

PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

True to its roots in advocacy and activism, the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS serves in a support role to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Our advocacy is embodied in the agency's prevention, education and outreach initiatives. Prevention initiatives include targeted outreach to at-risk populations through street-level communication and partnering with other agencies and service providers.

We offer a variety of programs reaching men, women, youth and HIV-infected and affected clients. Prevention and outreach initiatives also include HIV/AIDS counseling and testing in partnership with Maricopa County and the Arizona Department of Health Services. *The following programs continue to flourish with the support of donors and staff.*

Services for all:

- **HIV Testing and Counseling** – conducted daily on site for walk-ins during specified hours, or by appointment during off hours. Rapid results are available (10-20 minutes) as well as counseling when necessary.
- **METHODS** – designed for those individuals who are HIV-positive and are also challenged by substance or sexual addictions, with goals to achieve sobriety and wellness.
- **Targeted Outreach** – linking those who are HIV-positive or those who are at risk for being positive with primary care and case management services.
- **Pizza and the Basics** – “HIV 101” for newly diagnosed individuals to introduce them to the facts about the disease.
- **It's All About Me: The Five Stages for Personal Change** – a seven-week program for HIV-positive individuals, where participants explore aspects of themselves and evaluate what changes are needed to make better life choices.
- **Say it Straight** – a prevention program for straight men and women who want to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS.
- **Underserved Populations Prevention** – prevention services and outreach to underserved populations.
- **Food for Thought** – a community dinner and lecture event about issues related to the impact of living with HIV/AIDS.

Services for men:

- **Man2Man** – sexual health seminars with some sessions targeted to Native American, Black/African American and Spanish-speaking communities.
- **FUSION** – focused on peer education and community participation, this Mpowerment project targets men who have sex with men (MSM) from ages 18-39.
- **Men's Educational Network (MENet)** – a monthly educational dinner event.

Services for women:

- **The Gathering ... A Women's Luncheon** – a weekly luncheon for women who face unique challenges and barriers.
- **Women's Health Empowerment** – presentations regarding safe, sexual practices, counseling and testing.

Services for youth:

- **FUSION** - this Mpowerment project targets men who have sex with men (MSM) from ages 18-39 and incorporates peer education and community participation.
- **Positive Peer Prevention (P3)** – provides youth (ages 13-18) with the tools to make positive decisions, to teach them assertiveness skills and to provide accurate and current information about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), risky behaviors, triggers and solutions to these behaviors.
- **Youth Empowerment Program (YEP)** – Mpowerment project targets the youth in the community and offers an alternative to the bars for social interaction with other young MSM and transgender individuals (ages 14-24).

Services for children and family:

- **Camp Incredible** – an annual, week-long camp held in the summer for families affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **Logan's Playground** – Child watch for clients.
- **Kid Konnection** – events featured by Logan's Playground.
- **Kids for Life School-based Diversity Program** – lesson plans based on the educational children's songs of Grammy Award winner Tom Chapin.

Child watch is available on site for all clients utilizing services at the agency.

The Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS has strengthened the impact of its prevention, education and outreach efforts through strategic alliances that reach underserved populations. Existing community partnerships are well established, and we continue exploring how to work through various community partners to provide HIV testing, programs and outreach.