

December 2019

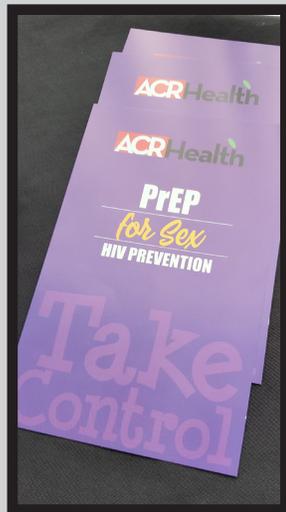
Serving
Cayuga, Herkimer, Jefferson,
Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga,
Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties

NEW TOOLS AVAILABLE AT ACR HEALTH TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS

ACR Health has announced new resources we can provide to combat HIV/AIDS here in Central New York.

ACR Health will now provide access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), the once daily pill that can prevent the transmission of HIV by up to 99%, from the ACR Health Medical Clinic in Syracuse.

“Expanding access to PrEP is a cornerstone pillar of Governor Cuomo’s plan to End the Epidemic,” said Wil Murtaugh, Executive Director of ACR Health. “By prescribing PrEP to clients right from our clinic we are making it easier than ever for people who are at risk of contracting HIV to protect themselves and their partners.”



New HIV infections dropped by 11% in 2018, down to 2,481. The number of New Yorkers who take PrEP rose to 32,000, a 32% increase over the previous year. Both of these trends contribute to continued progress of Ending the Epidemic by bringing new HIV infections in a year to 750 or less.



Seth Thompson, a client at ACR Health who is on PrEP, spoke about why he thinks it is important. “I use PrEP for peace of mind. I want to make sure that I’m staying protected,” he said.



Monday, October 21, Syracuse. Ann Rooney, Deputy County Executive of Onondaga County, Wil Murtaugh, Executive Director of ACR Health and Ruthnie Angrand, Director of Communication of the City of Syracuse announce PrEP Aware Week at a press conference.

County Deputy Executive Director Ann Rooney were present to issue a joint proclamation declaring “PrEP Aware Week” to highlight the strides made in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to reinforce the significant role that access to PrEP plays in combating this disease.

This announcement coincided with a kick off for “PrEP Aware Week”, a statewide campaign to increase awareness about PrEP and how to get connected to services. City of Syracuse Director of Communications Ruthnie Angrand and Onondaga

“We are making it easier for people who are at risk of contracting HIV to protect themselves and their partners.”

Call us at (315) 475-2430 to make an appointment and find out if PrEP is right for you.

AGING WITH HIV

New Challenges As People Live Longer With HIV

By Cheyenne Rainford

Healthcare professionals are increasingly helping HIV-positive patients face challenges that, frankly, those patients were never expected to experience: aging with HIV/AIDS as a manageable condition and not an early death sentence.

When the HIV epidemic began, the focus was on survival. Now, however, there is greater concern for quality of life, particularly as HIV-positive individuals grow older and deal with the health concerns that come with age.



Poverty and long-term care concerns are prevalent among HIV-positive people all over the world. According to the Terrence-Higgins Trust, “58% of survey respondents were defined as living on or below the poverty line.” The CDC reports that “both age and HIV increase the risk for cardiovascular disease, lung disease ... bone loss, and certain cancers.”

In addition, seniors in general struggle with loneliness and memory problems. These issues are only compounded by an HIV diagnosis and the isolating stigma that comes with it.

Some studies have indicated that a majority of older adults with HIV lived alone. This lack of social support leaves seniors “more susceptible to issues such as depression, bereavement, poor mental health, and substance abuse,” the study shows.

ACR Health and similar organizations are already on the front lines of this new phase of client care. ACR Health served 319 HIV-positive clients in 2018 aged 50 or older in programs with available data. This accounts for 60% of all HIV-positive clients served in such programs. This percentage is likely to increase in the coming years.

Traditional health issues in older individuals, loneliness, and socioeconomic status are just a few of the challenges the senior HIV-positive population and their care teams are facing. Services like those provided by ACR Health are integral to ensuring that while these patients are living longer, they are also living better.

ACR Health can provide insurance, housing and nutritional assistance along with comprehensive care management for individuals of any age or health status.

ACR Health Welcomes New Development Director

We're excited to welcome ACR Health's new Director of Development, Jon Zella. A native of Long Island, Jon comes to us from the Onondaga Historical Association and is excited for the work ahead at ACR Health. He is a graduate of Leadership Oswego County and has a Bachelor's and Master's in history from SUNY Oswego. While completing his graduate degree, he was awarded the Festa Graduate Leadership Fellowship and he worked with the Safe Haven Museum and Education Center in Oswego. Additionally at SUNY Oswego, he was the Head Coach of the Women's Club Hockey team, a director within the Student Association, an Italian language tutor and the graduate assistant for the civic engagement department. Jon enjoys traveling, hockey, photography, motorcycles and, most of all, spending time with his dog Olive. Welcome Jon!



New Director of Development, Jon Zella

Reflection of 2019



WIL MURTAUGH
Executive Director

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Chair

ANTHONY ADORNATO
Vice-Chair

M. PAUL MAHALICK
Treasurer

REBECCA BOSTWICK
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ANDREW LONDON
JARED RELES
NEIL TIERSON

Interested in serving on our Board?
Contact us at (315) 475-2430.

ACR HEALTH HOTLINE
800.475.2430

Syracuse Offices:

- 627 West Genesee Street
- 990 James Street, 2nd floor
- The Q Center
835 Hiawatha Blvd West
- Syracuse Syringe Exchange
637 West Genesee Street

Utica Office, Q Center, and Syringe Exchange:

- 287 Genesee Street, 2nd floor

Watertown Offices:

- 120 Washington Street, 3rd floor
- Watertown Syringe Exchange:
135 Franklin Street

Canton Office:

- 101 Main Street, 3rd floor

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Will Sudderth



Call us to learn how you can give support to a family in need.

From being a Holiday Angel or becoming a monthly donor in 2020, this is the season to take stock of our blessings and consider how we can give back. I hope you'll join me in re-investing in our community.

Please reach out to us to get involved. Have a happy holiday season.

Our Mission:

To create healthy communities by opening doors to services that enhance the wellbeing of all.

Our Vision:

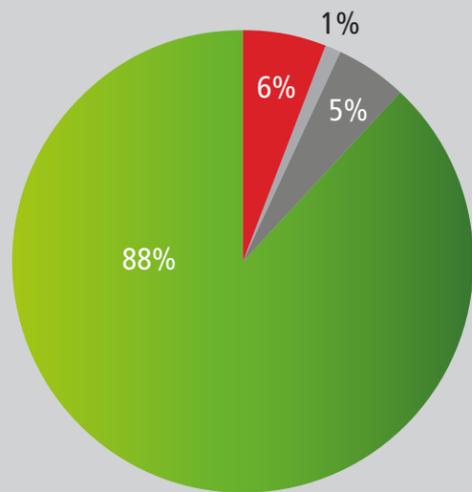
A community in which every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health and equality.

Our Values:

Commitment to Excellence
Respect for People & Community
Wellbeing
Integrity
Empowerment
Teamwork

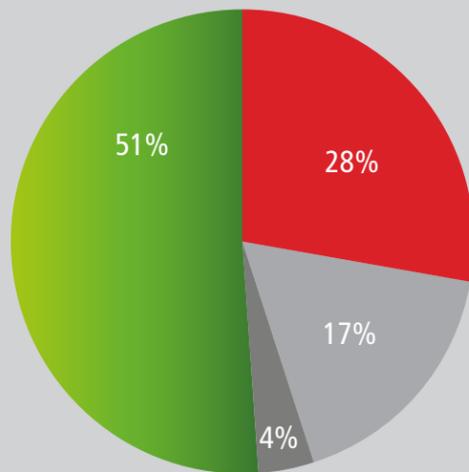
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL REVENUE
\$11,805,180



- Government Grants
- Medicaid
- United Way and Community Grants
- Special Events and Donations

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$12,478,064



- Support Services
- Prevention Services
- Administration
- Special Events

79 cents of every dollar at ACR Health went to client program and prevention services for the fiscal year July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

ACR Health financial statements have been audited by Buffington & Hoatland CPAs. A completed audit is available at ACRHealth.org or upon request at AIDS Community Resources, Inc., doing business as ACR Health.

AGENCY IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



Care Management & Support Services

- 662 clients were enrolled in care management.
- 507 HIV + clients received care management and support services.
- Of those, 94.7% of HIV clients are virally suppressed.
- Insurance Navigators assisted 4,348 people to find the best health coverage.



Prevention

- ACR Health tested 1,953 people for HIV.
- 1,498 individuals were tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections.
- A total of 3,500 tests were conducted for Sexually Transmitted Infections.



ACR Health Clinic & Drug User Health

- The ACR Health Clinic saw 730 clients. These clients were seen and received services a total of 3,631 times.
- There were 1,622 clients enrolled in the Syringe Exchange Program and 495,419 needles were turned in to the program.
- 3,255 people were trained in how to administer Narcan throughout our nine county region.



Youth Services

- 293 youth participated in 282 LGBTQ-specific support groups.
- 26 at-risk LGBTQ youth received housing assistance.
- The Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention program connected with 5,028 youth and parents through trainings group meetings, and outreach.

Volunteers

- 401 individuals helped keep the doors open by volunteering a total of 11,162 hours of their own time and effort.
- ACR Health's pantry provided 287 people with much needed assistance.



North Country First Frost Walk Celebrates 20 Years

The First Frost Walk, held Sunday, October 6 at the Thompson Park Zoo and Conservancy in Watertown, was a landmark celebration for the 20th anniversary of the fan favorite event. Community members played games next to animal exhibits, won prizes and contributed time and resources to ensure the First Frost's success, raising a total of \$24,941!

"AIDS was an epidemic 20 years ago when the First Frost started," said ACR Health Executive Director, Wil Murtaugh. "While HIV remains a threat despite recent progress, we now face new epidemics of addiction and poverty along with HIV/AIDS. Over the last 20 years, the First Frost has raised over \$611,000 for Northern New York programs and clients and we can't thank you enough for supporting our lifesaving work."

The First Frost Walk is ACR Health's largest outreach and fundraising event in the North Country. It supports HIV/AIDS prevention programming in Northern New York, and helps ACR Health lead the charge for LGBTQ equality and the fight against substance use disorders and poverty in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties.

ACR Health would like to thank our event supporters:

Advanced Business Solutions, Carthage Savings Bank (Awards Sponsor), Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Fidelis Care, Kinney Drug Foundation/Noble Health Services, MetLife, MVP Health Care (Matching Sponsor), Northern Federal Credit Union, Raymour & Flanigan, Samaritan Medical Center, and Walmart; **In-Kind Sponsor:** Thompson Park Zoo & Conservancy; and **Media Sponsors:** 7 News, 790 WTNV, Fox 28, Magic 103.1, and Border 106.7.



Dr. Marylene Duah, the Top Individual Fundraiser, raised \$2,543 -leading her team SMC HI fiVe to the Top Fundraising Team spot with a total of \$2,688.



All Soul's UU Team take a break at the Selfie Station.



Top Youth Fundraising Team Indian River High School Warriors Fight AIDS

The Q Awards Make a Splash in New York City

The Q Center travelled to New York City for their annual event to honor excellence and advocacy in the LGBTQ community. Hosted by Creative Edge Parties, this year's honorees were Bravely co-founder and CEO Toby Hervey and actor and activist Ryan Jamaal Swain, of FX's "Pose" fame.

"It was such an incredible honor, [receiving The Q Award] from an organization that does such important work supporting LGBTQ+ youth and their families during such formative chapters of their lives, and I'll never forget the experience," said Mr. Hervey. "These kind of moments only fuel me to want to do more and make a bigger impact!"

The 2019 Q Award raised a record \$33,460.15. All funds support programming and funding needs at the Q Centers located in Central New York, the Mohawk Valley, and Northern New York.

Thank you to our event Co-Chairs: George Henderson and Jeff Kalpak, and to our event sponsors: MasterCard and Creative Edge Parties.



Toby Hervey accepts the Q Award and speaks to the room.

Communities Unite for Transgender Day of Remembrance



Art installation at the Ceremony featuring work from local artist Tino Lopez.

On Wednesday, November 20, ACR Health and May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society joined forces for the 2019 Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony. The crowded room filled with community members and allies to recognize the Trans lives lost to violence and to affirm that every person matters and every identity is valid. Afterward, Q Center staff put on a Community "Q-Munity" Dinner with generous support from Laci's Tapas.

The International Transgender Day of Remembrance began in 1999 to memorialize and honor those who have been lost to the violence of transphobia. According to the Human Rights Campaign, at least 22 transgender people have been killed so far in 2019. Trans women of color are targets of violence at vastly disproportionate rates than other populations.

Thank you to everyone who attended and for supporting the community!

World AIDS Day 2019

ACR Health commemorates World AIDS Day to honor those lost to an AIDS-related illness and to continue the fight against HIV and the stigma of infection. The ceremony, typically hosted at LeMoyne College's Panasci Family Chapel in Syracuse, could not take place this year due to dangerous weather. However, ACR Health's commitment to World AIDS Day was undaunted.

"In 1993, during the height of the crisis, nearly 15,000 New Yorkers were diagnosed with HIV or AIDS in that year alone," said Wil Murtaugh, Executive Director of ACR Health. "It is incredible to see the progress we have made against this virus, but there is still no cure. There are still too many new infections, and we will always be here to support anyone living with a Positive diagnosis and educate the community to prevent the spread of HIV."

- Since 1981, 204,160 New Yorkers have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and 126,495 New Yorkers are presently living with HIV/AIDS.
- In ACR Health's nine-county service area, 2,090 people are living with HIV/AIDS.
- ACR Health has greatly expanded HIV testing, a priority for ending the AIDS Epidemic, up 410% in 2018 compared to 2012.
- In 2019, ACR Health began providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a daily pill that prevents HIV transmission, from their Medical Clinic in Syracuse.

World AIDS Day began in 1988 and is officially observed worldwide on December 1st of every year. This World AIDS Day held particular significance on the eve of the beginning of 2020 as New York State continues its push to End the Epidemic.

We will continue to remember those who left us too soon and fight in their honor to end this epidemic.



Lit candles represent the memories of those who have been lost to HIV and AIDS.

627 West Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

ACR Health offers its services without discrimination based on age, race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, political affiliation, marital status, handicapped status, or mode of transmission.

ACR Health is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Follow us:



@ACRHealth @ACRHealth @ACRHealth @ACRHealthCNY

Supported by:



UPCOMING EVENTS

MORE INFO & REGISTER AT ACRHEALTH.ORG/EVENTS



February 8, 2020 - Saturday

10th Annual Sled for Red

Embrace winter in Central New York when you compete in this cardboard sledding derby at Four Seasons Golf and Ski Center in Fayetteville. Registration open now!



April 25, 2020 - Saturday

22nd Annual Hike for Life

Join us at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica for a fun event featuring games, lively festivities, and prizes. The Hike for Life begins at 1:00 p.m.



June 7, 2020 - Sunday

28th Annual AIDS Walk/Run

Central New York's oldest and most successful AIDS fundraiser begins at 10:00 a.m. at Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville.



October 25, 2020 - Sunday

21st Annual First Frost Walk

Join us for fun and games inside the Thompson Park Zoo and Conservancy, featuring lively contests and prizes. Event begins at 1:00 p.m. Please leave your furry friends at home.

**INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
GET INVOLVED TODAY!
ACRHealth.org/events • 315.475.2430**

HIV/AIDS

LGBTQ Equality

ADDICTION

POVERTY

Q CENTERS FOR LGBTQ YOUTH

Resources throughout Central, Northern, and Mohawk Valley regions. For information call 315.475.2430 or email QCenter@ACRHealth.org Group times listed ACRHealth.org/youth

TESTING SERVICES

HIV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and hepatitis C. Email for appointment: Testing@ACRHealth.org

NARCAN TRAINING

Monthly trainings at ACR Health offices. Appointments: Narcan@ACRHealth.org

SYRINGE EXCHANGES

- Syracuse: 637 West Genesee Street and Outreach Van at corner of Dudley and Fitch Streets
- Utica: 287 Genesee Street
- Watertown: 135 Franklin Street

SEP@ACRHealth.org

DRUG USER HEALTH HUB

Provides onsite access to acute medical care, medication assisted therapy, and linkage to additional medical resources.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Health insurance enrollment and advocacy. Navigator@ACRHealth.org

GET INVOLVED. JOIN THE TEAM.

Current positions listed at ACRHealth.org/careers.

For more information on all programs or if you wish to unsubscribe from the newsletter:

information@ACRHealth.org or 315.475.2430

