

### TORONTO PEOPLE WITH AIDS FOUNDATION 2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT





In 2015/2016 we reviewed results from PWA's first Annual Client Survey and heard loud and clear how important PWA's Welcoming and Healing space is in making a positive difference in the lives of people living with HIV.

"What was identified as a strategic direction has become (and realistically has always been) a service. Safety is the "linchpin" for health and well-being - and for us in Canada, it is emotional safety, even more so for PHAs. Our Welcoming and Healing space is really what makes this possible - it's the fertile ground that makes growth possible." -Suzanne Paddock, Director of Programs & Services

Highlights of 2015/2016 activities that contributed to our Welcoming and Healing space included:

#### 1) Increased staff engagement

More involvement with Essentials Market and Front Desk tasks created new opportunity to concretely contribute to the Welcoming and Healing space that volunteers have so effectively established.

#### 2) Sex positivity workshop

Explores the way in which HIV status, sex positivity, community 'norms' and various stigma can impact people's experiences.

#### 3) PWA's Love Bowl event

The Love Bowl fundraiser was refocused to emphasize bringing in all stakeholders together to build social connection.

#### **Organizational Capacity and Effectiveness**

We continued with organizational capacity priorities. Highlights included:

**A. Board Governance resources** - Updated policies and procedures, new and updated planning resources and tools.

**B. Strategic Plan Progress Review** - Work began on a Progress Review for PWA's 2011-2016 strategic plan.

**C. Fund Development Review** - Developed recommendations and considerations to further strengthen PWA's Fundraising efforts and its full integration within agency culture.

Working together, as individuals and as communities, has always been our strength in responding to HIV and providing the Welcoming and Healing space that is so critical and we're very proud to have had these key opportunities in 2015/2016.

Sincerely,

Brian Fior Board Chair/President

Murray Jose-Boerbridge Executive Director

### WELCOMING AND HEALING SPACE

On an individual's journey through life living with HIV PWA is there to welcome individuals into our Healing space. For 29 Years PWA has grown its role as a socially inclusive, safe, and diverse community space where individuals can experience inclusion and have meaningful expressions of our experiences, lives and knowledge.

From the moment an individual steps off the elevator they enter an environment where they're warmly greeted by a PWA volunteer or staff and are introduced to a very welcoming space. The Family and Pet Friendly reception area provides a community atmosphere, refreshments, reading materials, music, and a place to sit and feel like you belong. The Shared living experiences of PWA Staff and volunteers living with and affected by HIV helps create that extra sense of connection and healing. Our healing space helps fuel the mind, body, heart, and spirit that allows you to take care of yourself and connect with others.

PWA strives to make this space serve as a community centre that will give an enhanced voice for PHAs and their families. Our space has served to create a significant synergy between clients, staff, volunteers, the PWA Board, and other community members. Together we can support each other, engage in meaningful conversations, and lessen the Stigma.

"I HAVE NEVER FELT MORE ACCEPTED AND LOVE BY STRANGERS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. NOT ONLY WERE THESE MEN AND WOMEN INSPIRING THEY ARE NOW MY FAMILY IN A WAY"

# **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

One of PWA's great pillars is the importance of community. PWA's success of its community involvement is the volunteers and community support of organizations and individuals. With strong partnerships and shared programmes PWA looks to the future to expand the community reach and continue to build on its successful community partnerships.

PWA's work would not be possible without the support and generosity of our many community organizations, our 2015/2016 support included:

#### PRIDE AND REMEMBRANCE ASSOCIATION

PWA was honoured to be a beneficiary of the Pride and Remembrance Association in 2015/2016. We are incredibly grateful for their support and efforts. The Financial support of \$25,500 enabled PWA to enhance its Speakers Bureau and PHA Engagement Programs. These programs provide a safe and healing space for volunteers living with HIV to provide HIV education and reduce stigma, particularly through the sharing of their personal stories.

#### TORONTO HISTORICAL BOWLING SOCIETY

The invaluable partnership with PWA for the Annual Love Bowl that has provided over \$74,000 in revenue over our 6 years

#### **STEAMWORKS**

For its continuous work with events like the Tighty Whitey Car wash that has brought over \$40,000 in 9 years of partnership

#### SPEARHEAD

A long-time supporter of PWA including \$38,000 over the last 5 years

#### ΤΙΟΟΤ

Since the start of our relationship with TICOT they have supported PWA with over \$338,000

"ALL THE WAYS THAT NOW I CAN GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY AND OTHERS THROUGH LIVED EXPERIENCES/JOURNEY. FROM CRITICAL ACCESS OF SERVICE CLIENTS TO NOW VOLUNTEER"

#### **DONOR RECOGNITION**

#### **GOVERNMENT FUNDERS**

AIDS Bureau, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care City of Toronto, Community Services Partnerships Public Health Agency of Canada, AIDS Community Action Program Toronto Central Local Health Integration Networks

#### AGENCY PARTNERS VISIONARY (\$50,000+)

MAC AIDS Fund Scotiabank

#### LEADER (\$20,000 - \$49,999)

Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Pride & Remembrance Association

#### MAJOR (\$12,000 - \$19,999)

Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College Clif Bar Ontario HIV Treatment Network Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel Starbucks Coffee Canada

#### MEDIA

In Magazine NOW Proud FM Xtra!

#### CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS \$5,000+

Exodus Travels General Motors Canada International Financial Data Services McGregor Industries Inc. OUT Adventures Pattison TICOT Social Society United Way of Greater Toronto University of Toronto The Village Pharmacy Woodgreen Community Services YMCA

#### \$2,000+

CHUM Charitable Foundation Churchmouse & Firken Corporate Specialty Services Inc. Milestone Integrated Marketing Windfields Junior High School Zsa Legal Recruitment Ltd.

#### INDIVIDUAL DONORS \$2,000+

Robert Allsopp Lawrence Bennett Todd Davies Kevin Day Trevor Hopman Lynn Posluns & Ken Crystal Anonymous (6)

#### COMMUNITY DONORS & PARTNERS

Cabbagetown Pet Clinic Brown's Dining Solutions Champion Systems Miss Conception Cycle Solutions Jade Elektra / DJ Relentless IceBoy Norco Bikes Spearhead LDSC Steamworks Stonemill Bakehouse Toronto Historical Bowling Society Velofix Woody's

#### **ESTATES**

The Estate of Michael Lee The Estate of John Schofield Manuel The Estate of James Drewry Stewart The estate of Robert Townshend

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION Outstanding Corporate Support Jeff Stevenson, McGregor Industries Purepharm Inc, Sy & Bill Wassenaar

Outstanding Community Support Lisa Shields, ODSP John Brodhagen, Steamworks

Outstanding Volunteer Support Dr. Richard Kwan Allan Hooey

Miscellaneous: Ernesto Garcia



#### iabank FRIENDS FOR LIFE BIKE RAL PWA'S ANNUAL SUSTAINING FUNDRAISER



YEAR 17 300 VOLUNTEER RIDERS & CREW \$1.1 MILLION RAISED MORE THAN \$14.9 MILLION RAISED IN 17 YEARS 42,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS



This event is the sustaining Fundraiser for PWA and the rewards associated with participation in the ride are insurmountable. With 1/3 of the participants being clients the Friends for Life Bike Rally has created a unique and special community of people who understand. One of the highlights each year is "Dress in Red" day. Participants were encouraged to dress in any kind of Red whether it's a dress or a jersey, and together create a symbolic Red Ribbon as we ride along the road to link the cause we support.

**David Linton** (1964-2011) was the co-founder of PWA's Friends For Life Bike Rally and a long-time rider and supporter. As well as past board member of Toronto People With AIDS Foundation he was a long-time supporter of the agency. His commitment to improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in our community was inspiring and his passion shaped a Bike Rally that has endured and continues to grow. The 2015 Recipient, Robb Walker was honoured for his dedicated 9 years of volunteer service and his enthusiasm and commitment to building community on the Bike Rally.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Financial Assistance program is one of PWA's founding programs and aims to support the health and wellness of people living with HIV/AIDS by alleviating some of the financial burdens associated with living with the disease.

An extensive review and consultation process resulted in the development of significantly updated guidelines in 2015/2016. The Process involved over 100 PWA clients, PWA staff, community agency staff, local doctors, and other health care practitioners through surveys, focus groups, interviews and meetings. We were able to successfully identify what the most significant assistance needs are, what clients wanted included in the program guidelines, and other available resources in the community.

The program consists of four individual funds: Positive Children's Fund (PCF), Positive Senior's Fund (PSF), Medical Disability Fund (MDF), and the New Health and Wellness Fund (HWF). Our new Health and Wellness Fund successfully incorporates continued support of previously funded expenses as well as critical expenses identified through the consultation process.

PWA has continued to monitor these programs and guidelines to ensure its continued responsiveness to the lived experiences of HIV while balancing the financial resources and obligations of PWA

#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES:**

2,470 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENTS WERE PROVIDED TO
1,029 UNIQUE CLIENTS
\$19,748 WAS ACCESSED FOR MDF
\$122,556 WAS ACCESSED FOR THE HWF
21 CLIENTS ACCESSED THE PCF
80 CLIENTS ACCESSED THE PSF

# 2015/2016

In 2015/2016, PWA supplied approximately 238,318 services to 7,204 individuals including 33,513 significant and unique practical services to 2,560 PHAs, 204,805 referral, information and outreach services to 5,207 individuals, 815 individuals participated in training & education workshops. For **29** years, PWA has been helping men, transmen, transwomen, women and children living with HIV/AIDS. PWA has provided services to over 9,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS since our inception in 1987, 290 new clients engaged with PWA to support their health and well-being.

# **HEALTH & THERAPEUTIC CARE**

### 283

PHAs accessed 2,176

services in 2015/2016

**Therapeutic Care** 

737 Massages that includes Reflexology/Reiki/Shiatsu

**227** Yoga sessions

### 523 Acupuncture sessions

In addition to the above statistics approximately **2250** sessions were provided through the community PHA Naturopathic Clinic in collaboration with the Sherbourne Health Centre



"EVERYONE IS ALWAYS HAPPY, SMILING, WILLING TO HELP, WELCOMING ACCEPTING. I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT THE COUNTLESS POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES THAT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS POSSESS HERE AT PWA'

# **PRACTICAL SUPPORTS**

3,066 meals were provided to 29 PHAs

**Essentials Market is PWA's** largest program providing over

**12,000** distinct services to

Ensure provided to clients).

1,122 individuals in 2015/2016

(not including over 3,000 units of

through the Food for Life meal delivery program in collaboration with Dixon Hall

**Neighbourhood Services** 



1,029 clients accessed over \$171,000 in financial assistance which includes the Health and Wellness Fund



opportunities

\$11,000 was reimbursed 112 clients ourchasing winter outerwear

> 60 Bushels of fresh vegetables and herbs from the Community Garden



"THE LOVING AND WARM LOVE AND WELCOME ATMOSPHERE TO HEAL YOU WITH LOVE AND RESPECT"

**COMMUNITY ACCESS** 

"IT'S A VERY WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY PLACE WITH GREAT DEDICATED STAFF ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST OR HELP ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS AND DEMANDS. "

**15** case consultations relevant to food access were provided with





# **DREAMING** & **ENGAGEMENT**



Volunteers provided 58,400 hours supporting PWA programming and activities in 2015/2016

**248** Psychosocial Educational sessions were provided to 32 individuals



**815** people heard PWA's **PHA Peer Outreach** volunteers tell their stories of living with HIV





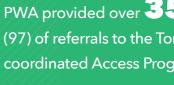
"I ENJOY THE WELCOMING SPACE AND NEVER FEEL RUSHED OR FEEL THAT MY QUESTIONS ARE ANNOYING"

### community partners



PWA provided over 35% (97) of referrals to the Toronto coordinated Access Program



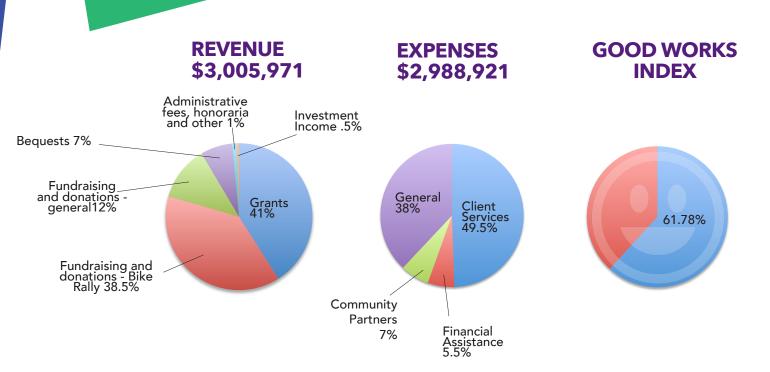




**700** appointments and consultations took place for Treatment Access program



"EVERYTHING, IT'S ALWAYS WARM, FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL. THE RECEPTION AREA IS VERY WELCOMING AND YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE TO WAIT"



# MISSION

We engage people living with HIV/AIDS in enhancing their health and well-being through practical and therapeutic support services and broader social change, and we inspire them to live into their dreams and discoveries.

# VISION

We live in affirming, sustaining communities where we find inspiration and support for our dreams, health, well-being and meaningful contributions.

### CONTACT

200 Gerrard Street East, 2nd Floor Toronto, ON M5A 2E5 Phone: 416.506.1400 Fax: 416.506.1404 www.pwatoronto.org charitable number: 13111 3151 RR0001

"IT'S A VERY WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY PLACE WITH GREAT DEDICATED STAFF ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST OR HELP ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS AND DEMANDS."