



Committee for AIDS Resources, Education & Services

Annual Report 2009

Results-Driven, Human-Focused, and Serving Vermonters

I hope you enjoy this wrap-up of another strong year for Vermont CARES. We are proud to report that our programs continue to serve thousands around the state with critical care services, education, and free HIV testing. Our long-term goals – to ensure people with HIV are cared for and that new HIV infections are reduced – are increasingly within reach, and you are integral to our shared success.

Here's what we want you to know (that you might not already) about Vermont CARES:

- Our programs for people with HIV/AIDS have proven results, and keep people healthy, housed, and connected to their communities.
- We are the state's largest provider of free and anonymous HIV tests, through many offices and sites around the state.
- We distribute more than 5,000 condoms, female condoms, dental dams, and other safer sex materials each year.
- Thanks to a great group of supporters, we built the state's largest AIDS ribbon composed of volunteers last fall!
- Our programs would not be possible without volunteers who staff testing sites, our syringe exchange, our Board of Directors, and our reception desks.
- Our programs also rely on private donations from people like you; every dollar donated by Vermonters and beyond is put to use in this state to build a critical HIV care system across ten counties.
- We work out of our homes, out of shared offices, and as efficiently as possible, so that your donations are spent wisely, efficiently, and with a real focus on human lives. Thank you!

If at any point during the year you have questions about our work, or want to learn more about Vermont CARES, contact our main offices at 800/649-2437. Any staff or volunteer should be able to answer questions about who we are and what we do.

With sincere thanks,

Peter Jacobsen
Executive Director

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Vermont CARES

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www.vtcars.org

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Vermont CARES staff from around the state!

Support and Care Services

Improving Client Health Through Care

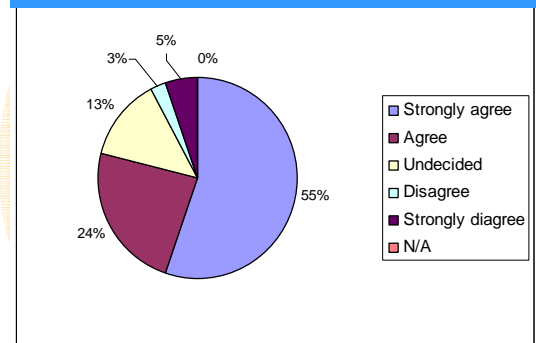
Our services program has always been strong in engaging our clients in addressing their HIV/AIDS needs, but this past year has led to a heightened focus on supporting our clients' overall wellness and working to adequately meet their health and basic human needs. This allows us to better assess our own work through ongoing feedback in client/case manager meetings, group meetings and focus groups, and surveys so we can better meet the health and wellness needs of our clients.

Based on client feedback and our desire to consistently meet and also better predict our clients' needs in the future, we are demonstrating and refining best practices to meet our clients' evolving issues related to poverty, complex mental health issues (depression, anxiety disorders, substance use), and their needs for networking and socializing.

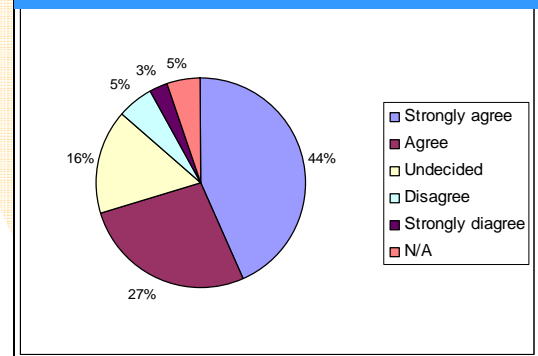
Most of our clients live under the poverty line, many well below it, and are already often accessing public assistance and state programs (already stretched resources), and are at a greater risk of not having enough health care coverage, food, or funds to pay for housing.

All of these issues impact our clients' ability to consistently maintain their overall health, including, but not limited to their HIV care. Therefore, we collaborate with clients and their providers in creating care plans and programs that meet their medical, social, and mental health needs in order to promote their success in medication regimes and treating their HIV/AIDS. In addition, because our approach is holistic and client centered, we are enhancing clients' feelings of overall wellbeing even while facing the complex challenges of HIV/AIDS and poverty.

When asked whether Vermont CARES helped keep people with HIV healthier, the results were overwhelming—clients report working with us helps to manage their HIV effectively.



Clients also report that working with Vermont CARES helps keep their housing more stable, since providing housing, food, medical support, and basic human needs is so critical to keeping healthy.



Based on our December 2009 Services Program Survey clients responded with the following:

- Over 70% responded that their HIV provider feels that they are on track in terms of managing their HIV
- 65% agreed that as a result of working with us, they have better access to mental health, substance abuse, or dental care.
- Almost 80% responded they have better access to HIV treatment as a result of working with Vermont CARES
- 70% agree that they are able to better meet their emotional and physical needs as a result of working with Vermont CARES and that their housing situation is more stable

Rapid HIV Testing Expands!

Do you know that Vermont CARES is the #1 provider of free, anonymous HIV tests in Vermont? Through our Rapid HIV Testing program, we conduct over 1000 free tests each year. We hold weekly or biweekly walk-in testing clinics in Burlington, St. Johnsbury, Rutland, and Montpelier. Regular testing clinics also take place on campus at the University of Vermont, Green Mountain College, and several substance abuse recovery programs in the Rutland area.

Rapid HIV tests have been the gold standard in testing since their release in 2003. With these tests, results are available and delivered to clients in just 20 minutes. This accessibility and convenience of one visit makes taking an HIV test a real option for many people. Here in a rural state like Vermont, the rapid test is crucially important because transportation to and from clinics can be especially challenging. At Vermont CARES we are proud to provide excellent, high-quality rapid tests to our communities.

Although choosing to take a rapid HIV test can be difficult, making a conscious decision to know one's HIV status is incredibly empowering. For people who find out they are not infected, taking a test helps them reflect on risks and develop ways to continue to stay safe in the future. For people who find out they are infected with HIV, learning their status allows them the opportunity to get into medical care so they can stay healthy for many years to come.



A rapid test is a screening test paired with counseling about HIV risk



Free HIV prevention materials at our popular "Wall of Condoms"

Volunteers

Volunteers Make Vermont CARES Possible!



Volunteers help people sign up for the Red Ribbon Rally.

We continue to appreciate many outstanding volunteers who staff our front desk in the Burlington office, help us provide syringe exchange in St. Johnsbury, serve on our Board of Directors in Rutland and Chittenden Counties, and support our HIV testing programs across the state. Without the commitment, passion, and drive of these outstanding and generous individuals, we certainly could not serve as many Vermonters as we do.

Our sincere thanks; we all benefit from your work!

Events and fundraising

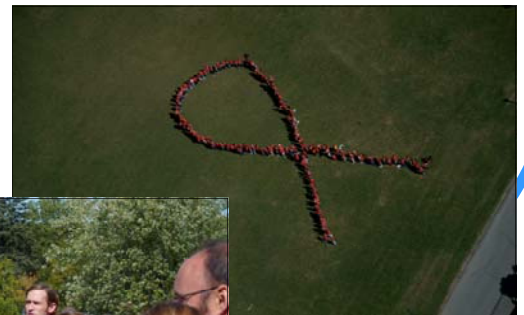
Current Fundraising Trends

Events continue to play an important role in our fundraising plan. Events not only bring in substantial and needed funds but they provide opportunities for the CARES community to gather, socialize, renew friendships, solidify support of Vermont CARES and reinforce our mission. In a difficult economic climate, events attract fewer people and fewer dollars. Nevertheless, thanks to generous donors we were able to raise over \$68,000 through events this year. In fiscal 2010 we will likely add one or two smaller events along with our traditional ones as we continue to re-evaluate fundraising goals and possibilities.

In recognition of technological and other developments that influence charitable giving we are paying more attention to cultivating new donors through the internet. This takes the form of communicating with many supporters and prospects primarily on Facebook and e-mail rather than with paper mailings or phone calls.

In fact, we have discontinued our spring phone-a-thon because results in relation to effort have steadily decreased. As people's telephone habits have changed, our ability to reach them with a fundraising appeal has in turn almost vanished. What used to be a reliable and indeed, inspiring, method of individually connecting with supporters is no longer viable. Our challenge is to employ new media tools effectively so as to attract new supporters while continuing to reach out to current and longstanding donors in appropriate ways.

We thank you for staying in touch, and for your support!



Above: Volunteers create a red ribbon in support of Vermonters with HIV/AIDS. Left: Executive Director Peter Jacobsen speaks to participants during the rally.



Above: We are grateful to have such a fun group of volunteers to help us run the Champ Ride—thanks to Gordon, Judy, Ron, Peter, John, Kim, and Rick for helping pull the whole day together.

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 Woodweaver/ Nat Grant
 Yankee Tattoo
 YMCA
 Yoga Vermont
 Zerafa

THE FOLLOWING TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES SUPPORT US:

Town of Calais
 Town of East Montpelier
 Town of Hinesburg
 Town of Leicester
 Town of Lowell
 Town of Starksboro
 Town of Williston
 Town of Essex
 Town of Colchester

WE ARE PROUD TO WORK WITH THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

A Community Resource Network
 AIDS Project of Southern Vermont
 Twin States Network
 Vermont People with AIDS Coalition
 Vermont Department of Health
 Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
 Champlain Housing Trust
 Burlington Housing Authority
 Vermont State Housing Authority
 Committee on Temporary Shelter
 Recycle North
 Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
 Fletcher Allen Healthcare
 Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
 Rutland Regional Medical Center
 Northeastern Vermont Medical Center
 Community Health Center
 Howard Mental Health
 The Office of Senator Bernie Sanders
 The Office of Senator Patrick Leahy
 The Office of Congressman Peter Welch
 Outright Vermont
 RU12? Community Center
 Vermont Trans Action
 Vermont Freedom to Marry

Maple Leaf Farms
 Rutland Drug Court
 Serenity House
 Evergreen Substance Abuse Center
 BAART Behavioral Health Service
 Retired Senior Volunteer Program
 Vermont Center for Independent Living
 Champlain Valley Agency on Aging
 Vermont Respite House
 Visiting Nurse Association
 Healthcare is a Human Right Campaign
 Vermont Workers' Center
 Meals on Wheels
 Area Food Shelves
 Vermont Foodbank
 Joint Urban Ministries Program
 Salvation Army
 St. Joseph's House
 Catholic Charities
 Lions Club
 Social Security Administration
 Veteran's Affairs Offices and Hospital
 Planned Parenthood: Northern New England
 Women's Rape Crisis Center
 Women Helping Battered Women
 Umbrella
 SafeSpace
 First Congregational Churches
 United Universalist Church
 University of Vermont
 St. Michael's College
 Middlebury College
 Green Mountain College
 Castleton State College
 Johnson State College

Board of directors

Anise Richey — Chair
Charlotte McCorkel — Vice Chair
Steven Cooley — Treasurer
Beth DeBernardi — Secretary
Dok Wright — At-Large Board Member
Sondra E. Solomon — Hon. Board Member
Sarah Woodard — Board Member*
Kurt M. Pickett — Board Member*
Craig Wells — Board Member*
Gregory Ramos — Board Member*
Deb Choma — Board Member
Chris Fletcher — Board Member*
Anne Van Donsel — Board Member

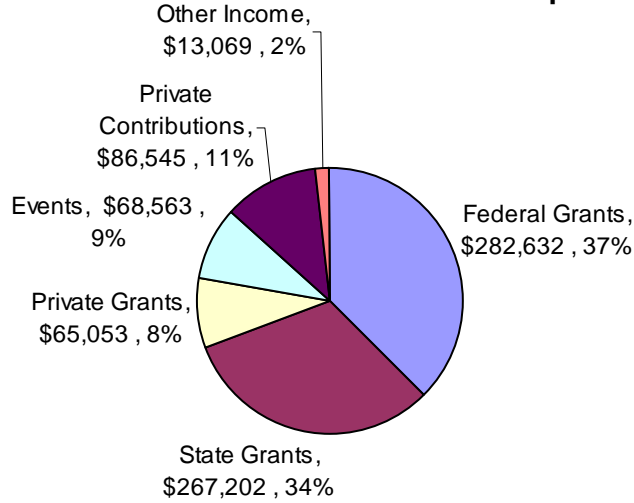
Financial report for 2009 fiscal

Staff

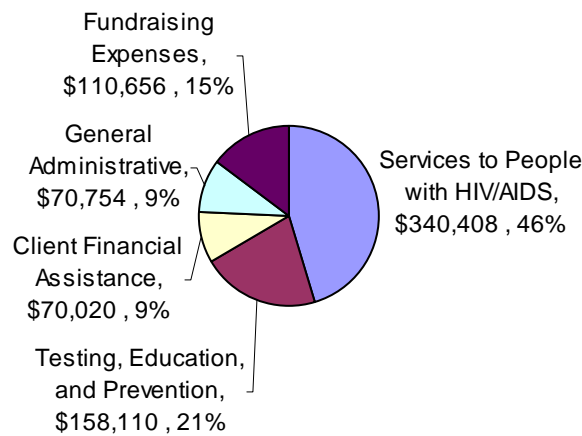
Peter Jacobsen — Executive Director
Shayne Galloway — Prevention Director
Melissa Farr — Services Director
Judy Raven — Development Director
Wendy Kenny — Financial Consultant
Roy Belcher — Anti-Stigma Specialist
Mary Kathryn Charbonneau — Program Specialist
Angela Madonia — Program Specialist
Kara Casey — Program Specialist
Jose Davila — Program Specialist
Penni Cleverley — Program Specialist

* Term Expired After Fiscal Year End, Term Not Renewed

Vermont CARES: Income October 2006 to September 2007



Vermont CARES: Expenses October 2006 to September 2007



State and Federal Funding:

Burlington Housing Authority (HUD)
 Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (HUD)
 Vermont Housing Conservation Board (HUD)
 Department of Health (HRSA/State General Funds)
 Department of Corrections (State General Funds)

Private Grants:

Rite Aid Foundation
 Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS
 MAC AIDS Fund
 Vermont Eastern Star Home, Inc.
 Vermont Community Foundation
 Concept 2, Inc.
 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont
 North American Syringe Exchange Network
 Gamma Mu Foundation
 Samara Foundation of Vermont
 National Life Group
 Lion and Hare Fund

We remain grateful to our funders and partners.