

# Welcome from the President

This year's community impact report marks Four A's 25th Anniversary. For so many of us, we hoped and prayed this day would never come. We never wanted the opportunity to mark 25 years of existence. The hope was to close our doors years ago and HIV/AIDS would be a distant memory. For so many, a 25th anniversary is a huge milestone that calls for an equal celebration. So how does one celebrate an anniversary that potentially recognizes defeat?

Although marking our 25th Anniversary comes with mixed emotions, we all deserve a moment to recognize and celebrate our successes. Every day we are faced with the ignorance fueling the fear and hate that causes HIV/AIDS. With all the advances of modern medicine, we still attend several funerals each year. But if we allow these hardships to hold us back, we will never overcome one of the most devastating and powerful diseases mankind has ever experienced. We must remember the good we have done so we can find our way through some very dark times. We must use this ignorance and all the deaths as the fuel we need to keep working towards a better community; one without HIV/AIDS.



Trevor Storrs, Executive Director and Nathalie Martin, Board President

As you read our community impact report, you will clearly see that we, as a community, have not been defeated. In 1985, a group of individuals came together to do what many people were afraid to do, help those living with AIDS. This group of individuals instilled core values like respect, compassion, innovation, collaboration and competency that have stayed with us over the years. With these core values, Four A's has grown stronger and more effective with each passing year, so one day we can have one last celebration and say thank you one last time. But until that day comes, with your continued support, Four A's will continue to make systematic and lasting change in our community.

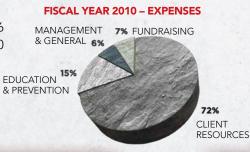
Over the years we may have lost hundreds of people to HIV/AIDS. But more importantly, we have improved the quality of life for three times the number we have lost. Although we see between 30 to 40 new HIV cases annually in Alaska, we can only imagine how many there would be if we did not distribute over 100,000 condoms or talk to thousands of people about HIV risk reduction each year. Every day, we are thanked by people whose minds were put to ease after experiencing the longest 20 minutes of their life when they received an HIV test, or by a group of people who are ostracized by society, like the hundreds of IV drug users who appreciate the respect and support they receive from our syringe exchange program.

As a current or past donor, volunteer, staff member, Director of the Board, and community partner, stand with us and feel the pride of being a part of one of the most successful organizations in our community. We have not been defeated, nor will we ever be defeated. With your continued support, Four A's will continue to eliminate new infections and HIV stigma while still ensuring those living with the disease and their families receive support that allows them to be an active member of our community. Thank you all for your help and continued support.

This year marks our 25th anniversary - what an excellent adventure it has been!

#### **REVENUE COMPARISON**

FY10 ..... \$1,941,646 FY 09 ..... \$1,685,700



**REVENUE SOURCES** 

Grants
Earned Income
Direct Giving
In-kind

Total

2010 2009

\$1,228,225 \$1,138,666 \$286,681 \$290,378 \$375,204 \$236,577

\$51,536 \$20,079

\$1,941,646 \$1,685,700

The Four A's was founded as an all volunteer helpline that was answered in volunteer's living rooms.

The Four A's received their first Ryan White Funding, enhancing services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

 $1984 \cdots 1985 \cdots 1986 \cdots 1987 \cdots 1988 \cdots 1989 \cdots 1990$ 

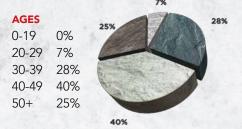
# Client Resources

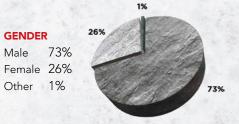
In the early years of the AIDS epidemic, Alaskans infected were kicked out of families, lost their homes, fired from their jobs, received little to no medical support and were left to die alone. This type of treatment was unacceptable to a group of Anchorage residents who came together to form Alaska's first AIDS organization.

A key part of their mission was to ensure individuals living with HIV/AIDS were giving the highest possible sense of dignity and quality of life. One of the key components to achieving this mission is to provide individuals a place to call home. In the 90's we purchased properties for AIDS housing and over time, built strong community relations with local landlords to have scattered site rental units. Initially, we helped a few people pay one month's rent a year. Through fundraising and grant writing, we expanded to providing tenant based rental vouchers. Over the last year alone, we increased our vouchers by 15%. Of the clients we house under the Housing First model, 97% have been successful in maintaining their housing for at least 6 months.

The evolution in medical/medication treatment has played a major role in transforming HIV from a death sentence to a chronic disease. With the introduction of the first HIV medication, AZT, in the mid 80's, it has been essential to link HIV positive people to medical care. Four A's has worked closely with medical providers to lessen their fears and concerns and be better equipped to meet the needs of individuals living with HIV. Over the last year, 82% of our clients have seen their medical provider two or more times, which is the CDC's minimum requirement for accessing their medical provider. Individuals who are accessing medical services on a consistent basis and have permanent housing, have a greater chance of increasing life longevity, decreasing their viral load, and being more consistent with other aspects of their lives, ie., maintaining employment, medication adherence, and decreasing their dependence on drugs or alcohol.

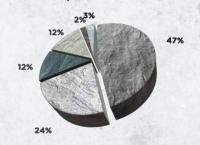
Four A's recognized at the on-set that we could not be everything to everyone. We would be the experts in HIV/AIDS but we would partner with community organizations that were experts in other areas (i.e. mental health, substance abuse counseling, and nutrition). By collaborating, we not only ensure a strong quality of life but we also began unlocking doors that were once locked by HIV stigma. Our ability to provide wrap around support services has grown every year as our list of partners expands. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we want to thank all of our partner organizations. The success told by our statistics here would not be possible without your help.





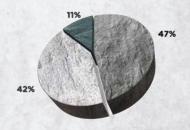
#### **ETHNICITY**

White/ Non-Hispanic	47%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	24%
African American	
Hispanic	12%
Asian	
Mixed Ethnicity	. 3%



#### SEXUALITY

Heterosexual	47%
Homosexual	 42%
Risevual	11%



Four A's purchase and renovates their first owned housing on Government Hill, specifically for individuals living with AIDS.

#### **OF OUR CLIENTS....**

82% saw their medical provider twice in the past year. 89% report an increase in their quality of life. 66% have safe sex discussions with their partners.

# Prevention

It was not until 1989 that the first national HIV Public Service Announcement was released, bearing the message "Rumors are spreading faster than AIDS". But it was years earlier that Four A's was one of the pioneers to reach out to communities to educate and encourage action to prevent the spread of HIV and the relentless influence of HIV stigma. The birth of Four A's was founded on educating community members about AIDS by establishing Alaska's first AIDS hotline and conducting workshops. Prevention has been a part of our DNA ever since.

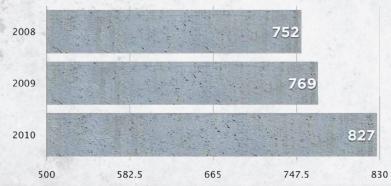
Since the development of the first HIV test in 1987, the first line of defense has been getting individuals to know their HIV status. At the beginning, Four A's worked the streets and visited local establishments with public health officials to recruit people to take the test. By 1993, Four A's became a host site three times a month for free HIV testing by public health. Approximately a 120 tests were completed annually. With the introduction of the HIV Rapid Oral test, Four A's increased the number of tests completed to nearly a 1,000 annually by becoming a self contained testing facility.

As time went on, national prevention efforts began to shift from general HIV/AIDS awareness to a greater emphasis towards populations that were over represented within the HIV positive population. These groups became known as "high-risk" populations. Community Based Organizations like the Four A's adapted to this trend by tailoring programs designed specifically to their needs. One of our initial programs was outreach to the incarcerated, which were found to have a 500% increased risk for contracting HIV. Four A's responded by initiating HIV 101, a focused HIV prevention program, which helped bring HIV prevention strategies to halfway houses and jails across the state. In July 2010, we started our first prison re-entry program for high-risk, HIV negative individuals called Project START.

AMP (formerly known as Adam & Steve) is another targeted program reaching a high-risk population. It celebrates its' 9th Anniversary in February, 2011. During its 9 years, hundreds of at risk young gay, bi, and questioning men were reached and provided not only the tools to stay healthy but provided a safe community. Our newest program targeting a high-risk population is our syringe exchange program. In 2007 it opened in Anchorage and in 2009, we opened a site in Juneau. Over 120,000 clean syringes and an endless amount of education have been provided to hundreds of IV users.

Over the next decade, we will continue to respond to the ever changing community and its needs. We will continue to implement revolutionary programs like Social Networks (SN). SN recruits leaders within high-risk populations and utilize their influence to encourage friends and family to know their HIV status and implement HIV risk reduction steps. We will continue to produce thought provoking social media like "Get It On". We will never stop walking the streets and entering classrooms to share information about HIV and how we, as a community, can eliminate new transmissions.

## Number of HIV Tests Completed



200%

increase in clean syringe usage.

98%

of surveyed individuals felt supported during the HIV testing process

Four A's opens a satellite office in Juneau to provide more enhanced services to HIV positive individuals in the Southeast, as well as prevention efforts within the community.

The MPowerment group begins as an HIV prevention program targeted specifically to young gay, bi and questioning men ages 18-29.

# **Development**

Your support is what's provided service to the community for the past 25 years. The Four A's was founded to be an all volunteer run helpline, but one of the catalysts was a donation from an individual who wanted to give to the AIDS cause, but wanted his money to go back into his own community. This love for community is the cornerstone of what has motivated our donors to give since the agency's inception. Your incredible support makes a difference in the overall health of our community. For the past 25 years, you have been an integral part of providing comfort, basic needs and improving the quality of life for both the HIV positive and HIV negative members of your community. Thank you for being a part of this excellent adventure!

#### 2010 Philanthropist of the Year



Janus Reyes, Four A's Board Member, Brooke Corkery, ASN, Darl Schaaff, ASN, Gail Palmer, ASN and Trevor Storrs, Four A's Executive Director.

## Thank you to our 2009 Evening with Friends Hosts

Credit Union 1
Heather and Josh Harris
Davin Holen and Cara Holen-O'Brien
Michael and Yuki Janson
Nathalie and Kay Martin
Connie and Kerry Ozer
Preview Sun and Day Spa
Scott Turner
Trevor Storrs and Steve Smith

The Alaska Syringe Exchange is formed to provide HIV prevention amongst a high risk population, injection drug users.

#### 2010 Volunteers of The Year



Shawn Bolam, Four A's Board Member, Don Poynter, Kasha Poynter and Trevor Storrs, Executive Director.

### Thank you to our 2009 Friday Lunch Sponsors

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Bear's Tooth
Color Art Printing
Melba Cooke and Angela Dunn
Dianne's Restaurant
Four A's Board of Directors
Four A's Staff
Genentech
Greatland Infusion Pharmacy
Derek Johnston and Conrad Amos
Metropolitan Community Church
Paige Langit and Cory Crowder
(Imperial Court of All Alaska)
Trevor Storrs

True North Church

The Get it On Social Marketing Campaign is launched, providing education and information about safe sex to Alaska.

2005 · · · · · 2006 · · · · · 2007 · · · · · 2008 · · · · · 2009 · · · · · 2010

# Thank you to our generous donors

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Linda Suter

The Four A's recognizes 25 Years in the community and thanks all the individuals, groups and organizations who were a part of our excellent adventure!

Hope for years to come... no new cases of HIV diagnosed.

 $2010 \cdots 2011 \cdots 2012 \cdots 2013 \cdots 2014 \cdots 2015 \cdots 2016$ 

# Thank you to our generous donors

Kevin Swanson

Scott Taylor and Camille Oechsli-Taylor

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Leah Wirth
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#### Hope for years to come...

The President of the United States passes SAFE, (Sex Awareness For Education) mandating comprehensive sexual education with a broader spectrum of information and options. The country's open discussion about sex leads to a 60% drop in student STI's across America in the first 3 years.

#### Hope for years to come...

A botonist discovers a plant enzyme that helps repair and even safely duplicate white blood cells, repairing immune systems over time. It is widely considered a giant leap towards a cure for HIV/AIDS.

### **Our Staff**

Alex Barros, Director of Prevention
Heather Bayless, Southeast Services Coordinator
Chrissy Bell, Director of Development
Melba Cooke, Lead Case Manager
Bill Doherty, Director of Client Resources
Angela Dunn, Hispanic Case Manager
John Hirst, Case Manager
Ted Jones, MPowerment Facilitator
Tim Juliussen, Case Manager
Trevor Storrs, Executive Director
Alex Thomas, Administrative Assistant
Scott Turner, Finance Specialist
Karen Austin, Resident Manager
Waylon Waddell, MPowerment Facilitator
Dale Williams, Case Manager

## **Contact Information**

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102
Anchorage, AK 99503
Monday-Friday 9a.m.-5p.m.
ph 907-263-2050 | fx 907-263-2051
aaaa@alaskanaids.org
STATEWIDE HELPLINE | 1-800-478-AIDS (2437)

#### Southeast Office-Four A's

physical 415-6th Street, #S618 | Juneau, AK 99802 mailing PO Box 21481 | Juneau, AK 99802 1-888-660-2437 | aaaase@alaskanaids.org

> www.alaskanaids.org www.getitonak.org

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Board Members who served in 2008/2009

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Thank you to everyone who Picked Clicked and Gave a part of their PFD's to the Four A's over the past two years. Please consider a donation to Four A's through Pick. Click. Give. in 2011.



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