

The PWA community would like to welcome and support you on your journey through your life of living with HIV. We strive to offer you programs and services that will nourish your mind, feed your body and fill your heart and spirit with love for your whole self and others... all while being welcomed in a safe and healing space.

Let the fact of becoming HIV+ push you into caring for your whole self, a concept that many of us were estranged of upon entering this space, and you will see new possibilities arise .

Our programs and services, along with our knowledgeable staff and volunteers, will play an important part in helping you to learn how to take care of yourself. Our food and massage programs, for example, can energize the body... our learning and educational opportunities can and will expand the mind...accessing community care will comfort the heart. Dreaming and volunteering will forever renew your spirit.

Our programs and services for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) fall into four categories:



JOIN US

The first step to becoming a Toronto People With AIDS Foundation (PWA) client involves booking an intake appointment. Calling us at 416-506-1400.

INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Free interpretation is available in person or by phone for over 100 languages including ASL.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday and Tuesday 10am to 6pm
Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 8pm
Friday 9am to 5pm



YEARS
1987-2017

TORONTO PEOPLE WITH AIDS FOUNDATION

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MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



PRACTICAL SUPPORTS

Practical Supports that impact day to day living for PHAs are a core outcome of many PWA services.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We partially reimburse people for the purchase of:

- Uninsured prescription medication,
- Optical services and products (glasses, contacts, etc.),
- Dental services,
- Emergency veterinary services,
- Immigration fees.

This program also offers a stipend to individuals applying for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), to individuals 64 and older, and 17 and younger, and gift certificates for children 17 and younger during the holiday season.

THE ESSENTIALS MARKET

This is PWA's food bank which provides staple food items, fresh produce, pet food, home start-up items, family hampers, special needs supplies such as baby items, and special diet accommodations based on availability. Participants can access the market twice a month, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2pm to 7pm.

FOOD FOR LIFE

This community program, in partnership with Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services, is a weekly frozen meal delivery program for PHAs returning home from the hospital, or who are receiving palliative care.

HARM REDUCTION

PWA provides free harm reduction supplies, needle exchange, information and support in a non-judgmental manner. Used needles can be brought to PWA for safe disposal by giving them to a staff member or leaving them in the Sharps containers in any of the washrooms.

HAIRCUTS

Every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, volunteers provide free haircuts one a first-come, first serve basis.

HOLIDAY BAG

Every December, we give out our Holiday Bags filled with household and other items.

STARRY NIGHT

Each December, we hold a holiday party for our clients and volunteers to celebrate the season!

SUMMER PICNIC

Each summer we hold our summer picnic to enjoy some time together outside, eating and playing games.

THEATRE ACCESS

We give out free tickets to different cultural, music, theatre and sports events (based on availability)

VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS

We provide free multi-vitamins through our Service Access Workstation. Individuals can receive vitamins every 4 months. ●



COMMUNITY ACCESS

Community Access programs at PWA connects people to services in the community that supplement support offered at PWA

INCOME & COMMUNITY LIAISON PROGRAM

This program connects people to government income programs, such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Ontario Works (OW), Canada Pension Plan (CPP), and community services such as: counseling, employment (such as Employment Action), housing (through Fife House), immigration and legal (through HALCO), medical services (through local HIV clinics), and mental health and addiction support (such as LOFT McEwan Housing and Support Services).

PWA clients applying to ODSP and OW can meet directly with ODSP and OW staff on-site at PWA.

TREATMENT & COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM

This program connects people to drug coverage programs such as the Ontario Trillium Drug Program and compassionate access programs by pharmaceutical companies, medical services including doctor referrals, and also assists people in accessing medical marijuana. This program is available to anyone living with HIV/AIDS in the province of Ontario. ●



HEALTH & THERAPEUTIC CARE

Health & Therapeutic Care services at PWA support the holistic health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS.

THERAPEUTIC CARE PROGRAMS

These programs provide free, on-site holistic health care to complement conventional medical care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs). Services include acupuncture, massage therapy, harm reduction and yoga.

THE COMMUNITY PHA NATUROPATHIC CLINIC

This clinic provides free, naturopathic care to PHAs. Operating out of the Sherbourne Health Center, the clinic is a partnership between PWA, the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine and the Sherbourne Health Centre. ●



DREAMING & ENGAGEMENT

Dreaming & Engagement provides learning and volunteering opportunities to help you connect with others, reflect on your personal journey, learn new skills and access resources to support achieving your goals and dreams.

DREAMING & OPPORTUNITIES

This program recruits, places, and supports volunteers so they are able to connect with others, meaningfully contribute to positive change, set goals, develop skills, access resources and ultimately, to dream. This program is open to PHAs and their allies.

PHA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

These programs support PHAs through leadership roles in HIV/AIDS outreach and prevention programs, foster social change and uphold the rights of PHAs to live healthy, dignified, sex-positive lives through access to information, resources and supports. The PHA Engagement Programs include the Health Champion, PHA Patient Instructor, Poz Prevention and Speaker's Bureau.

THE CIRCLE OF CARE PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

This collaborative approach to providing diverse, innovative and practical support services for women (trans-inclusive) living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto is a consortium of five AIDS service organizations including: AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP), PASAN, PWA, and The Teresa Group. The Peer Support Program, which is housed at PWA, builds on the benefits experienced by women living with HIV/AIDS giving and receiving support from each other. Women living with HIV support other HIV+ women through accompaniment to appointments, food delivery, interpretation and translation. ●

"I see constant examples of individuals who come to PWA (often through volunteer roles where they don't have to be identified as HIV+) and slowly emerge from these 'cocoon' they've created to protect themselves emotionally and literally transform into these amazing and beautiful human beings that inspire and support themselves and others. Somehow, PWA creates a space and supports that transformation!" - PWA staff and PHA