



### STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Earlier this spring, Four A's completed our second 360° evaluation conducted by the Foraker Group – the first was completed in 2005. The evaluation consists of a systematic assessment of the organization, from both an internal and external perspective. Key stakeholders (i.e. donors, volunteers, grantors, and staff) participated in a survey. The survey included questions to assess an individual's understanding of the focus and mission of Four A's, its strengths, and its challenges.

Overall, the assessment confirmed that the Four A's maintains strong programs and services. It is held in a positive regard in the community. Stakeholders identified strengths to include providing effective, respectful, and supportive client-centered services, ability to go outside of the box and do more creative things, one of the most stable nonprofits in Alaska, effective prevention services, and are well known in the community. Words used to describe Four A's included, professional, reliable, honest, innovative, and dynamic. When asked to identify in their own words the purpose and mission of Four A's, the responses revealed clarity and agreement. While the actual words used to describe it were quite different, the combination of prevention, education and advocacy to stop the advance of HIV and AIDS was a common theme.

Just as the positives should be celebrated, areas for development deserve equal or at times more attention. All organizations, from struggling to strong, have opportunities to enhance current practices or develop new initiatives to better serve the purpose of the organization – Four A's is no different. Over the next year, Four A's will focus on four core areas of development stakeholders identified: (1) attracting sustainable unrestricted funding, (2) continue to build strong relationships with key funders and supports, (3) expand and strengthen the prevention message to reach beyond the urban setting and typical groups (i.e. gay men, IDU community), and (4) preparing a succession plan for executive leadership (completed). All of these areas were included in Four A's 2012 strategic plan.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the assessment. Like a compass, the continual feedback you provide helps ensure Four A's is going in the right direction and may one day achieve our mission.

### FEMME FATALE BIGGER THAN EVER!

Femme Fatale received a VERY warm welcome in Juneau! The annual Four A's drag show fundraiser in Juneau was bigger than ever this year, raising \$12,082, over 30% increase from 2011 and double what was raised in 2010. The proceeds stay in Southeast and help support individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as well as our prevention and education efforts.

The weekend kicked off on Thursday, May 17th with a packed house at the Rendezvous for Amateur Night. The Juneau amateurs worked the audience for the chance to be invited back to perform with the professionals from Anchorage. Three of the lucky amateurs were invited back to perform on Friday night to another packed house at the Rendezvous. The Friday show at the Rendezvous and the two Saturday shows at the Baranof were all unique with the Anchorage Queens doing different numbers at each show. By the crowd's reaction and the dollar bills flying through the air, it's safe to say Juneau had a good time! The performers had so much fun, they were making plans for next year before we even made it to the airport!

Thank you for your generosity Juneau! See you again next year!



*Femme Fatale performers preparing for another great show. Left to right: Manny G, Valerie, Katy Scary, Cali, Ashley, Paige, Yu Trani, Shayden, Jessa Belle, and Jovy.*



### DRAG QUEEN BINGO 2012: REVENGE OF THE DRAG QUEENS

Dust off the heels, comb out the fake mustache and buy your new outfit— it is time to dress up for Drag Queen Bingo! Anchorage's most entertaining bingo game, will be Thursday, June 7th at Snow City Café. Doors open at 6:30 and the games begin at 7:00pm. Our hostess will once again be Daphne DoAll LaChores. Dress up and join the fun! There will be bingo, prizes, auctions, and of course, the annual Drag Off.

Drag Queen Bingo is an annual fundraiser for Anchorage M-powerment Project (AMP). AMP is Anchorage's branch of the nationwide M-powerment Project, a program that has been documented as effective in reducing HIV risk among young gay/bisexual men. The goal of AMP is to build a safe, healthy community for young gay/bisexual men ages 18-29 through positive social connections. AMP provides a variety of opportunities each month for volunteerism, social interaction and peer outreach. Last year, the activities included: a weekend camping and rafting trip, mall crawls, movie nights, group dinners, volleyball, hiking, biking, coffee talks, and so much more.

## PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel has recommended the antiretroviral drug, Truvada, be used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drug for HIV in the U.S. A number of clinical trials have proven PrEP is effective in reducing the risk of transmission of HIV among at-risk groups. The at-risk groups include men who have sex with men (MSM) and couples where one partner is living with HIV. This is only a recommendation at this point, a final decision for the approval of Truvada will be made by the FDA on June 15, 2012. If approved, Truvada will be the first drug approved for use as a preventive treatment for HIV.

While the use of such a drug would have potential to reduce the number of new HIV infections, there are other considerations that must be weighed. The use of PrEP has been met with some resistance by healthcare professionals and HIV activists, who believe that use of PrEP for HIV may give rise to complacency, an increase in risky sexual behavior and a false perception about an AIDS cure. In addition, the drug is expensive and will come with accessibility challenges, particularly for at risk groups who may already experience problems accessing HIV services. Reliance on such a drug could also lead to drug resistance, particularly if people are not 100% adherent.

If used in the correct way and under the right circumstances, PrEP is effective in reducing the risk of HIV transmission among those at risk, but should be used in conjunction with other HIV prevention methods, such as condoms. It is important to remember that there is no cure or vaccine for HIV and that no one strategy can single-handedly stop the HIV epidemic. A comprehensive approach to HIV prevention is needed.

## A ROCKIN' EVENING

The cast of *Rock of Ages* generously hosted a cabaret to benefit Four A's on Wednesday, May 16th at Mad Myrna's. Cabarets are always wonderful opportunities to see another side of the talented cast outside of their roles in the show. The *Rock of Ages* cast worked hard to ensure they put on a great show and the audience was not disappointed. The show ended with the whole cast on stage singing the *Rock of Ages* finale "Don't Stop Believing." Thanks for a great evening!



The cast of *Rock of Ages* closing out the cabaret.

## NATIONAL HIV TESTING WEEK

Each year, Four A's collaborates with many other agencies in Alaska to encourage individuals to know their HIV status and get an HIV test during National HIV Testing Week. Knowing one's HIV status is the first step in preventing the spread of the disease. Studies show, individuals who know their status are more likely to use risk reduction techniques to protect themselves and their partners from transmission. Also, a person on treatment is less infectious than those that are not, therefore, the best way to lower the overall risk to the community is to identify those infected with HIV and connect them to treatment.

Four A's uses the OraQuick Rapid HIV test. The test is a simple oral swab and results are available in 20 minutes. There is no blood drawn and no extensive waiting.

Unfortunately, the stigma associated with the disease is still the number one reason individuals don't know their status. Our goal during National Testing Week is to raise awareness of the need for testing and reduce the stigma surrounding HIV.

This year National HIV Testing Week is June 23 through June 29. Our Prevention Department will be doing additional outreach during this week so more at-risk individuals will have an opportunity to be tested. Also, watch for our awareness campaign during the last 2 weeks in June. For more information on National HIV Testing Week, "like" Four A's on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AlaskanAIDS](http://www.facebook.com/AlaskanAIDS) or visit our website at [www.AlaskanAIDS.org](http://www.AlaskanAIDS.org).

Remember, testing is available year round at the Four A's office without an appointment. Testing hours are Monday through Friday from 9am until 4pm.

## HOSTING A GET-TOGETHER THIS SUMMER?

Then consider hosting an *Evening with Friends!* An *Evening with Friends* fundraiser is an important way for Four A's to raise funds and introduce people to our agency. Many of our most loyal donors were introduced to the Four A's through an *Evening with Friends*.

All you need to do is host a dinner party, barbeque, wine tasting or other gathering and invite your guests to make a donation that is meaningful to them. Every year generous Four A's supporters host *Evening with Friends* fundraisers. Consider being one of them!

All parties, big or small, raise funds to help those living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS. Plus, when you turn your party into an *Evening With Friends* fundraiser, all the costs become tax deductible! For more information on hosting an *Evening With Friends*, contact Lilah Root, Director of Development, at 263-2046 or email [lroot@alaskan aids.org](mailto:lroot@alaskan aids.org).

## PRIDE FEST IS JUNE 9th!

Join the Four A's marching unit for the parade and show your support for Pride and Four A's! Afterwards, be sure to stop by the Four A's booth and say hi!

## A WONDERFUL TIME

By Trevor Storrs, Executive Director

Over the years, many of you have thanked me for all the time and energy I have given to improving the lives of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, preventing new transmissions and fighting HIV stigma. Today is my opportunity to thank you for allowing me to not only lead the charge, but be a part of your lives.

The past nine and half years has been filled with amazing experiences. The highlight is the remarkable people I have met on my journey. You all have taught me more than you will ever know about life. I'm eternally grateful for having this opportunity to grow both professionally and personally.

Thank you for supporting my efforts in not only building a strong organization but a better community.

*Our best wishes are with Trevor as he moves on to new adventures!*



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*Make your dollars go further in the fight against HIV/AIDS by utilizing your employer's matching gift program!*

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Mad Myrna's and the wonderful staff for hosting our events!

Darcy Kniefel, Scooter Niessink, Cory Crowder, and Walt Snell for hosting an Evening with Friends Bake Sale.

Rock of Ages Cast and Crew for hosting a Cabaret.

Kevin Barnett for playing piano for the Rock of Ages Cabaret.

### Those that made Fetish Ball happen:

Sarha, Bernadine, RJ, Heather, Taryl, Jordan, Will, Faith, The Church of the Flaming Funk, The Hole Look, Blake, The Look, Britany Lynne White Photography, the beautiful poster models, Jay, Paige, Arielle, Daniel, Shade, Micah, Alex, Bree, John, Battikah's Ink and her models, and of course the staff at Mad Myrna's!

### Those that made Femme Fatale so amazing:

The Anchorage performers: Ashley, Cali, Shayden, Jovy, Yu Trani, Manny G and Paige.

The Juneau Amateurs: Devyn, Tristan, Todd, Jonas, Adam and Vinni

The Volunteers: Chris, Steve, Nate, Daniel, Heather, Curtis, Abby, Greg, Shane, Jess, Sarah N., Maggie, Christyne, Liz, Irene, Sarah G., and Meghan

The Baranof and The Rendezvous for hosting Femme Fatale.





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**Our Mission:** To be a key collaborator within the state of Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of the transmission of HIV infection and its stigma.

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