The 2023 POZ 100 G–M

This year’s POZ 100 celebrates the collective effort to end the HIV epidemic.

November 13, 2023 By Alicia Green, Jennifer Morton , Tim Murphy , Laura Schmidt and Trent Straube

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The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

theglobalfund.org

For more than 20 years the Global Fund has invested $55.4 billion in the movement to end HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, improve health systems and fight injustice around the globe. The Fund provides 30% of all international financing for HIV programs. In fact, in countries where the Fund invests, AIDS-related deaths have dropped by 70% and new infections have decreased by 54% since 2002. By taking a pragmatic approach to reducing stigma, discrimination and barriers to human rights, the Fund reaches the most vulnerable populations in need of health care services and resources.

GMHC

gmhc.org

The world’s first HIV and AIDS service organization, GMHC (formerly Gay Men’s Health Crisis) has worked for more than 40 years to end the HIV epidemic and uplift the lives of all affected by offering programs and services that include linkage to care, HIV and STI testing, meals and nutritional information, substance use and mental health counseling and more. GMHC’s contributions have helped New York City achieve UNAIDS’s 90-90-90 goal for ending the epidemic. The organization advocates at the national, state and local levels for policies that protect the rights of people living with HIV as well as the LGBTQ community. Its National Resource Center on HIV and Aging offers news, events and resources for older adults with HIV. GMHC also hosts The Clubhouse, a drop-in space for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and gender-nonconforming youth of color and young adults and operates The Buddy Program, which pairs clients living with HIV with volunteers who provide social support and assistance. Several recent grants have helped triple GMHC’s supportive housing capabilities for homeless families, individuals living with HIV and AIDS and those with severe mental illness and substance use disorder.

Greater Than HIV

greaterthan.org

Greater Than HIV offers myriad public health resources for HIV prevention, care, treatment,

support and more from the nonprofit organization KFF (formerly the Kaiser Family Foundation). Greater Than HIV promotes open and consistent communication concerning sexual health care and education. Its online service locator allows users to find nearby HIV and STI testing, PrEP providers, health insurance and financial assistance. Free at-home HIV tests by mail are also available to anyone ages 17 or older living in the United States (including Puerto Rico). Greater Than HIV also offers up-to-date resources, including comprehensive statistics, downloadable digital graphics and mobile-friendly resources in English and Spanish. The site also features inspiring personal videos about prevention, testing and treatment. It recently teamed with the CDC's "Let's Stop HIV Together" campaign to create a new video series featuring leading public health experts discussing the latest in HIV, STIs and sexual health.

HEROES

heroesla.org

HEROES works to support, educate and uplift communities in Northeast Louisiana through wellness programs, education and community healing. The organization was founded in 1995 by Monica Johnson, a single mother living with HIV who was frustrated by the lack of supportive services available in the rural area. Today, HEROES offers sexual wellness education to adults and teens, provides HIV resources (including free condoms), runs an after-school program, organizes a voter registration project and more. HEROES University, a small group intervention program, helps people living with HIV access available treatments and support groups in their communities. HEROES also hosts the annual three-day DREAM retreat, an immersive experience that connects people living with HIV to support, resources and healing. HEROES is currently raising funds to open a community center on nine acres of land once worked by enslaved people.

HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute

hivhep.org

The HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute promotes quality and affordable health care for people living with and at risk for HIV, hepatitis and other serious and chronic health conditions. The national nonprofit leads advocacy efforts to ensure that there is necessary federal funding for both federal HIV and viral hepatitis programs. In addition, the institute aims to guarantee that people with HIV and/or hepatitis have access to comprehensive and quality health care, including preventive services, Medicaid and Medicare.

HIV Medicine Association

hivma.org

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) is a member organization of HIV physicians, scientists and

other health care professionals who are striving to end the HIV epidemic by advocating for a humane response that's informed by science and social justice. Part of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, HIVMA prioritizes expanding access to health care services and coverage for those with or at risk for HIV and sustaining and building a robust and diverse HIV workforce, with a special focus on underserved communities. HIVMA provides primary care guidelines and professional development resources for HIV clinicians, including an online directory of HIV clinical training opportunities.

HIV Prevention Trials Network

hptn.org

Clinical trials can do more than prove whether medications are effective. For example, the team at HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), a nonprofit based in North Carolina, helps develop the research, data and global network necessary to determine the best strategies to prevent and treat HIV. One of its most famous clinical trials, HPTN 052, provided the evidence behind U=U (Undetectable Equals Untransmittable), the fact that people with HIV who maintain an undetectable viral load don't transmit the virus through sex. Currently, HPTN scientists are focused on studies to evaluate long-acting antiretrovirals, broadly neutralizing antibodies and technologies that can concurrently prevent HIV, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

HIV Vaccine Trials Network

hvtn.org

This international collaboration of scientists, academics, ethicists, clinical trial participants and others helps design and conduct trials with the goal of developing safe and effective HIV vaccines (as well as those for COVID-19 and tuberculosis). Based at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) conducts research and operates laboratories across the globe. Although experimental preventive vaccines have failed thus far, HVTN researchers remain hopeful as they explore broadly neutralizing antibodies, mRNA vaccines and other novel strategies. In fact, Phase I of its latest trial, HVTN 142, examining HIV vaccine candidate VIR-1388, launched this past summer in South Africa and the United States.

HIV.gov

hiv.gov

Managed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and launched in 2006 (originally as AIDS.gov), HIV.gov is the official federal website on HIV and AIDS. HIV.gov collaborates with departments and agencies across the federal government and provides basic information regarding HIV prevention, testing and treatment, staying in care, living well with the virus and more. HIV.gov also provides info on HIV-related events and campaigns and highlights HIV awareness days. The site's up-to-date blog offers visitors timely and relevant info on federal HIV policies, programs and resources. It recently launched a beta version of an HIV chatbot, which can answer questions about HIV testing, treatment and prevention and find HIV-related resources.

Hope on TTAPP

hopeonttapp.com

Hope on TTAPP (which stands for Testing, Treatment and Peer-led Prevention) offers access to free, fast mobile HIV and hepatitis C testing, judgment-free prevention counseling and pathways to lifesaving medications across eight counties in Utah. Also known as HoT, the organization provides mobile harm reduction services to vulnerable populations in the state, including people who use and inject drugs, sex workers, people leaving prison, people of color, LGBTQ people and residents of rural areas who may be afraid to seek services due to stigma. Cofounded by executive director Sequan Kolibas in 2013 after her own struggle with an HIV diagnosis and addiction, the organization helps remove hurdles to care by providing testing, scheduling appointments and delivering food and medications. In short, HoT helps change lives by giving people hope and letting them know they matter.

Housing Works

housingworks.org

For more than 30 years, Housing Works has been committed to ending the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS through advocacy, lifesaving services and social enterprise businesses, such as its client-staffed thrift stores. Unhoused and low-income New Yorkers are connected with access to supportive services, including housing, health care, job training, mental health counseling and more. Through street outreach, online tools and strategic partnerships, Housing Works also provides underserved LGBTQ youth with a judgement-free environment to learn about safer-sex practices and HIV prevention. In addition, Housing Works fights for funding and legislation to ensure that all people living with HIV have access to quality housing, health care and treatment. This year, Housing Works activists were arrested outside former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's office while protesting proposed budget cuts to HIV funding.

IAVI

iavi.org

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) is an innovative nonprofit scientific research organization focused on developing and delivering vaccines and antibodies for HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. With more than 20 ongoing HIV vaccine clinical trials, IAVI has been at the forefront of groundbreaking vaccine research for more than 25 years. Leveraging international partnerships and programs, IAVI works to improve and accelerate access to biomedical innovations in low- and middle-income countries, where the HIV burden is often higher. IAVI has offices and laboratories across five countries and collaborates with a network of clinical research center partners on four continents. In 2022, IAVI launched the IAVI Vaccine Literacy Library, which provides user-friendly info on HIV and other vaccines.

International AIDS Society

iasociety.org

Founded in 1988, the International AIDS Society (IAS) is the longtime organizer of the International AIDS Conference and the IAS Conference on HIV Science (held in alternating years), the HIV Research for Prevention (HIVR4P) meeting and other HIV- and AIDS-related events that convene tens of thousands of scientists, policymakers and activists from 170 countries. The 25th International AIDS Conference will take place in Munich, next July. Through the IAS Education Fund, the organization provides educational opportunities to HIV health and social services providers, researchers, policymakers and other key stakeholders. IAS also publishes the Journal of the International AIDS Society, which showcases evidence-based knowledge and state-of-the-art research. IAS advocates for a global HIV response that "follows the science and puts people first."

International Association of Providers of AIDS Care

iapac.org

For nearly four decades, the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) has been working to expand access to and improve the quality of prevention, care and treatment services for people living with, at risk for or impacted by HIV and AIDS by developing and disseminating

guidelines and best practices for HIV care and treatment. IAPAC, which consists of more than 30,000 clinicians and health professionals, also offers education programs and convenes health care professionals around the globe. What's more, it produces the Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, a bimonthly peer-reviewed clinical journal, and is the core technical partner of the Fast-Track Cities network. On July 21, IAPAC was one of four organizations to launch Zero HIV Stigma Day, a new awareness day focused on ending HIV stigma in all its forms.

Latino Commission on AIDS

latinoaids.org

Founded in 1990, the Latino Commission on AIDS spearheads health advocacy for Latinos, promotes HIV education, develops prevention programs for high-risk communities, provides capacity-building assistance to community organizations and conducts Latino-based health research. One of its many programs is Latinos in the South, a regional initiative launched to address the barriers to health care and prevention Southern Latinos face. In 2019, the program held its first annual Encuentro, a conference of LGBTQ Latinx Southern health advocates and their allies. In conjunction with the Hispanic Federation, the Latino Commission on AIDS unites the Latino community to raise awareness about HIV testing, prevention and education via National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day, held annually on October 15.

Latinos Salud

latinossalud.org

Founded in 2008 to provide a safe space for Latino gay men and their partners to find friends, support and resources, Latinos Salud provides client-centered health education and integrated preventive, screening and linkage services throughout South Florida to combat HIV and other STIs and improve health outcomes. The group has locations in Wilton Manors, North Miami, Miami Beach and Westchester as well as mobile outreach and testing capacity. It boasts a fully bilingual staff from several Spanish-speaking countries. Latinos Salud offers HIV and STI testing, a PrEP clinic, Ryan White case management for clients living with HIV, vaccinations, linkage to care, support groups and life coaching.

Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida

lssjax.org

Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida (LSSNEFL) focuses on one simple priority: helping others. In 1992, it established the AIDS Care and Education program to connect those living with HIV to the resources they need to thrive in the community. Today, LSSNEFL partners with CAN Community Health to provide more than 1,200 clients each year with access to vital services at a comprehensive care facility in the Southside Jacksonville area. In addition to a full-service medical clinic, the facility offers psychiatric services, financial management and housing assistance, peer-led and clinician-based support groups, a community food pantry and more. LSSNEFL strives to make the challenges its clients face a little easier to conquer by providing a range of quality services under one roof.

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