro Savings & Loan
Wayne Carhart
Tim Cowles & Waew Kasetrevatin
Thom Dahlin & Gregg VanInderstine of Peter Havens Restaurant
Helen Daly
Jane Dewey & Janet Wallstein
Entergy/Vermont Yankee
Bart Evans & Richard Vega
Lillian Farber
Susan Ford
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Lisa A. Fricke & B Elizabeth McCollum
Gilead Sciences
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Howard Graff & Richard Haas
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Todd Mandell & Richard Wizansky
Kenneth Melchior
Mark Melchior
Kevin Morgan
Robert Nassau M.D. & Nancy Storrow
Fletcher Proctor & Patti Whalen
Tia Rosengarten
Diane & Bari Shamas

Peter & Deborah Shumlin - in memory of Ron Squires
Tracy Sloan
Nancy Stiglets
Ann Stokes
Anne Proctor Walker
Eugene & Lili Walsh
Anonymous (2)

Foundations

Altria Community Coalitions
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Chittenden Bank's Card for Kids
Crosby Foundation
Dunham-Mason Foundation
Drug Policy Reform Fund of the Tides Foundation
The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
Ellen M. Willard Trust
Entergy Charitable Foundation
Gamma Mu Foundation
Joseph Martinson Memorial Fund
Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation
Marquis George MacDonald Foundation
Morris L. Levinson Foundation
NASEN (North American Syringe Exchange Network)
Samara Foundation
Thomas Thompson Trust
Turrell Fund
William Ewing Foundation
Vermont Unity Project

BOARD AND STAFF MEMBERS

Board Members

Pictured

Craig Ebbighausen, Gilbert Ruff, Richard Vega, Mark Melchior,
Mary Zabriskie, John W. Wilcox, Meg Lyons

Not Pictured

Priska Carbonneau, Wayne Carhart, Betty Elwell, Garren
Gebhardt, Heidi Gold, Carol Jaenson, Greg Lesch, Peggy
Longueil, Bruce Taft, Ray Tessier



Staff Members

Pictured

Cindy Hutcheson, Andi Waisman, Karen Peterson, Cynthia
Himmel, Michael Fannon, Lynn Martin, Susan Bell, Marguerite
Monet, Glenn Johnson

Not Pictured

Alex Potter, Tom Ziniti

Susan Bell—Executive Director
Michael Fannon—Development Director
Diana Hampton—HIV Prevention Outreach Specialist for Heterosexuals at Risk
Cynthia Himmel—Case Manager in Bennington
Cindy Hutcheson—Direct Services Program Associate
Glenn Johnson—HIV Prevention Specialist for T.H.E. Men's Program
Lynn Martin—HIV Prevention Specialist for people who use injection drugs
Marguerite Monet—Case Manager in Brattleboro
Karen Peterson—Office Manager
Alex Potter—HIV Prevention Specialist for T.H.E. Men's Program
Andi Waisman—HIV Prevention Specialist for Heterosexuals at Risk

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE



VOLUNTEER

Donate your time and skills to the AIDS Project as a volunteer. You can also offer your professional expertise. Such donations in 2004 included help with accounting, legal issues, fund raising, staff support, public relations, bodywork, psychotherapy, and graphic design. Whether as an office assistant, a helper to someone living with HIV or a member of the Board of Directors, your work on behalf of the Project makes a difference!

INVEST IN THE WORK OF THE PROJECT

The AIDS Project is a community-based agency. For this work to continue, we count on financial contributions from across the community, in any amount. If you believe that this work is important in the ongoing life of our community, please consider making a financial gift to let us know that you support our efforts.

All donations of \$500.00 or more are recognized as a special level of giving that we call Frontline. Frontline donors receive complimentary tickets to an open day of the garden at North Hill. Please consider joining our circle of Frontline donors.

You can also donate non-cash items, such as stocks and bonds, or designate the Project as a recipient in a will or special bequest. Please contact Michael Fannon at 802 254-8263, if you would like more information.

ADVOCATE

HIV continues to be a public health concern in our state, across our nation and around the world. Inform yourself about how HIV is transmitted, and how discrimination persists against those with HIV and those at highest risk for infection. You can make a difference by being an informed and compassionate advocate on behalf of people with HIV when you speak with your friends and neighbors or the community at large. If we can help, please contact our office in Bennington or Brattleboro for more information.

2004: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

HIV/AIDS Visibility Day at the Vermont State House

HIV/AIDS organizations throughout Vermont gathered at the Vermont State House to talk with Vermont legislators and the Governor about HIV-related issues in Vermont.

17th Annual AIDS Walk for Life

The Walk for Life was held in Brattleboro & Bennington and raised over \$18,000.

The 2004 open days of the garden at North Hill

Joe Eck & Wayne Winterrowd opened the garden at North Hill on June 30, July 31 & August 31 and raised over \$14,000.

Handstand Event

In conjunction with Gallery Walk in Brattleboro, T.H.E. Men's Program hosted an evening where people could dedicate a handstand to their favorite gay man.



Men@Art

In conjunction with Gallery Walk in Brattleboro, T.H.E. Men's Program hosted an exhibit of art created by area gay artists.

Guilford Community Church Birthday Party

Members of the Guilford Community Church hold an annual "Birthday Party" where they bring gifts for clients of the AIDS Project and their families.

Michael Cunningham—Dinner & Reading

On October 1, Michael Cunningham, author of "The Hours", read from his work as part of a gala evening in conjunction with the exhibition "Andy Warhol: the Jon Gould Collection" at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center.

Guilford Community Church Thanksgiving Baskets

Members of Guilford Community Church created two baskets with complete Thanksgiving dinners.

Wilmington Community Friendship Quilt Project

The Quilt Project engages Wilmington area community members to make a quilt that is given to a person living with HIV. The Quilt Project is under the direction of Laraine Morrow.

World AIDS Day—December 1, 2004

Events in Brattleboro and Bennington included a program & vigil, speakers at the churches that participate in the Dove Program, an exhibit at the Brattleboro Memorial Library, and quilt panels from the NAMES Project at the Brattleboro Library and Bennington College.

Holiday Gifts

Local businesses throughout our community donated items that were distributed to clients of the AIDS Project Quilt and their families.

St. Michael's Christmas Gifts

Members of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church purchased Christmas gifts for our clients of the AIDS Project and their families.



SPECIAL THANKS

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from the following for their help with the Annual Report:

Dede Cummings and Alyssa Newsmith of DC Design for design and production, the print shop of Chittenden Bank, Howard Printing, and Mailrite.

*Every attempt at accuracy has been made in compiling these lists.
Please let us know of any errors or omissions.*

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

A United Way of Windham County Agency

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