



2015 Impact Report

April 2016

Dear Friend,

I am excited to share our 2015 Impact Report, and I want to personally thank you for your support of The Wright House Wellness Center. It is because of you that we are able to continue to provide compassionate, caring, and life saving services to our clients and the community.

The Texas Department of State Health Services estimates there were 5,480¹ People Living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Austin area at the end of 2014. The number of residents in the Austin/Travis County area living with HIV has increased more than 40 percent since 2006. This increase may seem startling at first: however, with a growing population and medical advances this is simply an inevitable reality.

There are approximately 368,000 cases of Hepatitis C (HCV) in Texas, 80% of which (~300,000) are chronic (long-lasting) infections. In Texas, estimates also indicate that there may be a greater disease burden among Blacks (2.8%) and Hispanics (2.0%). While the number of new HCV infections is expected to decline, the number of infections that progress to cirrhosis is expected to increase. Studies show that people who have HIV and HCV have higher levels of HCV in the blood, more rapid progression to HCV-related liver disease, and increased risk for cirrhosis and liver cancer.²

HIV/AIDS and HCV continue to affect our clients and community. As we move into our 28th year, we continue our commitment to assisting those living with HIV/AIDS and/or HCV in managing their disease and helping others reduce their risks of infection.

Thank you for being a Friend of The Wright House,



Leah Graham, MAHS
Executive Director

2015 Agency Highlights

April

- Kicks and Sips raised over \$4,900 and assisted us in funding a portion of the moving costs associated with merging our two locations.
- We unveiled a new logo.



From left to right: Leah Graham, Lauren Jones, Jacquelyn Wilson, Al Shults, Melissa Cook, and Katie J. Parker

- Team Wright House raised over \$29,000 for the Hill Country Ride for AIDS and had the distinction of being the 3rd highest fundraising team.

July

- WHWC was granted a bingo license allowing us the ability to receive charitable donations from North Lamar Bingo Hall. These funds are considered unrestricted and immensely important as they can be used where traditional grant funds are limited.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defunded HIV prevention programs in the Austin area. This significant cut to funding free HIV testing and linkage to care will most likely result in hundreds of Central Texans remaining unaware of their HIV status. This will undoubtedly cause HIV infection rates to rise because research shows that when people learn they are infected, they take steps to protect their own health and prevent HIV transmission to others³.

July-October

- Long-term staff departures: Tangie Tennison (six years), Joseph Elder (eight years), Shirley Giron- Douriet (nine years), and Michael Laster (11 years). Each of them made significant contributions in the lives of our clients, the community, and to WHWC.

October

- New partnership with Waterloo Counseling Center to fund our HIV Support Group; the oldest running *FREE* HIV support group in Austin.
- Midnight Under the Big Top gala raised over \$54,000 and allowed us to continue to provide supportive and educational services to our clients and the community.

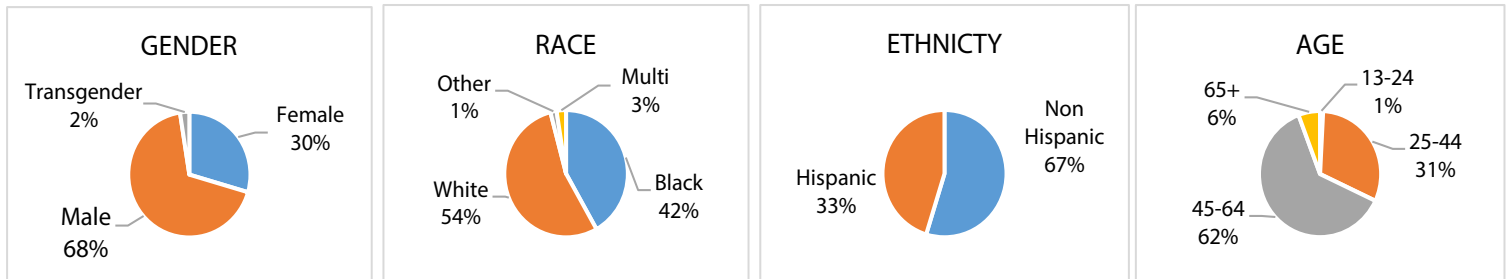
Programs and Services

Disease Management: HIV Support Group | Complementary (Holistic Health Therapies)
Medical and Non Medical HIV Case Management | Housing Case Management (Best Single Source Plus)*

Disease Prevention: HIV Testing | Linkage to Care | Navigation of Support Services

Disease Management Program

70% of WHWC's clients were at or below the federal poverty level based on household income and size.
(2015 federal poverty level for one person = \$11,770)



*Best Single Source Plus (BSS+)

BSS+ is a collaborative housing case management program comprised of 13 local non-profit agencies. This service is open to HIV+, Hepatitis C (HCV)+, or HIV+/HCV+ eligible clients. In 2015, WHWC served 54 households, totaling 83 people, of which:

42 individuals were HIV+ or HIV+/HCV+
25 individuals were HCV+ only
16 individuals were children

Disease Prevention Program

Race/Ethnicity: Black - 48% | Hispanic - 37% | White - 9% | Other - 6%
Gender: Male - 52.8% | Female - 46.9% | Transgender - .3%

Client Results

- 388 individuals received HIV testing, of which 3 were identified HIV+ and linked to primary medical care and other support services.
- 74% of clients receiving HIV Case Management services achieved viral suppression at last test**. By comparison, 56% of HIV+ individuals statewide achieved viral suppression in 2014[†].
- 63% of clients using Acupuncture and/or Massage Therapy remained active in primary medical care, thereby increasing their potential health outcomes.
- 59% of BSS+ clients graduated from the program with established stable housing.
- 15 clients attended our weekly support group and increased their social and emotional support.

**as of 12/31/2015; viral suppression is linked to living a longer, healthier life and preventing the spread of HIV to others.

[†]According to Texas HIV Treatment Cascade, 2014, HIV/STD Branch at the Texas Department of State Health Services, 2015.

Major Donors, Funders, and Sponsors

Aetna
AIG Benefits
Lew Aldreidge
Allstate Benefits
Alfred's Catering
Austin Baptist Women
Austin/Travis County Health and Human
Services Department
Balboa Vacations
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Central Texas Clinical Research
Lelania Cher
Cigna
Ken Dodge
Evergreen Studios
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co
Leah Graham
Raquel Greer
Hill Country Ride For AIDS, Inc.
Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation, Inc.
Horseshoe Bay Resort
Susie Ingram
Robin Jackson Photography
Lauren and Jason Jones
Patricia Steward Kelly
Knight Office Solutions
Law Office of Melissa Cook, PLLC
Lee Manford and Casey Blass
Katie J. Parker
Passion for Pearls
Premiere Events
Project Transitions/Top Drawer
Rain on 4th
Ryan White Part A
Hal Simon and Paul Hassell
Alberto E. Shults
Travis County Health and Human Services &
Veterans Service Department
Turquoise Trading Post
United Court of Austin, Inc.
Vanity Salon
Vintage Villas Hotels and Events
Vista Camps
Walters Gilbreath, PLLC
Gary Werntz
Whole Foods Inc.

Staff and Board of Directors

25% Black
8% Hispanic
67% White
8% Bilingual (Spanish)

Staff

50% hold Master's degrees
33% hold relevant professional licensure
67% have been employed 7+ years with WHWC

Leah Graham, MAHS, Executive Director
Dan Purcell, Finance Director
Lauren Potter, MHR, Programs Manager
Glenn Hutchins, LMSW, LCDC Medical Case Manager
Vincetta Green, Non-Medical Case Manager
Tasja Sachs, BSW, Housing Case Manager
Lawrence Vaults, LCDC, Non-Medical Case Manager

Board of Directors

29% have used WHWC services

Lauren Jones, President
Al Shults, Vice President
Susie Ingram, Treasurer
Ken Dodge, Secretary
Gary Werntz, MD
Jacquelyn Wilson, JD, Immediate Past President
Garrett Higley, JD, President Emeritus



Caring for Mind, Body, and Spirit since 1988

Improving the lives of Central Texans living with, at risk for, and affected by HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C through outreach, education, health and holistic services, and care coordination.

Envisioning a community where everyone affected by chronic illness will experience an improved quality of life.

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