



AIDS Ministries/AIDS Assist of North Indiana Inc.

Annual Report 2017

PO Box 11582
South Bend, IN 46634

Phone: 574-234-2870
Fax: 574-232-2872

www.aidsministries.org

Introduction

Founded by the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1989, AIDS Ministries/AIDS Assist (AM/AA) has emerged as one of the state's leading AIDS Service Organizations. Recognizing the link between people's health and quality of life, the first staff and volunteers set out to assist those facing HIV/AIDS. As the initial belief that a cure was coming soon passed quickly, education about HIV and its prevention came to the forefront of the agency's goals while it remains committed to those facing HIV.

AM/AA provides the tools to help concerned individuals practice prevention in everything they do. AM/AA educates the community and works with them to find effective, common sense solutions to preventing HIV and assisting those who have HIV.

Our Mission is fivefold...

1. To provide access to community support
2. To provide assistance to those in need
3. To educate the public regarding the challenges facing the community regarding HIV/AIDS infection and prevention
4. To raise public awareness and advocate for the dignity and rights of those infected with HIV/AIDS
5. To stimulate and collaborate with religious and other communities of care to build networks for education and support

Community Impact

This past year marked 29 years in service. Here are some of the major accomplishments for the past year:



- 84% of clients below poverty level (\$12,000 or less per household)
- 96% of our clients are insured



- 441 clients received care coordination services.
- 57 new clients entered services in 2017



- 321 households were provided food through the pantry
- Housed 78 families
- Assisted 179 people with short term rental assistance



- 1,305 HIV tests were performed
- 2,689 people were reached through Prevention activities
- 9 newly HIV positive individuals were identified through HIV CTR services

Client Services

Care Coordination: Each client is assigned a care coordinator (caseworker) to assist and support them in life. Care Coordinators assist clients with substance abuse, crisis prevention, as well as advocacy and referrals. Areas of concern that are the main focus for clients and care coordinators can range from securing a home, income, or insurance to assistance with locating a doctor, medications, or other medical needs. The program is free to all clients.

Food pantry: Clients are able to access the pantry each month. Items that are given are both perishable and nonperishable. Food is donated or secured through grant funding. Nutritional Supplements are also made available for those clients who need assistance with weight gain or adding more nutrients.

Emergency Financial Assistance: AMAA can assist with clients with a variety of financial needs through the emergency financial assistance program. The program allows clients to receive \$200 towards rent, mortgage, utilities, medical needs, and many more. Through this program housing and health are maintained.

Housing: We offer four different housing programs. The programs are income based and all clients must be living with HIV to qualify.

- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS): Offers housing assistance in three forms: long term, short term, and operational. The long term program allows clients to live in a scatter site rental unit for up to two years. During that time we pay a portion of the rent and the client is responsible for the remainder. The short term program provides a one-time payment of up to \$500 in assistance for rent, mortgage or utility assistance to the client. Operations pay for the utilities and repairs on the buildings that the agency owns and clients live in.
- SHP (Supportive Housing Program): Provides rental assistance to clients for up to two years. The program is based on income and only for St Joseph County.
- Transitional Housing: AMAA owns 2 buildings in South Bend that clients can live in for two years. The rent is set at \$200 for a one bedroom and \$250 for a two bedroom a month. Clients pay AMAA directly. All utilities are included.
- Permanent Housing: AMAA owns 2 buildings in Elkhart that clients can live in permanently. The rent is based 30% of the client's income with the minimum amount set at \$50. Clients pay AMAA directly. Clients are responsible for the electric.

Prevention

HIV/AIDS Education: AM/AA provides HIV/AIDS risk reduction educational sessions at neighborhood centers, drug treatment centers, youth serving organizations, local middle and high schools, and other groups. Topics include, but are not limited to: HIV/AIDS facts, prevention education (condom demonstration), and IDU and substance use risk reduction education. Prevention resources such as condoms, female condoms, latex sheets, and lubrication are also provided.

HIV Testing Services: AM/AA provides free HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) services. HIV testing services are provided through the use of the traditional blood test or the OraQuick Advance or Clearview Rapid test. HIV testing services are offered at the home offices of AM/AA in South Bend and Elkhart during business hours. HIV testing services are also provided after HIV/AIDS risk reduction educational sessions and at Indiana University South Bend, the St. Joseph County Jail, local health centers, and other community places.

Community Outreach: AM/AA conducts community outreach through the various prevention programs within the department and area health fairs and conferences. AM/AA hosts a week long for events for World AIDS Day the first week of December called RED Ribbon Week.

Special Population Support Program (SPSP): The SPSP program strives to minimize the negative impact of substance abuse on the health of persons at risk for or living with HIV disease. The program consists of HIV testing services for persons at risk for HIV with substance use history as well as support for those dually diagnosed with HIV and a substance-related disorder.

Financial Report

The following is an overview of AIDS Ministries/AIDS Assist of North Indiana Inc.'s income and expenses for the fiscal year ended in



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Care Coordinator

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