



Building a Legacy

Gift of Warmth and Hope

In December, Donnie attended the Four A's annual client Christmas party. He started to tear up in front of everyone when he opened his present. The tears reflected the care he felt from the staff at Four A's because "they always know exactly what I need." Donnie has been a client for 20 years and has been homeless, as well as a chronic alcoholic, for over 15 of those years.

During the cold winter months, Donnie would wear 3 to 4 layers of jackets to try to stay warm around the clock. He would still be too cold.

Sometimes he would come in with large sores on his face from living out in the elements. A group of 4 donors pooled their resources to buy high quality winter jackets to donate to our Christmas party, and the one Donnie received touched his heart. He wanted to share this with the donors: "Thank you very much, you saved my life. This jacket might not mean much to a lot of people, but it means a lot to me. It feels like it was picked out just for me." The gift of a new jacket touched Donnie so much that he started anew with his case manager and got into a treatment facility in January. He had 20 days sober and a place to stay for the first time in a long while. Donnie received hope from his jacket – that his life can get better. He couldn't have done it without you.

"Thank you very much, you saved my life. This jacket might not mean much to a lot of people, but it means a lot to me."

Donor Spotlight: Alex Perez

*Owner of Table 6 & Haute Quarter Grill
creates legacy of giving back*

Alex Perez puts family first. Family includes not only his biological relatives, but also his employees and Four A's. Alex has hosted fundraisers for employees with cancer, been a signature chef for a March of Dimes event, and every year eagerly participates in Dining Out For Life. Just like you, Alex knows giving to the Four A's means life-changing help for some of the most vulnerable Alaskans.

Alex owns two popular Anchorage restaurants—Table 6 and Haute Quarter Grill—and knows that he can give back to Anchorage in unique ways. He says, "We are based in the community and we have to give back to the community. I know some restaurant owners don't want to be associated with HIV/AIDS, but all our neighbors deserve care and respect. That's why we are so proud to continue to do Dining Out For Life every April."



Thank you, Alex, for making Four A's part of your family! Our clients, volunteers, and staff are so grateful.

LEGACY OF ADVOCACY

CORRECT DIAGNOSIS MEANS
NEW LEASE ON LIFE



Jacob was born with an intellectual delay and into a family that was full of abuse, mistreatment, and sex trafficking. A few

years ago Jacob was diagnosed with HIV and struggled to keep on weight, convinced that he had full blown AIDS and that he would never feel healthy.

He frequently came to Four A's and was one of our gloomiest clients – he didn't have any hope he'd feel good or find stable housing, and thought it was only a matter of time until he died. With support from Dale, his case manager, Jacob consistently went to medical appointments. Dale would ask lots of questions on his behalf, working with the providers as they explored more tests and looked at Jacob's medications.

It was through this process that a year ago, Jacob received a new diagnosis of a very rare disease that had been causing many of his negative health issues. With proper treatment of this new diagnosis, Jacob has been able to increase his weight from 98 pounds to 135 pounds. Now, "jovial" is the best adjective to describe Jacob because he's constantly cracking jokes with staff (albeit bad ones). He says, "I'm my own hero because I kept going to appointments, I stayed committed, and Dale helped me get there." Jacob also knows that it's because of donors like you that the Four A's is able to keep searching for health answers. *Thank you.*



PFD Filing Deadline
March 31st
Select recipients until
August 31st
Please choose
Alaskan AIDS
Assistance Association!

HOW YOUR GIFTS WERE USED IN 2016:

- ◆ **1,000+ Friday lunch meals** - meaning nutrition and community for our clients
- ◆ **438,578 new syringes** distributed
- ◆ **523,245 used syringes** incinerated - meaning fewer contaminants in our communities
- ◆ **84,000 condoms** distributed statewide

From the Executive Director, Heather Davis

Four A's Board of Directors and staff have been diligently working to make sure Four A's remains aware and responsive to the current environment of HIV/AIDS in the United States and Alaska. For those living with HIV, there continue to be barriers to retention in care including: stigma, no awareness of the importance of care, substance abuse, untreated mental illness, lack of trust in the medical system or no connection to providers, and lack of access to transportation, housing, and health insurance. For those at risk of contracting HIV, despite having multiple prevention tools available to us, we continue to see new diagnoses.

Recently the Board of Directors finalized the Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020 and with it, the re-wording of our mission statement. Both are based on our future vision of Four A's and how we will stay relevant despite an often-changing environment. Our new mission statement reads:

The mission of Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association is to support and empower people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to work toward the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma in all Alaskan communities.

Four A's continues to provide services and security for those living with HIV, those affected or infected by HIV, and those at risk of contracting the disease. Thank you for all you do in helping us to stay true to our mission.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

December 2016—March 2017
Sorted by number of years giving

VISIONARIES (Over 25 years)

Drs. Joan & Robert Bundtzen
Corbett Mothe

CHAMPIONS (20-25 years)

Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters
Bagoy's Gallery of Flowers
Cara, Davin and Ruari O'Brien-Holen
Carolyn Foust Stiles
David Kasser
Dean Nelson & Rhonda Roberts
Donna & Edward Hyatt
Gail & Jan Sieberts
Heather Davis
Jane and Norman Schlittler
Laurie Gregory & Griffith Steiner
Drs. Louann Feldmann & Charles
Herndon

Marc & Rochelle Wilhelm
Mari Jamieson
Marie Matsuno Nash
Marjory & Lee Wiley
Mary Ann & Michael Lee
Melba Cooke
Penny Cordes
Pride Foundation
Providence Alaska Medical Center
Rick Miller & April Arnett
Susan Orlansky & Jim Bouchard

GUARDIANS (15-19 years)

Allison Brandt
Christopher J. Taylor
Deborah Nance
Donald & Debby Hudson
Halcro Family Foundation
Mary Parker
Dr. Morris and Lorrie Horning
Nordstrom Cares
Susan Williams
Thomas Williams
Trevor Storrs & Stephan Smith

AMBASSADORS (10-15 years)

Anchorage Moose Lodge No. 1534
Anita and Clair Dalton
Peg Faithful & Bob Hume,
Teddy & Cindy Michel
Timothy Pearson & Brian Chen

LEADERS (5-10 years)

Aaren MacKenzie
AIDS United
Alaska Advanced Dentistry
Angela Dunn
Comer Foundation
Derek Johnston
Diane Timberlake
Great Land Infusion Pharmacy
Heather and Josh Harris
Michael Mraz
Modern Dwellers Chocolate Lounge
Nancy Eliason
Omer & Carol Carey
Pamela Reil
Sharon Gaipman

PARTNERS (1-5 years)

2 Friends Gallery
AK Starfish
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
ASD Charitable Giving Campaign
Beauty Nails & Spa
Chris Logan
Chris Terry
Cindie's Boutique
Danny Earll
FASAP Donations - Anchorage
HIV Testing Donations - Anchorage
Hope McGratty
Jamez Terry
Joanne Myers
John Pepe
JoLynn Shriber
Kim Ciccone
Kroger
Larry Jones
Lynn Lewis
Municipal Employee Campaign
Nick Whitmore
Robin Lutz
Sam Iaquinta
Shades of Opulence
Stallard Family Fund of the
YCF Sacramento Region
Tandy Leather
The Men's Wearhouse
UAA Charitable Giving Campaign

FRIENDS (less than a year)

Alaska Women's Giving Circle
Arlene Schmuland
Castle Megastore
Chris Jones
Edward Yakely
Henry Dorsch
Jenna Auguste
Jim & Mary MacIlmail
Judy Caminer
Kathryn Morin
Kris Palmatier
Lee Harrington
Lucille Johnson
Mara Carnahan
Mary Ruebelmann
Judge Michael McShane
Sandi Hicks
Sara Lovell
William Aloes

IN MEMORY OF

Mike Bergsrud
Frank Foust
David Hyatt
Nygren Thomas

IN HONOR OF

David Sutton,
Four A's 2016 Volunteer of the Year
Ted Ryberg & Bob Williams

**A huge Thank You to
ALL our donors for
building a legacy
of giving
with Four A's.**

**YOU are a crucial part
of the Four A's Family!**

**Make a BIG IMPACT by becoming a
Monthly Donor at tinyURL.com/FourAsMonthly**

COOKE HONORED WITH LIFETIME OF SERVICE AWARD

Four A's Lead Case Manager Melba Cooke was honored by Hospice of Anchorage in 2016 with the Lifetime of Service Award at their annual gala, which was the same day as her hire date at Four A's 23 years ago.

Speaking of why she has worked for the Four A's for decades, she said, "I do this for the people. Health care



Heather Davis, Executive Director (left) and Melba Cooke (right) at the Heroes of Healthcare Gala

systems are hard to navigate, especially when you're ill. But when you have HIV, it's like the plague – everyone wants you to go away as fast as possible. They need advocates at the table, to yell and be that big voice, and that's why I do this work."

Cooke said, "You cannot put a price on the gift of

walking with a person in the last days of their life. It doesn't matter if they're a rabble-rousing activist or a homeless person. It's a priceless gift to give and receive."

Congratulations, Cooke! Well deserved!

DINE OUT. FIGHT AIDS. APRIL 27th

Over the past 2 years, you have dined out in support of Dining Out For Life in Anchorage. We are excited to announce that this event is expanding to Palmer! Join hundreds of other diners in the Four A's family at any of the following restaurants on April 27:



Table 6
Haute Quarter Grill
Pizza Man
Aladdin's
Mexico in Alaska
Turkey Red – Palmer

Other restaurants to be announced!

Check AlaskanAIDS.org for more info, and get a group of friends together for a *meal made meaningful*. Your support means healthier lives for some of the most vulnerable Alaskans. Thank you for frequenting the businesses that support our community – let them know Four A's sent you!



Our Mission: To support and empower people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and to work toward the elimination of HIV infection and its stigma in all Alaskan communities.

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To make a secure online donation, visit:
www.AlaskanAIDS.org

Statewide Helpline
1-800-478-2437



Proud to be an Agency Member of
the United Way of Anchorage &
a recipient of UW of Southeast dollars.

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