

# VOICES

THE VOICE OF DELAWARE'S HIV COMMUNITY

DELAWARE  
HIV  
CONSORTIUM

Summer 2018

## HIV Testing & Linkage to Care

The Consortium's Testing & Linkage to Care program, in collaboration with Walgreens and Orasure Technologies, is now entering its fifth year. As we continue to make changes to the program to optimize its effectiveness, the Consortium re-dedicates itself to the goal of reaching out to Delawareans at risk for infection, and to those who do not know their status and may need to be connected to treatment.



In an effort to be more efficient, we are now concentrating our testing efforts in two Walgreens locations on three days:

- Monday, 12:30 – 4 pm, 9th & Market
- Tuesdays, 12:30-4 pm, Elsmere (Kirkwood Hwy.) and
- Fridays, 9:30 am -12:00 pm, 9th & Market

Our Testing and Linkage to Care program is underwritten by grant funding from the Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation, with additional fundraising support of our donors. You can help support this important initiative at our website, [www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org), and click "Donate."

## JUNE 27th IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY!

Visit a participating Walgreens for a FREE HIV test and to find out the latest in prevention and treatment.

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WE  
AIDS

The Consortium will be participating once again in National HIV Testing Day on Wednesday, June 27, 10 am – 7 pm, with free HIV and Hep C testing at Walgreens, 839 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. You can find other test sites in Delaware by going here: [www.HIVtest.org](http://www.HIVtest.org)

## Our "new" mission

Last year we celebrated the incredible milestone of our 25th anniversary. For more than a quarter of a century, the Delaware HIV Consortium has passionately served the HIV community throughout the state with quality and culturally appropriate services. We've grown so much. We began as a small grassroots organization whose main purpose was to engage the community in the HIV Community Planning Council and now we help lead the state's efforts to eliminate the epidemic.

Today the Consortium provides so many services: case management, HIV & Hep C testing, lost to care Re-engagement services, emergency financial assistance, community education, PrEP referrals, the Positive Action Committee, community outreach, the state's only HIV housing voucher program, the HIV Community Planning Council and the administration of transportation and mental health services. We've grown tremendously and changed over the years in order to better serve the HIV community, so it makes sense that together, the Board and Staff are working on a new three year strategic plan and have changed our mission statement to be more reflective of who the Consortium is today.

As we evaluated the Mission Statement, we realized that we are working toward a single goal: eliminating the HIV epidemic in Delaware. And this is how we do that:

*"The Delaware HIV Consortium is dedicated to providing leadership to eliminate HIV in Delaware by supporting and providing optimal HIV care and prevention services."*

We invite you to join us. Help us educate, advocate, serve, volunteer, donate, and support the Delaware HIV Consortium and our mission. We thank you for your continued compassion, caring and support for people infected with -- and affected by -- HIV. Together, we can help find a cure in our lifetime.

I hope that you enjoy the rest of your summer! See you at the 2018 AIDS Walk on September 22, 2018.

Until there's a Cure,  
Peter F. Houle, MBA  
Executive Director

## WOW! A Night Under the Stars

The 14th Annual WOW! Awards Gala was held on Friday, April 27, with more than 325 guests attending the Consortium’s largest annual fundraiser. WOW!, with its second year at Hockessin Memorial Hall, raised more than \$50,000 in support of the Consortium’s services to Delawarean’s living with HIV. The annual event included a cocktail reception, gourmet dinner, silent auction, and an awards ceremony honoring the contributions to the HIV community of eight Consortium allies.



This year’s sponsors included Walgreens, Gilead Sciences, Highmark Delaware, Christiana Care, Napo Pharmaceuticals, WAWA Foundation, Wilmington City Council, We Work for Health Delaware, Viiv Healthcare, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Delmarva Power. The Consortium is also grateful for gifts in kind to our amazing dinner from Mattes Seafood and Woody’s Crab House, Iron Hill Brewery, Peco Liquors, Kreston Wine & Spirits, NKS Distributors, and Breakthru Beverage. The Consortium is also grateful to the friends and business neighbors who contributed more than 250 items, gift cards and certificates for service that were donated to our live auction.



This year’s WOW award winners are as follows: Jerry Bilton, Community Service Building, retired, Red Ribbon Ally Award; Dianne Casey, Delaware HIV Consortium, retired, Impact Award; Steve Gobeil, Wawa, Community Award; Nita Holloway, RN, Volunteer of the Year; Dorian Lobato, Iron Hill Brewery, Corporate Award; Robert Marcinko, R.Ph., Walgreens, Leadership Award; Sharon Miner, APRN, Christiana Care HIV Program; Sr. Dolores Macklin Guardian Angel Award; and Bethany Twardowski, RN, Christiana Care, Ryan White Award.



The 2019 WOW! Awards Gala & Auction will be held on Friday, **April 26, 2019**, at Hockessin Memorial Hall. We hope you can join us next year!



PRESENTED BY

**Walgreens** AT THE CORNER OF **HAPPY & HEALTHY**

WOW Auction Clearance Items [HERE](#)



## 2018 AIDS Walk Delaware

AIDS Walk Delaware, “#OneDayTwoWalks,” is scheduled for September 22, 2018, at Dravo Plaza, Riverfront Wilmington, and at Grove Park in Rehoboth Beach. The Walk is a collaboration between AIDS Delaware, the Delaware HIV Consortium, and all Delaware HIV/AIDS service organizations. The Walk website, [www.aidswalkdelaware.org](http://www.aidswalkdelaware.org), a new site, is now open for registration and donations. We encourage you to register early – supporters who register early consistently raise more donations!



If you’d like to join the Consortium’s Walk team, click “Support a friend”, search for “Consortium”, select either the Wilmington or Rehoboth team, then click “Add page to team.” This new donation page is YOUR donation page. Thank you for your support! #OneDayTwoWalks

Click [HERE](#) to register or donate now.

## Housing Program Update

- **HOPWA** – The Consortium’s tenant-based rental assistance program was approved for renewed Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding for the City of Wilmington, New Castle County, and through the Delaware State Housing Authority for Kent and Sussex County. A small increase in the amount of funding in Kent and Sussex County means we will soon be moving some clients from the southern Delaware waiting list and into an apartment!
- **Longwood Foundation Grant** – Thanks to a grant from the Longwood Foundation, the Consortium’s housing case manager is working diligently to help eligible clients receiving rental assistance transition to senior housing programs, or housing programs for people with disabilities. The Housing Case Management program, funded by Longwood, aims to develop a housing plan for each client and to help older clients who wish to transition to senior housing to do so. This program will help open up slots in our current housing program so that we can move more people off our waiting list and into housing.
- Effective immediately, the Consortium’s Housing staff will be doing all housing re-certifications with our clients, as their date for renewal approaches. Previously, re-certifications were done by a client’s Ryan White case manager. This change should be seamless and transparent to current housing clients. Clients do not need to take any action and will be contacted directly by our staff on the appropriate date.

## Re-engagement Program

This year, the Consortium was awarded a contract by the Delaware Division of Public Health to manage a Re-engagement Program in New Castle County. The program, funded through the Centers for Disease Control, is designed to find Delawareans who have been identified as HIV positive, but who no record of recent medical treatment – so-called “lost to care.” Using data research and surveillance techniques employed by DPH for other infectious diseases, the Re-engagement Program seeks to identify approximately 550 people who are “lost to care” and to reconnect them with therapeutic and support services.



Re-engagement programs have been implemented in many other jurisdictions, with mixed results. Some programs have found that a large number of clients originally identified as “lost to care” were the result of lags in reporting data, are actually still in care, or have moved out of the jurisdiction, and so are really not part of the target population for this program. In other areas, reconnecting people can be very labor-intensive, making it less cost-effective. The Consortium plans to move aggressively to identify these clients and reconnect them to the continuum, so that these clients are moved toward viral suppression – the goal of all HIV treatment programs.

Consortium services for the Re-engagement Program are limited to New Castle County, with DPH managing the re-engagement project in Kent and Sussex County. Key components of the program include research, outreach, arranging transportation, scheduling medical appointments, accompanying the client to their appointment, and connecting them with case management and other support services when appropriate.



### Delaware HIV Consortium

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[www.delawarehiv.org](http://www.delawarehiv.org)

Peter Houle, Executive Dir.

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| Jackie Coverdale  | Andrea Killian  |
| George Lincoln    | Kristine Loller |
| Kelly Maguire     | Scott MacKenzie |
| Raphia Noubassi   | Audrey Nwokocha |
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