# AIDS TASK FORCE, INC.

Serving northeast Indiana since 1985

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

Report for the year ending December 31, 2013

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the AIDS Task Force, Inc. in northeast Indiana 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 people who are HIV-positive deserve compassionate assistance in living full 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 AIDS Task Force.

### PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2013, the AIDS Task Force addressed two concerns that motivated its volunteer founders in 1985: care for those infected with HIV or living with AIDS and education about the prevention of HIV infection. The task force is the contracted AIDS Service Organization for the Indiana State Department of Health's Region 3, which covers eleven northeast Indiana counties.

In 2013, the care coordination department assisted 407 HIV-positive clients by providing them with care and support to improve their quality of life and to remain self-sufficient for as long as possible. In 2013, clients accessed internal and external community resources that included insurance, housing and utility assistance, 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, and a housing coordinator. The task force owns and operates a 19-unit residential facility for persons living with HIV.

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 youth, women, African Americans, rural residents, and other at-risk and underserved populations. To raise awareness, staff members attended a number of health and community events and conducted street outreach. During the year, more than 7,000 residents of northeast Indiana gained new knowledge about HIV, AIDS, STDs, and viral Hepatitis.

Also in 2013, the AIDS Task Force implemented free HIV testing and prevention counseling utilizing the OraQuick HIV© rapid test. The outreach department conducted HIV testing and counseling following HIV prevention educations and outreach and established several public testing sites in Allen County. The task force provided free testing and counseling at the agency either by appointment or walk-in. Over 600 individuals were tested for HIV in northeast Indiana.

In addition to working with HIV-positive people and ongoing educational and HIV testing efforts, the AIDS Task Force raised community awareness through public events like National Black HIV Awareness Day in February, National Day of Testing in June, 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. To raise funds for its programs and to build AIDS awareness, the task force sponsored the 17<sup>th</sup> annual AIDS Walk or "Vive le Rouge" in May. In October the AIDS Task Force received funds raised by the gay and lesbian community at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Gay and Lesbian Dinner Dance, for which the task force is fiscal agent and financial recipient of funds raised.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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#### **AFFILIATIONS**

HIV Care Coordination at the AIDS Task Force is a program of the Indiana State Department of Health.

The AIDS Task Force is a Partner Agency of the United Way of Allen County.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2013**

Robert Gould, *President*Community Volunteer / Retired
Earl Robinson, *Vice President*Fort Wayne Community Schools
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Fort Wayne Community Schools
Ciera Balkenbusch
Board Intern – Leadership Ft. Wayne

# **STAFF, 2013**

Executive Director, Jeff Markley Business Manager, Diondra Miller Front Desk Assistance, Ben Larson

Director of Client Services, Sara Seifert Care Coordinator, Chaunda Hall Care Coordinator, Tabby Lutz Care Coordinator, Kelsey Kreger Care Coordinator, Aisha Smiley Care Coordinator, Tabitha Harris Care Coordinator, Kathleen Menefee P/T Care Coordinator, Terry Taylor Housing Coordinator, Arien Dillon Addictions Specialist, Vanessa Hicks

Director of Outreach Services, Kandace Kelly Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Patricia Veazy Education Outreach Coordinator, Rose Ellison Community Outreach Coordinator, Timothy Price

# **DONORS & UNDERWRITERS, 2013**

### **Operating / Event Support**

Foellinger Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation
Gay & Lesbian Dinner Dance

# **Capital Support**

### **Programs for Clients**

Indiana State Department of Health
Indiana Housing & Community
Development Authority
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
United Way of Allen County
PHP Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Plymouth Congregational Church
Dinner Dance (food pantry)

# **Outreach Programs**

Lincoln Financial Group Foundation
Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis
Maximus Foundation
Indiana State Department of Health (Indirect)
Community Action Group
Fort Wayne Health & Education Foundation

The AIDS Task Force, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to the task force are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

The fiscal year 2013 audit, prepared by Haines, Isenbarger & Skiba, Certified Public Accountants,
Is available from the AIDS Task Force office
and on the task force web site, www.aidsfortwayne.org.