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the
PROJECT

FY23 ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Looking back,
**LOOKING
FORWARD**





MISSION

**transforming *lives*
through remarkable care**

VISION

We dream about creating a world of change by changing one person's world at a time

VALUES

- Leadership is service
- Compassion is action
- Integrity is doing what is right

“You can’t really know where you’re going until you know where you have been.”

– Maya Angelou

When it comes to the history of HIV, there is one thing we know for sure: It isn’t always easy to look back at the past.

Since the early days of the epidemic, the response has often reflected the most painful parts of humanity; the parts that hide behind fear, that ignore the suffering of the most vulnerable, that leverage power and lead to devastating outcomes.

But we also know that the kind of future we want to create depends on our willingness to learn from what lies behind us, while we also look for the moments of hope that have punctuated our past.

Moments like the early Spring of 1986 when TPQC was founded in a Quad Cities’ hotel room by a group of advocates gathered together, willing to work for the good of people living with HIV. Moments like the Winter of 1993 when we hosted our inaugural Red Ribbon Gala to support the people we served. Moments like this one, where we invite you to be a part of the present and help us create the kind of past that will make us all very proud.

Because we cannot move forward without first looking back. Our past must be the foundation upon which we create the kind of future our clients deserve, a future that includes access to free behavioral health care, PrEP and PEP, and compassionate case management.

As you will note in this annual report, we have made considerable progress in our fight to end HIV. Yet we know the work is far from over. We are confident that our 2023-2026 strategic plan will help us create the future our community needs and deserves.

On behalf of the entire organization and the people we serve, I am proud to present our fiscal year 2023 annual report.



Caitlin Wells

Caitlin Wells, MBA (she/her)

Chief Executive Officer, The Project of the Quad Cities

HIV TIMELINE

1981

In the June 5, 1981 edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), the CDC described a rare lung infection among a group of gay men in Los Angeles. This article, titled “Pneumocystis Pneumonia—Los Angeles,” marked the first official report of what would later be named AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS Medical Case Management

Medical case management is a collaboration between case manager and client. The purpose is to ensure clients are receiving appropriate medical care while also addressing other gaps the client might be experiencing. This could include assistance with housing, transportation, medication, etc.

We regularly connect our clients with the following:

- Counseling and Support Groups
- Health Insurance Navigation and Enrollment Assistance
- Health Insurance Premium & Copay Costs
- Living Wills
- Medical Bill Assistance
- Nutritional Assistance
- Oral Health and Dental Assistance
- Short-Term and Long-Term Housing Assistance
- Translation/Linguistics
- Transportation Assistance
- Treatment Adherence Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Wellness Services and Programs (e.g., Meal Preps)

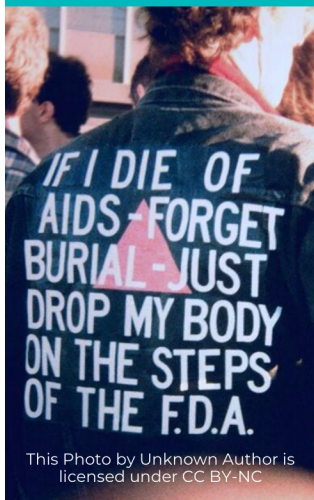
Prevention

To end HIV, The Project understands that prevention plays a critical role. We also know that not all people can travel to our sexual health clinic to receive services. That's why our prevention team goes out into the community to provide STD/HIV testing services.

Our mobile clinic allows us to easily transport medical supplies while creating a private, comfortable space for clients to receive services. Based off benchmarks from the states of Iowa and Illinois, the Prevention team identifies locations throughout our community where services should be offered.

Prevention also routinely partners with other community organizations to offer free testing events. Some of our previous partners include:

- Augustana College
- Clock, Inc.
- Humility Homes & Services, Inc.
- Center for Alcohol & Drug Services, Inc. (CADS)
- Riverside Outpatient Center
- Rock Island County Council on Addictions (RICCA)
- Top of the World Ranch
- Mercer County Health Department
- Cedar County Health Department
- One Eighty



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1982

Various AIDS-specific organizations are set up in the USA to help support and educate affected communities.



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1987

Princess Diana shakes hands with a person living with HIV. This was a huge cultural moment that helped counteract stigma around HIV.



Harm Reduction

In FY23, The Project greatly expanded its harm reduction services. This includes the dedication of a full-time FTE to work directly with clients and the availability of harm reduction supplies for pick-up.

Examples of supplies include:

- Alcohol wipes
- Clean syringes
- Sterile water
- Cottons
- Gauze



1987

The first HIV drug known as zidovudine, a.k.a. AZT, is approved by the FDA for treatment of people living with HIV.



By the numbers:

HIV Program	IOWA	ILLINOIS
clients served	186	170
clients provided with long-term rental assistance	12	13
\$\$ provided in food bank assistance	\$11,500	\$3,876
\$\$ provided in emergency financial assistance	\$30,000	\$8,584
\$\$ provided in short term housing assistance	\$65,500	\$33,335

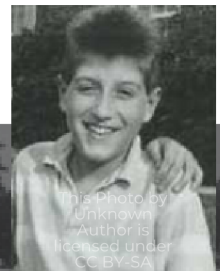
1987

The AIDS memorial quilt goes on display for the first time in Washington D.C.



1990

The Ryan White CARE act is signed into law.



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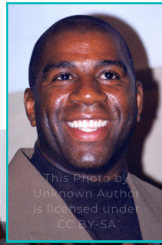
1991

The Red Ribbon is created as a symbol for HIV awareness



1991

US basketball star Magic Johnson announces he is living with HIV



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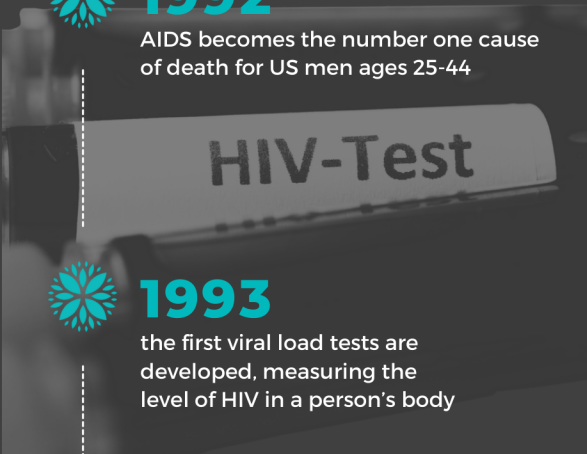


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1992

AIDS becomes the number one cause of death for US men ages 25-44



1993

the first viral load tests are developed, measuring the level of HIV in a person's body

CLINICAL SERVICES

Sexual Health Clinic

Since 2018, The Project has operated a full-service sexual health clinic in downtown Moline, IL. Our sexual health clinic is "full service" in that attached are a lab and pharmacy. This allows us to often test, diagnose, and prescribe medication all within a single visit.

Services offered at our sexual health clinic include:

- No-cost, walk-in sexual health clinic providing screenings for
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis C
 - Chlamydia
 - Gonorrhea
 - Syphilis
 - Trichomoniasis
 - Bacterial Vaginosis
- PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) for HIV Prevention
 - A daily medication that is up to 99% effective in stopping HIV transmission from sex. The Project ensures that most receive PrEP at little to no out-of-pocket cost.
- PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) for HIV Prevention
 - A medication taken within 72-hours of a suspected exposure to HIV to stop transmission.

Behavioral Health

The Project's behavioral health services are provided at no-cost to the client and primarily focus on the following populations:

- People living with HIV/AIDS
- People living with Hepatitis C
- People who identify as LGBTQ+
- Victims of crime (VOCA)



1995

Greg Louganis, Olympic gold medal diver, discloses that he is HIV-positive

1998

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that African Americans account for 49% of U.S. AIDS-related deaths.

2006

The U.S. Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White CARE Act for the third time

2011

Public debate begins on whether the longstanding ban on transplants of HIV-infected organs should be dropped.



By the numbers:

CLINICAL SERVICES

tests in the clinic

1,895 individual encounters

PrEP clients total

88 clients

NEW PrEP clients

64 new PrEP clients added

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

of encounters

231 per month

2,851 in FY23

clients served per month

116/month

Primary diagnoses treated
(in order of frequency)

- 1. Generalized anxiety Disorder**
- 2. Major Depressive Disorder**
- 3. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**



2012

The FDA approves the use of Truvada for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).



2023

The U.S. government modifies the ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men, implementing a new policy allowing donations from individuals who meet specific criteria.



2021

The world marks 40 years since the first five cases of what later became known as AIDS were officially reported.



2018

A global analysis finds that people living with HIV are twice as likely as their HIV-negative counterparts to suffer from heart disease



2017

The New York Times reports that, as a group, America's black gay and bisexual men have a higher HIV prevalence rate than any nation in the world.



2015

The World Health Organization announces new treatment recommendations that call for all people living with HIV to begin antiretroviral therapy as soon after diagnosis as possible.



2013

Nelson Mandela, South African anti-apartheid leader, political prisoner, and national President from 1994 to 1999—dies at the age of 95. After his son, Makgatho, died of AIDS-related causes in 2005, Mandela spent the remainder of his post presidential career working to address the AIDS epidemic in South Africa





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FINANCIALS

Operating Revenue: \$10,327,362.70

Other Revenue: \$34,429.44

Expenses: \$10,276,928.20

Change in Net Assets: \$84,863.94

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

- Cynthia Weeks, she/her, *President*
- Matthew McCart, he/him, *Vice President*
- Rosie Harvey, RN, BSN, she/her, *Secretary*
- Greg Germann, he/him, *Treasurer*

Members

- Nathan Peterson, PharmD, BCIDP, he/him
- Roma Taylor, RN, BSN, she/her
- Cody Eliff, he/they
- Kimberly Quinn Kim, she/her
- Paris Brandy, he/him
- Thurgood Brooks, he/him
- Kim Congleton, she/her