



RED RIBBON TIMES

2023 Volume 12



14-18

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Summertime Jubilee

On July 29, 2023 the Central Florida HIV Planning Council (CFHPC) hosted our annual recruitment event titled the **Summertime Jubilee**. The CFHPC is a community planning body that advises on the allocation of federal funds for Parts A and B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) and provides HIV prevention planning. Through the CFHPC, the voices of local healthcare providers, People with HIV, those at risk for HIV, and other concerned citizens in the area can be heard in deciding how to allocate RWHAP Part A and B funds for life-saving services.

The work of the Planning Council is not possible without the dedicated efforts of our incredible volunteer members, who

commit their time every month to End the HIV Epidemic. Because the Planning Council's membership must be reflective of HIV prevalence in the Orlando Service Area, which comprises Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake, and Brevard Counties it is important that the Planning Council make every effort to onboard new members who can be a voice for their own community and care and represent historically underserved populations, healthcare providers, and other social services organizations. One of the key ways that the Council accomplishes this goal is through our Annual Recruitment Event.

At this year's event Council and Community members had a wonderful time doing carnival themed activities like playing

skee-ball, getting balloon animals made, and eating snow cones to the tunes of DJ NaniSol. Check out the collage on the following pages to see all of the fun and festivities!

This event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors:



Pineapple Healthcare is the premier choice in comprehensive healthcare services including Primary Care, HIV treatment and prevention services, STI's and mental

In this issue...

1-3 Summertime Jubilee

4 2022 Quality Care Awards Summary

7 Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc.



10-11

I Am More Than My HIV

8 Zero HIV Stigma Day

9 I'm More Than My HIV: The Journey

13 Red, White, and Blue

CENTRAL FLORIDA HIV PLANNING COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEES

The merged Membership and PR & Marketing Committee

- This meeting is the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM

The merged Service Systems & Quality and Needs Assessment & Planning Committee

- This meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Executive Committee

- This meeting is the Thursday of the week before the Planning Council meeting at 2:00 PM

PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

Whitney Marshall PCS Manager

407-429-2216

Whitney.Marshall@hfuw.org

David Bent PCS Coordinator

407-429-2119

David.Bent@hfuw.org

Nyla Tapley PCS Engagement Specialist

407-429-2190

Nyla.Tapley@hfuw.org

RYAN WHITE PART A SERVICE PROVIDERS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
407-204-7000
www.aidshealth.org

ASPIRE Health Partners
407-245-0014
www.aspirehealthpartners.com

Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention
407-648-9440 • www.cmwp.org

Dept. of Health in Lake County
352-771-5500
http://lake.floridahealth.gov/

Dept. of Health in Orange County
407-858-1437
http://orange.floridahealth.gov/

Dept. of Health in Osceola County
407-343-2030
http://osceola.floridahealth.gov/

Dept. of Health in Seminole County
407-665-3200
http://seminole.floridahealth.gov/

Heart of Florida United Way
407-835-0900 • www.hfuw.org

Hope and Help Center
407-645-2577
www.hopeandhelp.org

Miracle of Love
407-843-1760
www.miracleofloveinc.org

Orange County Medical Clinic Pharmacy
407-836-7160

Midway Specialty Care Center
407-745-1171 • midwaycare.org

Part A Recipient's Office
2002-A E. Michigan Street
Orlando, FL 32805
407-836-7631



Connect with us on Facebook @
CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil



Orangecountyfl.hiv

http://centralfloridahivpc.com

health medication management. Our team of clinicians have the experience and compassion to help you be the best you possible. We can show you how we can be Better Together!

Services Provided:

- Primary Care
- HIV Treatment
- PrEP/nPEP
- Hep C Treatment
- Mental Health Medication Management
- STI Testing/Treatment
- Routine preventive screenings



HARMONY
HEALTHCARE

Our organization was founded by local healthcare providers who see the growing need for accessible care for patients seeking treatment for PrEP, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Harmony Healthcare Orlando believes in the empowerment of the body, mind, and spirit through medicine. By building a solid foundation of understanding, respect, and integrity, we hope to impact as many lives as possible and improve the health of the community. This will bring us one step closer to bridging the gaps in care that many face on a daily basis.



GILEAD



CITY OF
ORLANDO
HISPANIC OFFICE FOR LOCAL ASSISTANCE



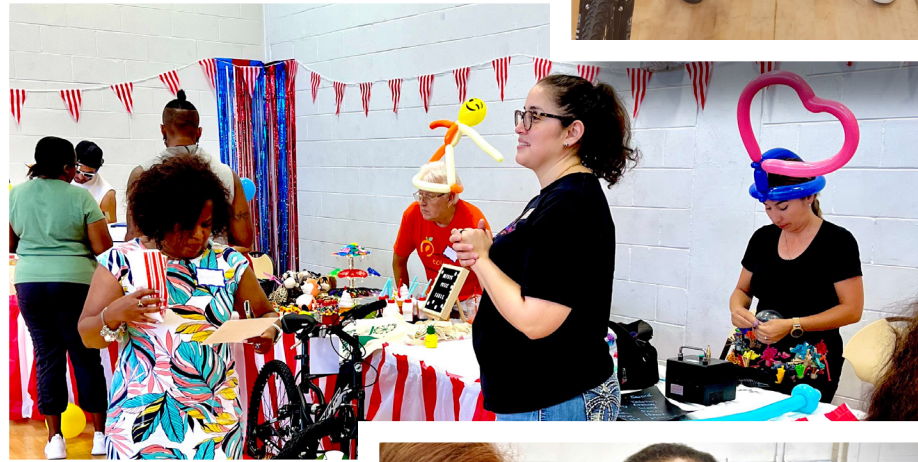
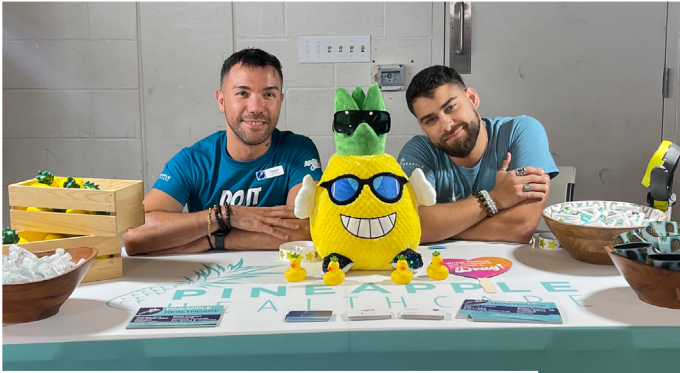
BLISSCARES

Planning Council Support
HFUW
1940 Cannery Way
Orlando, FL 32804
407-835-0906

CFHPC@hfuw.org

"Drop Us
a Line..."







2022 Quality Care Awards Summary

2022 Awardees:

- Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention
- FDOH Lake
- Miracle of Love
- Unconditional Love

2022 Award Titles:

- Most Innovative
- Exemplary Leadership
- Prioritizing People with HIV
- Honorable Leadership

Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

- Award Received: Prioritizing People with HIV
- Award Received: Most Innovative
- Title of QI Project: EnRICHing Latinos Living with HIV by Optimizing Retention in Care: A Culturally Responsive Incentive-based Intervention that Leverages Loss Aversion and Fixed financial Incentives.
 - **Summary of QI Project:** Performed a Systemic literature review that used several different strategies including financial incentives, food

incentives, cash transfer programs, etc. The preliminary results suggest that traditional economic principles can be successfully leveraged in the fight against HIV towards achieving the 95-95-95 Fast-Track Targets. Further research should evaluate and synthesize the evidence regarding the use of behavioral economics to optimize Retention in care for HIV RICH as well as other HIV-related outcomes.

FDOH Lake

- Award Received: Honorable Mention
- Title of QI Project: Increasing the Percentage of Early Intervention Services' clients who link to medical care within 30 days through Quality Improvement.
 - **Summary of QI Project:** The purpose was to increase the percentage of clients that linked to medical care within 30 days. Linkage to care is the first step for a client to achieve optimal personal health outcomes and decrease HIV transmission within the community. Success for this project was measured by increasing the percentage of clients who linked to care within 30 days from a baseline of 69.9% to 90% during the established timeframe.

Miracle of Love

- Award Received: Honorable Mention
- Title of QI Project: Annual Retention in Care Improve Plan.
 - **Summary of QI Project:** The goal was to improve annual retention in care for those newly diagnosed and those reengaging in care. The purpose of this improvement plan is to assist clients with quality care and better health outcomes in addition to reducing the community Viral Load and working toward ending the epidemic.

Unconditional Love

- Award Received: Exemplary Leadership
- Title of QI Project: African American/ Black Male Viral Suppression Project 2022-2023
 - **Summary of QI Project:** African American Black Males showed a viral suppression decrease during COVID. This being from 85% in February 2022 to its lowest point of 75% in July of 2021. A PSDA was created with a goal of 90% viral suppression by 4/19/2023.

Pillar Two: Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression

LINKAGE TO CARE

LINK PEOPLE TO CARE AFTER DIAGNOSIS AND PROVIDE LOW-BARRIER ACCESS TO HIV TREATMENT

436



Individuals Linked to HIV Care
or Retained in Care

INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES (IHS)

EXPAND OUTPATIENT AMBULATORY MEDICAL CARE TO INCLUDE TEST AND TREAT SERVICES AFTERHOURS

2,648 Units
of HIV Health Care Services



36%



21%



42%

428 Active Clients

PEERS - VIRAL SUPPRESSION

THREE (3) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS FROM CMWP TO TARGET INDIVIDUALS NOT VIRALLY SUPPRESSED.

84%

VIRAL SUPPRESSION RATE

IHS ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

MAINTAIN MAXIMAL SUPPRESSION OF THE VIRAL LOAD BY PRESCRIBING ANTIRETROVIRAL (ARV) THERAPY



97%

CLIENTS ON ARV THERAPY

PILLAR FOUR - RESPOND QUICKLY TO POTENTIAL HIV OUTBREAK TO GET NEEDED PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHO NEED THEM.

EARLY INTERVENTION - LINKAGE

PERCENT OF CLIENTS LINKED TO MEDICAL CARE BY EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALIST FROM FDOH ORANGE COUNTY



84%

LINKED TO HIV CARE WITHIN 30 DAYS

ORANGE COUNTY JAIL- LINKAGE

ENHANCE ORANGE COUNTY JAIL LINKAGE PROGRAM TO ENSURE CLIENTS ARE LINKED TO MEDICAL CARE ONCE RELEASED

ORANGE COUNTY JAIL LINKAGE COORDINATOR



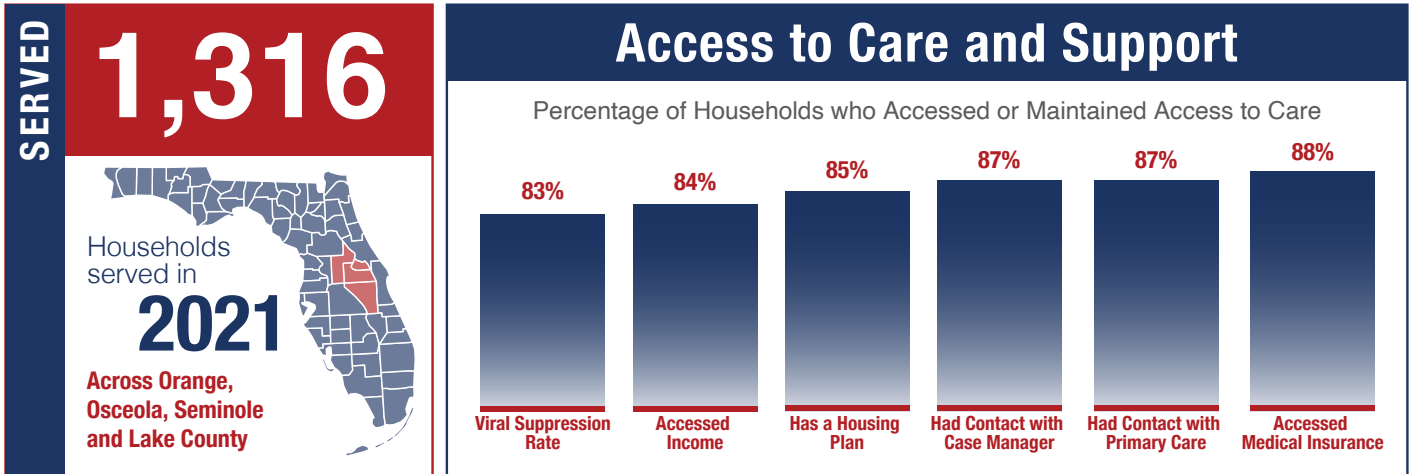
162 LINKED
TO HIV CARE

24 NEW ELEGIBLE CLIENTS LINKED

All information obtained from Orange County's Provide Enterprise Database

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS HOPWA 2021-2022

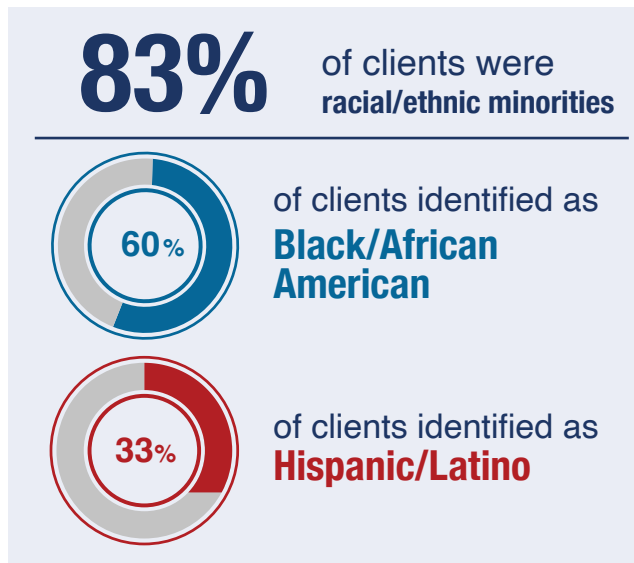
The HOPWA Program is funded by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** and helps increase housing stability, reduce risk of homelessness and increase access to care for people with **HIV** who have income at or below **80%** of the area median income. **Orange County Government** administers **Central Florida's HOPWA Program** for the City of Orlando and contracts with local organizations to provide different levels of housing support to eligible clients.



HOPWA Contribution toward Ending Homelessness

# of new individuals placed in housing	# of homeless individuals placed in housing	% of homeless individuals newly placed into housing	Of the 65 homeless individuals newly placed in housing:	
			% who were veterans	% who were chronically homeless
403	65	16%	5%	35%

*(Households reported with Prior Living Situations: 'Place not meant for human habitation', 'Emergency shelter', and 'Transitional housing for homeless persons' as reported in the CAPER/APR) Households in Permanent Housing



All information obtained from Orange County's Provide Enterprise Database





TALK TEST TREAT
CENTRAL FLORIDA



AN ORIGINAL PLAY ABOUT HIV & THE BLACK COMMUNITY



Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc.

Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc. (SRDC), was founded in 2002, to address the key socioeconomic disparities that affect at-risk individuals. Simeon's mission is to partner with the community to alleviate racial and ethnic disparities in health, education, employment, and incarceration among at risk individuals in Central Florida area by providing educational, employment, health, and social programs. Simeon is a refuge for those who have somehow fallen through the cracks of society. We provide an array of services including employment and training, health education, fatherhood services, case management, mentoring and support services.

The spirit of service is exemplified each day by many success stories that prove our mission is possible. We have hundreds of success stories from clients who move from a state of dependence to independence,

from being inmates in correctional institutions supported by taxpayers, to becoming taxpayers. The miracles that move through SRDC are built on dedication, commitment, and supportive partners.

Many organizations and individuals who have provided extraordinary support including City of Orlando, Florida Department of Health-Orange County, Orange County Community Action, Orlando Community and Youth Trust, Holden Heights Front Porch, University of Central Florida, Central Florida Foundation, American Heart Association, and a host of others.

On June 11th, 2023 Simeon Resource and Development Center for Men, Inc., in partnership with Florida Department of Health Area 7, presented the theatrical production of Our Story: AIDS and the Black Community.

This reintroduction of Our Story (which debuted in 2002) will ran the gamut of

emotional truths and struggles associated with HIV/AIDS. Through the brilliant portrayals of hope and raw testimonials, audiences were immersed into familial stories; some of anguish, loss, discovery, and exceptional determination from those living with HIV/AIDS.



Zero **HIV** Stigma Day

By: Andres Acosta Ardila

Orlando, Florida - The onePULSE Foundation and the HIV Stigma Task Force hosted a remarkable event, "Zero HIV Stigma Day," on Friday, July 28th, at the Orlando Family Stage. With a commitment to raising awareness and combating HIV stigma, the event brought together a diverse and engaged community for an evening of empathy, understanding, and unity.

The highlight of the evening was the transformative theater experience, expertly curated by Descolonizarte Teatro. Attendees had the unique opportunity to step into the shoes of someone facing the challenges of HIV stigma, experiencing a dynamic and immersive journey that elicited deep reflection and empathy.

A lively and thought-provoking panel discussion followed, featuring distinguished panelists who are champions in the fight against HIV stigma. Gabriella Rodriguez of QLatinx, Kamaria Laffrey of the Sero Project, Andrea Dunn of Let's Beehive, and social media influencer and activist Andres Vazquez engaged in a captivating dialogue on effective strategies to combat stigma and promote inclusivity.

The event also featured an interactive quilt-

making station, presented in collaboration with QLatinx and Change The Pattern. Attendees were invited to contribute to the creation of the Central Florida HIV AIDS Quilt, an emotional and symbolic gesture



of support and remembrance. The quilt ceremony that followed was a poignant moment, uniting the audience in honoring the lives affected by HIV/AIDS.

A special dinner, hosted by aguilar salad, provided a delightful culinary experience that further enhanced the evening. The combination of meaningful conversations, artistic expression, and shared moments of remembrance made "Zero HIV Stigma Day" an unforgettable occasion.

"We are thrilled to have witnessed the overwhelming support and engagement from the community at 'Zero HIV Stigma Day.' This event reaffirms our commitment to combating HIV stigma and fostering a more compassionate society," said Andres Acosta Ardila, Lead of the HIV Stigma Task Force.

"TOGETHER, WE ARE BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS."

The onePULSE Foundation and the HIV Stigma Task Force extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, collaborators, and attendees who contributed to the success of "Zero HIV Stigma Day." This event serves as a reminder of the power of unity, empathy, and action in the ongoing fight against HIV stigma.

For more information about the onePULSE Foundation and its mission, please visit onePULSEfoundation.org, for more information about the HIV Stigma Task Force please contact Andres Acosta Ardila a.f.acosta22@gmail.com.



I'm More Than My HIV: The Journey

By: Sueanne Vazquez

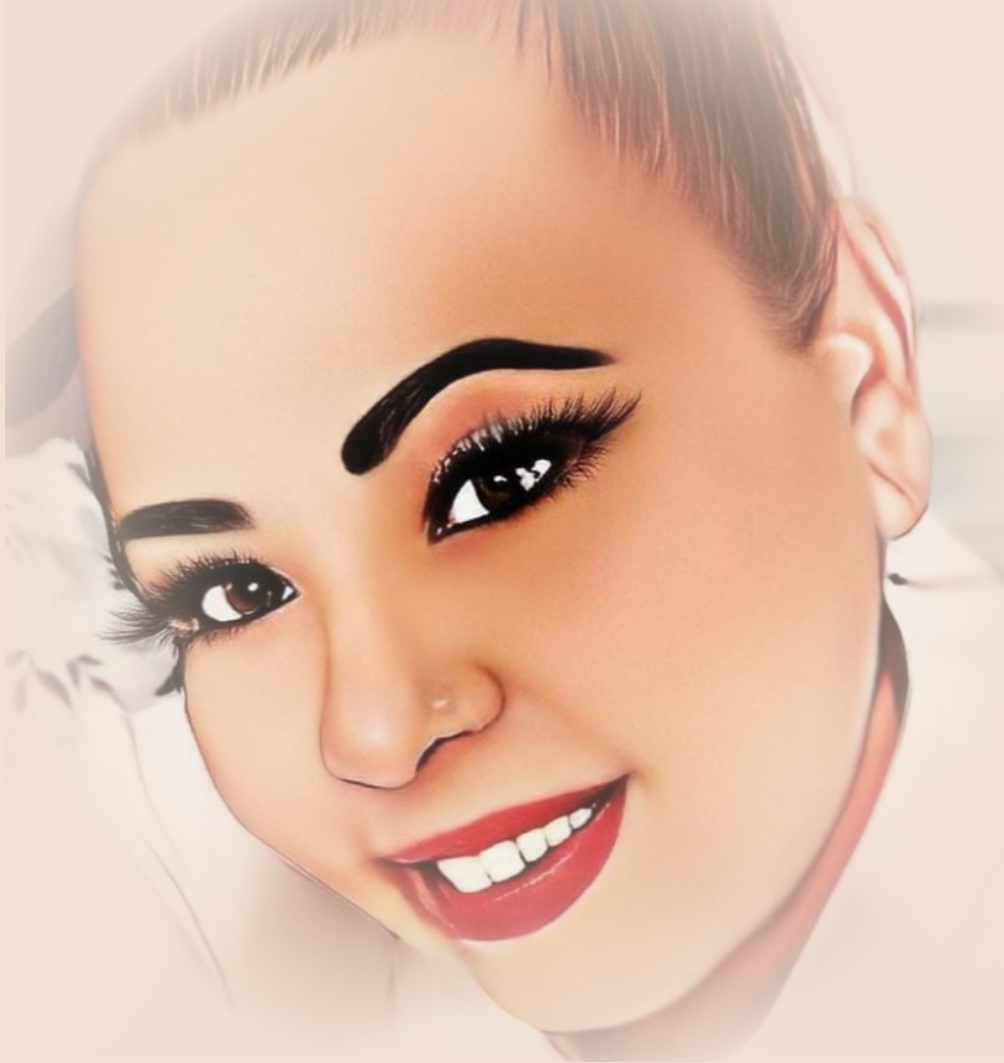
Once upon a time, there was a young lady who carried a dark secret that tore at her heart. Diagnosed with AIDS at a mere 30 years old, she was thrust into a world of fear, despair, and unimaginable loneliness. With a smile that could light up a room, she painted on a facade of happiness while silently drowning in her own sorrow.

For years, she battled with her secret, living a life of isolation and internal torment. She watched her friends pursue their dreams and find love, while she felt trapped in the confines of her diagnosis. In the solitude of her room, she wept rivers of tears, her soul longing for someone to confide in, someone who could understand her pain.

DAYS TURNED INTO YEARS, AND HER SECRET REMAINED A HEAVY BURDEN ON HER SHOULDERS. DEPRESSION CONSUMED HER, STEALING AWAY THE JOY THAT ONCE RESIDED WITHIN HER SPIRIT. Yet, she knew deep down that she couldn't let this disease define her entire existence. She mustered up the courage to seek support, to find others who shared her struggle.

Through support groups and communities of AIDS survivors, she discovered a ray of hope amidst the darkness. Surrounded by individuals who truly understood, she found the strength to break free from the prison of her own despair. The smiles she wore slowly became genuine, a testament to her resilience and determination to create a purpose from her pain.

Years later, she emerged as a volunteer coordinator and advocate for those affected by HIV. She poured her heart and soul into uplifting others, determined to eradicate the stigma associated with the disease. Each day, she worked tirelessly to provide a safe haven for individuals to share their stories, their tears, and their triumphs.



And now, the time has come to reveal the truth, for this courageous woman is me. I stand before you all, thirty years later, a survivor who transformed her pain into purpose. With tears streaming down my face, I announce, "I am a volunteer coordinator and advocate, sharing my story to inspire others who face the same battle."

The room falls silent, captivated by the raw honesty and strength echoing through my words. Faces turn towards me with a newfound empathy, recognizing the battles fought behind the mask of a smile. Embracing vulnerability, I stand tall, testament to the power of resilience and the capacity to turn tragedy into triumph.

As the applause rings out, tears of joy mingle with those of sadness, a collective acknowledgment of the journey we have all walked. I am no longer defined by my diagnosis but empowered by my journey. Together, we will continue to raise our voices, fight stigma, and support those affected by HIV.

My story stands as a reminder that we must embrace compassion and understanding, for behind every smile, there may be tears unshed. Let us be advocates for change, sharing our stories, and creating a world where no one has to suffer alone. With love as our guide, we can rewrite the narratives, proving that strength is found within us.

Red, White, and Blue



Living with HIV as a young person has been quite a challenge. Before I was diagnosed, I was educated multiple times on the dangers of HIV and how to avoid transmitting the disease. Yet, as young people, there is a common trend to not follow the rule and I personally followed that trend. Though it was not directed towards HIV, young people have a notion that they think they know everything but that is not the case, certainly with HIV.

When I first contracted HIV I was 21 years old at the beginning of 2021. When it occurred, I had no idea what was happening. I just felt sick and that sickness started to increase in intensity. I couldn't eat anything, and I barely wanted to stand. Something was happening to me and I didn't know exactly what it was until my mother rushed me to the hospital where I was diagnosed. While lying in the hospital bed, all the doctors danced around wanting to tell me that I had HIV. That feeling of thinking that there was something so wrong with me that they couldn't fully disclose what it was stuck with me and continues to. The pain that I feel in my current state may not be entirely physical, but the weight that it has on my mental state takes on a physical toll.

Living with HIV as a young emerging adult requires a certain support system. People in my age bracket have a lot of things going on for them. Finding passions at a young age, graduating from school, or even starting a family. People (doctors, peers, etc.) say that nothing changes, you can live your entire life still how you wanted to but now the difference is that you have HIV. Sometimes I feel as if my entire life is directed toward my HIV upkeep. When thinking of relationships, the first initial thought that occurs is "oh, I'm going to HAVE to mention

that I have HIV, either initially or later on down the line." The thought process behind this is a swirl of emotions that leads down to a path of hopelessness, depression, anger, and maybe even confusion. Though mentally I come out of the other side triumphant over these emotions does not mean that they have been destroyed because then it goes back to the mental becoming physical. What was one of the thought processes of those emotions turns into a physical embodiment. One of the biggest challenges for me to overcome by having HIV is the anger I feel towards everything and myself. Overcoming this does not take a small second to calm down. It is a process of coming to understand that this will always be a part of you and you have to live with that anger that you feel, whether momentarily or constantly.

TO COPE WITH THIS IT HELPS TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT EASIER SAID THAN DONE, RIGHT? NOW I'M NOT GOING TO DENY THAT THERE IS NO SUPPORT SYSTEM. TALKING TO PEERS, DOCTORS, AND CLOSE ONES WHO CARE MATTERS A LOT. YET, I AM STILL LEFT WITH THAT FEELING OF, "HOW COULD THEY REALLY UNDERSTAND?" I FIND THAT TALKING TO FRIENDS OF MY AGE HELPS TREMENDOUSLY.

Even though they may not be aware of my HIV status they acknowledge that something is wrong and they're here to help. By taking that same-age-level friendship and applying it to others who have HIV, the result would be a community support

system for young HIV adults. We would all be aware of our status and know that we're there to support each other through those moments in life when we feel as if we cannot connect to others (such as peers, doctors, or family members). Not to mention, when it comes to mental health in our current society, young people are mostly affected by the pressures of the modern world and us having to find our place within all this chaos. Imagine trying to find peace within the chaos of the world while dealing with the turmoil that boils inside our bodies whether to is through the mental or physical implications of HIV. Having that age-level support system or community, feelings, and ideals may be matched and conversation around HIV would hold a different weight.

I want to end this article with a note for members of the HIV community who are around my age level. I'm not going to say that you're not alone. I'm not going to say that we have much more to live for. Those are the words that we hear constantly and are constantly being told. What I want to say is, "it is what it is" and some may laugh, others may disagree, but that is how I feel at the end of the day and others may feel the same. By "it is what it is", we cannot change how we feel being HIV positive. Some days feel harder than others, but this is the point of where we are in life right now and we choose not to give up because "it is what it is". Don't make this control you even when it sometimes seems uncontrollable, what we can control is how we react to those emotions and feelings when they arise. Being surrounded by that age-level like-mindedness presents a community of we don't hear that we're not alone, we feel like we're not alone.

---Haiku.



Planning Council Members





WORLD AIDS DAY SOLIDARITY PROJECT

Paint by #'s Mural

November 12th, 2023

12:00pm - 4:00pm

LAKE EOLA: SPERRY FOUNTAIN

512 East Washington Street

Orlando, FL 32801

United Arts

OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

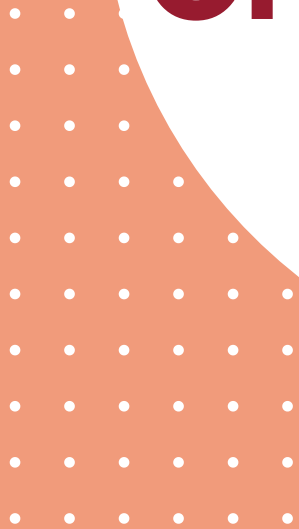
The Central Florida HIV Planning Council Solidarity Project is funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, home of OrlandoAtPlay.com,

UAArtsEd.com and Orlando Arts magazine.



2023

**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**





ABOUT US

The Central Florida HIV Planning Council (CFHPC) is a community planning council that advises on the allocation of the federal funds for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A & B and provides HIV prevention planning.

Through the CFHPC, the voices of local healthcare providers, People with HIV, those at risk of HIV and other concerned citizens in the area can be heard in deciding how to distribute Ryan White Part A & B funds.



EVENT CALENDAR



World AIDS Day

Each year, the CFHPC commemorates World AIDS Day on December 1st. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness

The work of the Planning Council is not possible without the volunteer commitments of our dedicated members. To ensure that the Council's membership continues to be reflective of the HIV Epidemic in our area, the CFHPC hosts an annual event to encourage the community to get involved with the Council's efforts to provide a quality continuum of care for all individuals living with, affected by, and at risk for HIV.

Annual Member Recruitment

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WORLD AIDS DAY 2023

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

\$10,000

- Feature in the Red Ribbon Times Magazine
- Tabling opportunity at the event
- Opportunity to speak about agency/organization services at event
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer and program
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter



PHILANTHROPIST

\$5,000

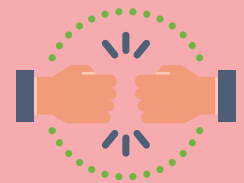


- Feature in the Red Ribbon Times Magazine
- Tabling opportunity at the event
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer and program
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter

SUPPORTER

\$2,500

- Tabling opportunity at the event
- Logo will be featured on the event flyer and program
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter



ACTIVIST

\$1,000



- Logo will be featured on the event flyer and program
- Special thank you from CFHPC members during the event
- Personalized post and special acknowledgment on CFHPC social media & online newsletter

CONTACT US

Planning Council Support

cfhpc@hfuw.org
407-835-0906

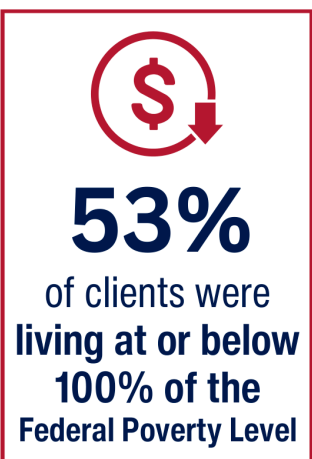
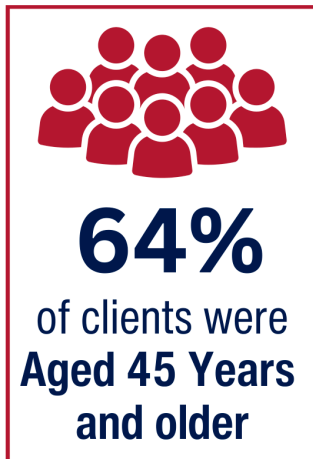
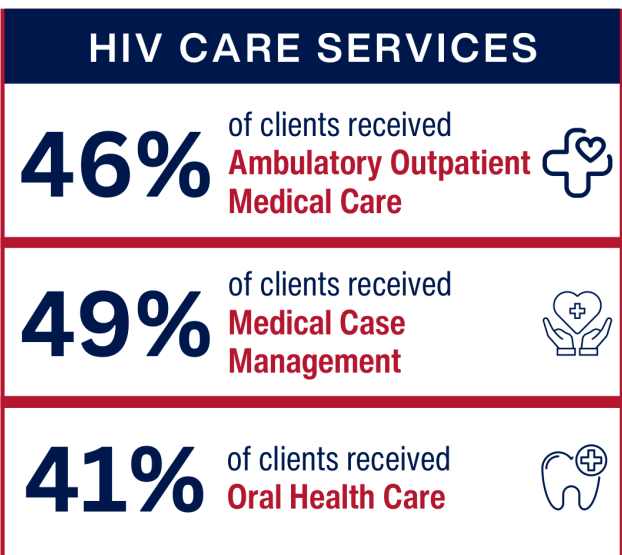
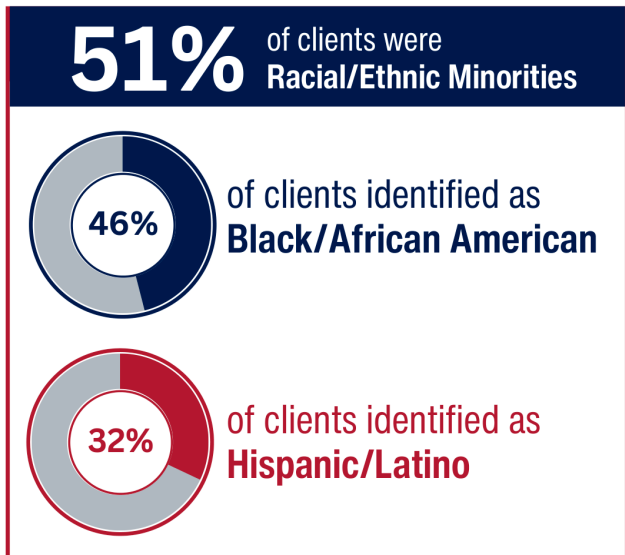
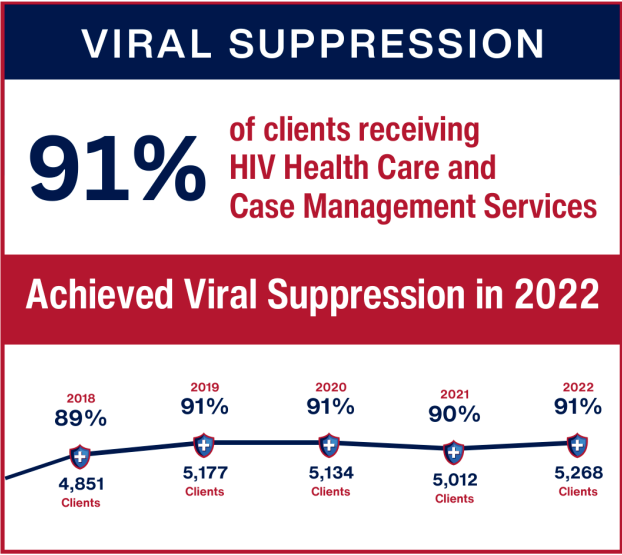
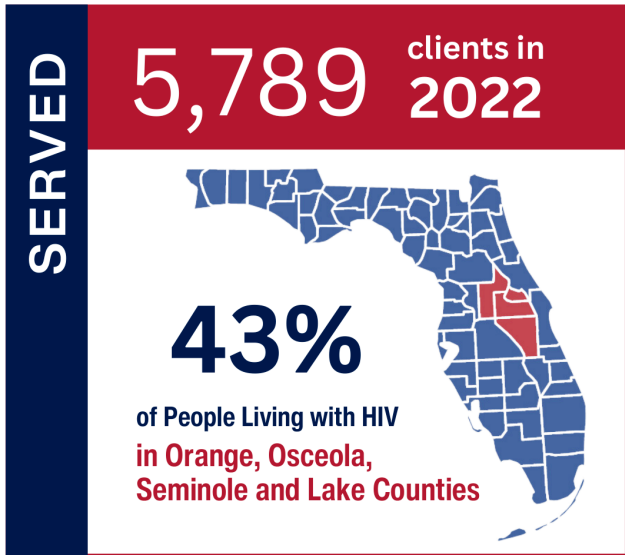
CentralFloridaHIVPC.com



Heart of Florida United Way
1940 Cannery Way
Orlando, FL, 32829

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A

By the Numbers: 2022



All information obtained from Orange County's Provide Enterprise Database



www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite



Can't wait for the next Red Ribbon Times? Us either! Stay connected for all the latest info on Facebook @ CentralFloridaHIVPlanningCouncil