

2009 Annual Report

Dear Friends of the Damien Center,

Since 1987 the Damien Center has journeyed with our clients, working to address the health concerns of HIV/AIDS. We have made every effort to lead the fight to prevent the spread of HIV and to empower persons in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity.

Partnering with you

The Damien Center has employed innovative ways in this challenging economy to balance our budget while maintaining services to clients at the highest level. By restructuring management and cutting unnecessary expenses, we have increased efficiency to the point that only 15% of our budget is being used for administrative and fundraising purposes, while the other 85% goes directly to client services. These percentages, which are impressive in the nonprofit community, give us many reasons to be proud of what we've accomplished. Funders and individual donors alike look to this percentage to gauge how well their dollars will be used at an organization, and 85% shows that money will be well spent at the Damien Center. Without your commitment to Damien Center clients and the fight against HIV/AIDS, none of our past accomplishments or future goals would be possible.

The Clients

2009 saw a renewed focus on client needs. Terry Michael, Manager of Housing and Client Enrichment, focuses on housing and emergency assistance programs, as well as the food pantry and nutrition. In 2009, the food pantry saw the exciting addition of new refrigeration units which enables us to provide a more well rounded and balanced offering for our client's nutritional needs. Michaelangelo McClendon, as Care Coordination Program Manager, manages the finest team of Care Coordinators in the HIV community. Care Coordination provides specialized case management to anyone living with HIV/AIDS, and ours is a staff of highly trained individuals available to meet with clients to both assess their needs and provide assistance. Through quality assurance management, Care Coordinators are able to monitor the quality of services provided to Damien Center clients to improve efficiency and quality of care.

Prevention

Rhonda Bayless works to oversee our prevention program, including testing, counseling, and the recently awarded Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant. This grant was awarded in an effort to examine gaps in prevention services in Marion County and to strategically think of ways to fill those gaps with evidence-based programs. SAMHSA targets the reentry population, particularly African Americans, who have been released from prisons within the past two years and who are at high risk for substance abuse and high risk for contracting or transmitting HIV.

New Challenges

With the introduction in recent years of HAART Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy, people with HIV/AIDS are living much longer and healthier lives. That brings a new set of challenges for the Damien Center. To better serve clients, our current focus is on forming partnerships to provide an onsite medical clinic, and client career building initiatives, job training and education, as well as on sustaining the existing services of housing and emergency funding. The challenges are greater than ever, and as medical treatment is changing, so do we need to adapt to assist those living with HIV/AIDS in the most effective and efficient manner. Thank you for your continued confidence in the Damien Center. We count on you to help provide the opportunity to bring the most innovative and ground-breaking facility and programs to Central Indiana to assist in the efforts to combat HIV and AIDS.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bartenbach
Executive Director





Testing & Outreach



The Damien Center provides free and confidential testing by state-certified testers for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases including Syphilis on-site at the Joseph F. Miller Testing Center and at satellite locations. Damien Center Prevention efforts include building new and strengthening existing partnerships to provide effective HIV/STD programs and outreach services. Damien Center employs Spanish speaking testers to better serve our community.

The Damien Center will continue to develop evidence-based prevention programs to reach vulnerable populations. Outreach is still an important aspect of Damien Center Prevention plans and will continue to be one of the main ways we help to reduce the number of newly infected.

Free HIV tests conducted at the Damien Center in 2009

973

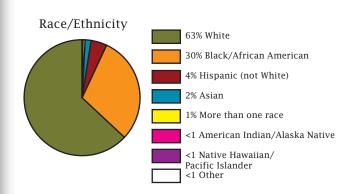
Counseling

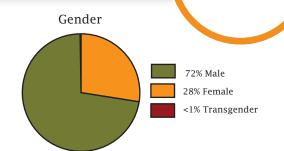
The Damien Center has specially trained and licensed counselors who understand the impact HIV/AIDS has on individuals, families, and the larger community. Services are available to anyone infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including immediate family members. The average length of counseling services is eight months.

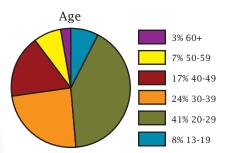
Number of those who tested positive for HIV

24

Who Was Tested in 2009







2009 Agency Information

2009 Board of Directors Troy Farmer, President

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Damien Center Is Also:

A designated United Way Agency

The only AIDS Service Organization (ASO) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Services (CARF)

A certified Jubilee Center of the Episcopal Church (among 400 in the United States and 800 in the world)

of Damien Center clients are below the Federal poverty level.

The clients of Care Coordination have access to transportation assistance, case management, prevention strategies, and one on one care to assist clients with continuing education of the HIV/AIDS virus - all components in which each Care Coordinator is thoroughly trained. Damien Center employs Spanish speaking Care Coordinator to better serve the entire community.

The Care Coordination Department is the link to community based resources for clients living with HIV/AIDS, such as housing, nutrition assistance, and financial assistance. The advantage for the client of partaking in Care Coordination services is to allow the client the opportunity to manage their disease on a daily basis, helping them to live more comfortably with HIV/AIDS.

Access to Insurance

Care Coordination provides comprehensive services of Case Managenment for person(s) living with HIV/AIDS. The services provided by the Care Cordination department include an invitation to access Marion County wrap around health insurance, which includes dental care, vision care, lab and medical care, mental health care and legal referral services.

54% White (not Hispanic)

38% Black (not Hispanic)

5% Hispanic/Latino(a)

2% Other

1% Multiracial

Pacific Islander <1% American Indian/

Alaskan Native

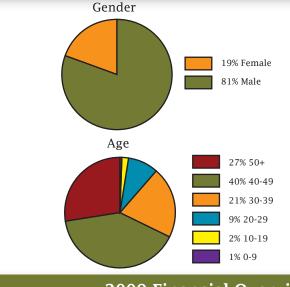
< 1% Asian/

The
vision of Care
Coordination is to
provide each client
with the knowledge and
assistance needed to
regain self sustainability and to empower the
client to live a
graceful and
full life.

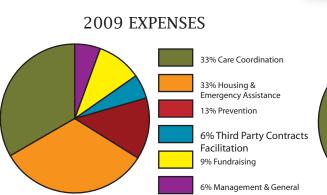
Race/Ethnicity

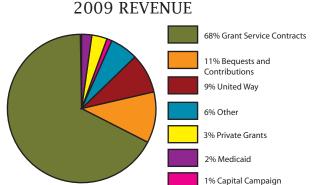
The clients in Care Coordination also have the opportunity to obtain the Indiana State Department of Health Comprehensive health insurance, which would allow the clients to access even further medical coverage for co-morbidity health concerns and hospitalizations and inpatient services.

2009 Client Demographics









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The Housing Assistance Program promotes the dignity and health of people living with HIV/AIDS by ensuring that those in need have safe and affordable housing of choice. Housing assistance is comprised of short-term Direct Emergency Financial Assistance, serving 112 clients in 2009, and long-term Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, serving 65 clients in 2009.

"Building a Future," a skills-building curriculum uniquely designed by the Damien Center, is required for clients who receive long-term housing assistance and focuses on topics such as goal setting, income and employment resources, budgeting and expense choices, and legal responsibilities. The philosophy of housing services at the Damien Center is to promote client self-sufficiency and support housing permanency. Housing Food Pantry DEFA

Number of times the food pantry was accessed in 2009

4,766

Number of clients who used the food pantry in 2009

2,685

Average cost of one food pantry visit for an individual

\$30

A Client Success Story

"When someone is diagnosed with HIV/AIDS they are most concerned about the changes in their life because of the disease. This disease impacts relationships with others, sense of self, sex life, any future planning, hopes and fears, dreams and your career."

Shane is keenly aware of how this disease impacted his life in 1997, because he spent the next 12 years trying to deny the life he could have been living. Shane drifted from job to job, and became heavily involved with alcohol and then drugs, eventually spending time in prison. He knows now that "if left on its own, this disease if a fast track to certain death."



Finding his Future

After spending time at Wheeler Mission, Shane knew he had to find more permanent living arrangements. He needed a place to live in order to do his homework for a program in which he was taking part at Second Helpings, to wash his clothes and most importantly to take care of his health. It was in January of 2009 that he met with Ryan, his Care Coordinator, at the Damien Center. Shane was a perfect candidate for the HOPWA program which provides housing for people with AIDS. He needed transportation if he was going to make it to doctor's appointments and to classes. Due to his incarceration, he was not allowed to apply for food stamps, so he utilized the food pantry. And last of all, he needed assistance with the expensive medication that is needed to keep his counts at healthy levels through the Ryan White program.

Shane will tell you "I never knew how much I didn't know". Once turning to the Damien Center instead of running away and escaping from the situation, Shane learned that he had good choices to make, if he let people help him. But he is quick to say "I am not a victim. I had to face reality and make good choices on my own". Shane graduated from cooking school on April 30, 2010 and has the long term goal of becoming a Souse Chef. He looks forward to every day because he is doing something he loves to do.

Donors listed reflect those who made through contributions regular development efforts in 2009. Society membership is determined by gifts to the annual fund. All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. If you find an error, please accept our apologies and contact the development department at 317-632-0123 so we may correct it.

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Legacy Society \$2.600 - \$4.999

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Damien Rose Society \$2,000 - \$2,599

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Michael Manning

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2009 Highlight - Damien Center Hires New Executive Director

The Damien Center was excited to welcome Thomas Bartenbach as Executive Director in August 2009. He began his career as a bagboy at Preston Safeway in Indianapolis, eventually purchasing the store. Tom has owned and operated several other successful businesses since then in both Indianapolis and Seattle, and it is this entreprenurial spirit and strong business sense that he brings with him to the Damien Center. Tom also served as the Executive Director of Indiana Cares, an early AIDS Service Organization in Indianapolis, in the 1990s and has a strong knowledge and understanding of the HIV/AIDS field.

Tom's personal mission is the same as that of the Damien Center; to empower those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward with dignity, and to lead the fight against HIV. As Executive Director, his focus will be on bringing that mission to life in a client focused, cost effective way. "As we seek to be responsive to the ever changing landscapes of HIV and AIDS, I firmly believe we can serve our clientele while increasing the services we provide by generous donations and service oriented grants. Using a combination of creative outsourcing, staff realignment, and reestablishing our cooperative network with other helping agencies in the public and private sector, we can enhance the quality of care for all we seek to serve while spending fewer dollars."