

Building Blocks

2009 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



Seventeen Years... And Growing...

Be they individuals or families living with HIV/AIDS, or veterans returning from the armed services seeking high quality, supportive housing, it is our duty to create an atmosphere in which those in need realize their full potential as citizens.

By nature of our successes, we are charged with giving underserved populations the resources necessary to bridge sickness to health, reliance to independence, and doubt to trust.



Over the past seventeen years, AIDSCare's mission has stood, and will continue to stand, on how we respond to the moral and ethical questions of the future: How do we as human beings meet the legitimate needs of the poor, the sick, and the hungry without perpetuating a culture of entitlement? How do we, as case managers, property managers, fundraisers, civic

leaders, business owners, Chicagoans and Americans, build a community of care? How do we, realistically, take the strategic and necessary steps to end the cycles of poverty and disability, at both the individual and collective level?

With the continued interest and dedication of our generous supporters and friends, AIDSCare has been blessed for nearly two decades with the means to answer, and address, these questions. The agency has grown in size, scope and ability, and in the last five years alone, we have grown our social service and housing capabilities exponentially. From the small, though not insignificant number of eighteen at our House on Barry, to the now more than one hundred children, women, and men we currently house on the North Lawndale Campus, I am both astounded and humbled by our accomplishments over the years, an outreach that is only growing.

Thank you for continuing to grow with us.

Jim Flosi
Founding President and CEO

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Dining Out for Life

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 16th Annual Dining Out for Life in Chicago on Thursday, April 30, 2009! Dining Out for Life is the single largest HIV/AIDS benefit in the country, and this year, sixty-one restaurants in Chicago participated in the event, spanning seventeen city neighborhoods. Independent diner contributions brought in \$31,000 for the agency, a higher per restaurant donation level than in any preceding year. The 2009

event also marked an outstanding show of media support and corporate involvement, for both Dining Out for Life and for AIDSCare.

Once again, thank you to those who dined out on Thursday, April 30th, and especially to all of our supporting Restaurants and Volunteer Ambassadors. The event truly could have not been successful without your support and dedication.

We hope to see you next year, Thursday, April 29, 2010!



Photo: Anthony Meade

AIDSCare would like to once again congratulate our *Fat Saturday Ball* honorees for their accomplishments and excellence. The 2009 Awardees include:

- **Katie Grand**, recipient of *The Daniel R. Ruscitti Memorial Award*, for her generous and compassionate attention to the people and mission of AIDSCare;
- **Andrew Jaworksi & Staff, Harley Ellis Devereaux**, recipient of *The James V. Flosi Founder's Award*, for showing exceptional service to men and women living with AIDS in the Chicagoland area;
- **Ray Willis, Director of the Community Planning & Development Regional Office, H.U.D.**, recipient of *The Community Leadership Award*, for displaying creative and heroic leadership in the service of people who are homeless and living with HIV/AIDS.
- **Kimpton Hotels, Chicago**, recipient of *The Care With Dignity Award*, for their involvement in the sensitive

care and service of people who are homeless and/or living with HIV/AIDS, and have gained the city-wide reputation of unceasing and unfiring compassionate care for the people they serve;

- **Cora Anderson**, recipient of the *Outstanding Staff Award*, for her demonstration of exemplary leadership and compassionate qualities as a member of the AIDSCare team.

Thank you all for your fabulous work. We could not have done it without the commitment and talents of so many volunteers, committee members, donors, sponsors, performers, and friends. Special thanks to the man who made it all happen, *Fat Saturday Ball* Event Producer, Keith Elliott.

Mark your calendars for next year's *Fat Saturday Ball*, February 13, 2010!

FAT SATURDAY BALL



Fat Saturday Ball

Fat Saturday Ball: Nocturne was held on February 21, 2009 at the historic Stan Mansion in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood. Guests were awed by dazzling entertainment by Belmont Burlesque, Hot Toddy, InVision Psychics, Pyrotechnique, Read My Hips, classical guitarist Mitch Lavin, and mime Greg Steigmeyer. Miss Foozie made a guest appearance while Artistic Cuisine complemented the evening with an array of Spanish tapas. *Nocturne* proved to be AIDSCare's most inventive and exciting gala to date.

The Phoenix: A Property Management Perspective

In January 2008, AIDSCare celebrated the opening of *The Phoenix*, the third building on the North Lawndale Campus. By July 1, 2009, all thirty-two available units in the building will be occupied.

A year and half after *The Phoenix* opened its doors to its first resident, we are reminded that the need for independent, single, studio-style apartments for men and women living with HIV/AIDS is still prevalent. From a city housing and property management perspective, especially due to the building's sobriety compliance measures, it is a huge accomplishment to have achieved one hundred percent occupancy in less than one and a half years.



Campus Update

Since the opening of the first building on the campus in 2004, *Sawyer Gardens*, AIDSCare's outreach has grown five times its initial capacity, in terms of both housing units available and social services provided. Similarly, with the opening of *Garden View* in 2005, the agency branched out once again by creating a housing option that would focus on the needs of families with children, rather than just adult men and women, who are living with HIV/AIDS.

In the coming year, we look forward to a future that will continue these expansions, beginning with the construction of the Daniel R. Ruscitti Life Progress Center in North Lawndale in the early part of 2010.

Google Action Day

On Thursday, June 11th, Google partnered with AIDSCare for a Garden and Art Project. Google employees donated their time and creativity to help Programs Staff with gardening, landscaping, and a "live art" painting of a Phoenix for the North Lawndale Campus. The day also entailed a community



clean-up and arrangement of in-kind donations for a new campus store.

Many, many warm thanks to the Google Team for their amazing volunteerism and community outreach efforts!





During the 2009 Fiscal Year, AIDSCare received donations of \$25.00 or more from the following corporations, neighbors, and friends. On behalf of our residents and staff, thank you for helping us bridge sickness to health, homelessness to permanent housing, and poverty to self-sufficiency for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago's North Lawndale Community.

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Charitable Foundation

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In alpha order, many thanks to everyone who purchased a Table and Tickets for Fat Saturday Ball: Nocturne on February 21, 2009. The event could

not have been successful without your attendance and support over the years. Thank You!

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All gifts are as of June 15, 2009.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Bar AIDS

AIDSCare is proud to announce the 6th Annual Bar AIDS on Thursday, August 27, 2009! Bar AIDS is an up and coming, innovative, national HIV/AIDS benefit founded in Chicago. Last year, participating Bars, AIDSCare Ambassadors, and raffle ticket sales brought in more than \$30,000 for our programs and services and helped raise HIV/AIDS awareness to thousands of Chicagoans.

For more information or to register for the 2009 Bar AIDS event, please visit www.aidschicago.org

One Night. One Cause.

Bar AIDS.

