

Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, INC.

Serving northeast Indiana since 1985

Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Jay Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, Whitley

Report for the year ending December 31, 2015

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc. is to help improve the quality of life for men, women, and children with HIV and AIDS, to educate the community in order to decrease the incidence of HIV and STD infection, and to increase the public's understanding of and compassionate response to HIV and AIDS.

STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

We believe that individuals who are HIV positive deserve compassionate assistance in living full and productive lives. We believe that public knowledge about HIV and AIDS can contribute to lower rates of infection, better understanding of the disease, and less discrimination against those who are HIV positive. Finally, we believe that participation of diverse populations in all aspects of the organization improves the quality of service for everyone involved with the Positive Resource Connection.

PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2015, the Positive Resource Connection addressed its strategic priorities by working to ensure those living with HIV had access to direct medical care and other supportive services for increased adherence to medical care and treatment; targeting populations heavily impacted by new HIV infection through prevention education and HIV testing; linking people diagnosed with HIV into care coordination services and medical care; and developing relationships with medical providers and other supportive service agencies for direct services to persons living with HIV. The Positive Resource Connection is contracted with the Indiana State Department of Health to provide care coordination and HIV testing and counseling in Region 3, which covers eleven northeast Indiana counties (twelve counties for HIV testing).

Due to 2015 marking the agency's 30th anniversary, the agency underwent a rebranding of name and logo and introduced the community to Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection. This name change better positions the agency to remain relevant in its mission, accurately reflects the agency's work and dedication to serving those infected and affected by HIV, and reduces barriers to people accessing our services. The Positive Resource Connection remains committed to eliminating new cases of cases in those living with HIV, reducing the transmission viability of HIV, and eliminating new HIV infections from occurring in those who are HIV negative.

In 2015, the care coordination department assisted 426 individuals living with HIV and worked with them on adherence to medical treatment and care and provided assistance to eliminate any barriers that may prohibit them from staying engaged in care and treatment. In 2015, clients accessed internal and external community resources that included health insurance, housing and utility assistance, food and nutrition, medical care and treatment, legal help, education, support groups, and counseling. Care coordination services are enhanced by a Spanish-speaking care coordinator, support specialist for clients with substance use issues, a housing coordinator to prevent homelessness among HIV positive individuals, and a Burmese speaking translator who helps to eliminate language and cultural barriers to Burmese clients in accessing services. The Positive Resource Connection also owns and operates a 17-unit residential facility for persons living with HIV and offers one-bedroom and efficiency units all with full kitchen and baths.

The outreach services department provided prevention education, awareness, outreach, and HIV testing and counseling to populations heavily impacted by new HIV infection, as well as the general public. Specific

prevention programs targeted at-risk youth, women, African American and Latino men and women, Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), especially young gay men, substance users including injection drug users, and other at-risk and underserved populations in twelve counties in northeast Indiana. To raise awareness on the impact of HIV/STD infection and reduce stigma surrounding HIV, outreach staff participated in a number of health and community events and conducted street outreach as well as outreach on social dating sites targeting MSM. In 2015, more than 7,000 individuals in northeast Indiana gained new knowledge about HIV, AIDS, STDs, and viral Hepatitis.

In 2015, the Positive Resource Connection provided free HIV testing and prevention counseling utilizing the OraQuick HIV© rapid test with HIV test results given in 20 minutes. The outreach department conducted HIV testing and counseling during HIV prevention educations, at special events and during outreach, in-house, and established public testing sites in all twelve counties in which the outreach department serves. The Positive Resource Connection provided free testing to over 1,500 individuals who benefited from knowing their HIV status.

In 2015, the Positive Resource Connection was part of a state-wide effort to provide HIV testing and counseling and enrolling individuals infected with HIV into care coordination services in Scott County. The Positive Resource Connection had several staff who worked with state and federal officials in getting Scott County residence tested for HIV and linked into care coordination services if positive in that region. The Positive Resource Connection conducted HIV testing to over 50 people and linked 3 people into care.

In addition to care and support to those living with HIV and ongoing educational and HIV testing efforts, the Positive Resource Connection raised community awareness through public events like National Black HIV Awareness Day in February, National Day of Testing in June, National Gay Men's HIV Awareness Day in September, National Latino HIV Awareness Day in October, and World AIDS Day in December.

Volunteers worked alongside professional staff in assisting with office work, committee projects, and event planning. Volunteers played an important role in the Gregory Manifold Food Pantry by hosting pantry parties so people living with HIV could have access to more food and nutrition.

To raise funds for its programs and to increase awareness on HIV, the Positive Resource Connection sponsored the 19th annual AIDS Walk in May at Parkview Field and in October received funds raised by the 27th Annual Lesbian and Gay Dinner Dance, for which the Positive Resource Connection was the fiscal agent and financial recipient of funds raised.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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AFFILIATIONS

*HIV Care Coordination and the CTR program are programs of the Indiana State Department of Health.
The Positive Resource Connection is a Partner Agency of the United Way of Allen County.*

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Foellinger Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne
PHP Foundation
Ian & Mimi & Rolland Foundation
Gay & Lesbian Dinner Dance
Meijer
80/20 Foundation
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation

Capital / Asset / Capacity Building Support

Foellinger Foundation
The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis
Gilead Sciences

Programs for Clients

Indiana State Department of Health
The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
United Way of Allen County
Waterfield Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Plymouth Congregational Church
PNC Bank – English, Bonter, Mitchel

Outreach / Prevention / Linkage to Care Programs

Lincoln Financial Group Foundation
Community Action Group
Parkview Community Health Improvement
Maximus Foundation
Fort Wayne Health & Education Foundation
Indiana State Department of Health
The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis

***The Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Contributions to Positive Resource Connection are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.***

The fiscal year 2014 audit and 990 form, prepared by Haines, Isenbarger & Skiba, Certified Public Accountants,

*Is available from the Positive Resource Connection's office
and on the web site www.positiveresourceconnection.org.*