

AID Upstate Increases Outreach Programs

According to recent reports from the CDC, of the top ten states, where the highest percentages of African Americans who have AIDS live, eight are located in the South. In all eight states, the majority of the people who have AIDS are African American. Of the top 10 states in which the highest percentage of women who have AIDS live, six are in the South.

AID Upstate is increasing our efforts as a direct response to the Southern AIDS crisis which continues to threaten and disproportionately impact minority communities here in Upstate South Carolina. AID Upstate currently provides supportive services to over 900 clients (and their families) living with HIV/AIDS. Most researchers suggest that only two-thirds of those who are HIV+ know that they are positive.

By expanding our prevention staff, we are increasing our efforts to reach out to the minority communities to empower them to make wise decisions regarding their health. Lack of knowledge is one of the primary barriers in the fight against HIV and the struggle to maintain good health among our neighbors living with HIV.

Our plan

Mobilize an HIV-positive minority peer to work with other community members who are HIV-positive but are not currently receiving medical care or taking HIV-related medications.

OUR GOAL: to encourage HIV-positive people, who are not in care, to enroll in case management services, receive medical care and HIV-related medications and ultimately become healthier persons who are less likely to spread the virus.

Expand Prevention Services by hiring an additional part-time prevention counselor.

OUR GOAL: to free up four prevention counselors to spend more of their time providing counseling and education and HIV testing services in the community.

Dedicate at least one case manager to work solely with newly diagnosed individuals.

OUR GOAL: to help new clients utilize all the care and supportive services available to them and to provide intensive follow-up with clients to answer questions and to encourage adherence to medical care and treatments.

Partner with Greenville Hospital System to provide case management and referral or linkage-to-care services in their Emergency Departments as a part of their expanded services which includes free HIV testing to all ER patients—regardless of the nature of their visit.

OUR GOAL: to provide a link to AID Upstate and HIV-related medical care to newly diagnosed individuals.

Increase HIV counseling and testing services at the Greenville Free Medical Clinic.

OUR GOAL: to place our counselors where they have access to minority communities so that we can increase knowledge and empower minority individuals to work toward improving their health.

Your Support

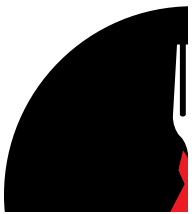
These changes represent a significant expansion in our service menu. Without you, along with the State, the CDC, and national funders such as the M.A.C. AIDS Fund, the National AIDS Fund's Southern REACH initiative (sponsored by The Ford Foundation and the Elton John AIDS Foundation), Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, as well as local support from the United Way of

more

Greenville County, the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville and the Hollingsworth Fund, we would not have the infrastructure, personnel or capacity to make such bold strides toward reducing the number of new infections in our area. You help make this expansion possible.

When you donate to AID Upstate, your dollars stay here in your community to help your neighbors (and their families) living with HIV/AIDS. Your contributions help provide the services described in this newsletter as well as housing, food, and other supportive services such as addictions and mental health counseling. Without these services, people living with HIV in the Upstate could be on the streets instead of in homes. They could depend on local emergency rooms for routine medical care instead of affordable or free health care clinics. They could flood Upstate soup kitchens, pantries, churches and other charitable organizations begging for hand outs. They could fill our jails and hospitals because they had no access to mental health or substance abuse services.

Your support does more than help our 900 clients living with HIV/AIDS. Your support impacts the entire social services system in Anderson, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Your dollars, donated to AID Upstate, help these systems serve more people efficiently and effectively.



Dining with Friends Hosts Needed

We need Dining with Friends hosts. If you're willing to open your home to friends and family for a simple meal and to help us ask them to support AID Upstate, please contact us right away. Call 864.250.0607 or e-mail Greg Campbell (greg.campbell@aidupstate.org) or Andy Hall (andy.hall@aidupstate.org). Meanwhile, mark your calendars and invite your friends to join us for Dining with Friends and The Red Party 2008 on May 3. The Red Party will be hosted at The Handlebar (304 West Stone Avenue) again this year. The party begins at 9 p.m. We hope to see you there!



SHOP for bargains.

DONATE your used items.

VOLUNTEER your time.

Help us provide supportive services to your neighbors living with HIV/AIDS.

803 Pendleton Street, Greenville

Hours Mon - Fri 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



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