

₩ THE COMMON THREAD

It's All About Life

A Warm Gift

As the snow melts and the longer days of sunshine brighten our lives, Four A's clients glow in the warmth of your generous spirit. Marie, a long-time Four A's client who has lived with HIV for 25 years, wrote to express her gratitude for the gift of a bathrobe and toiletries she received from Four A's during the holidays. "I was thrilled to receive the beautiful gifts from Four A's! The soaps and lotions smell wonderful and the robe is so comfortable!" A robe is not a critical item for someone's health and well-being, but the feeling of love and knowing that someone cares IS. Marie truly appreciates the gifts she received over the holiday season. Your generous support not only warms our client's spirits, but also provides a sense of caring and belonging all year round.



Four A's wants to thank the Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters who donated 18 handmade quilts for families living with HIV. These beautiful quilts will warm clients' homes and hearts throughout the year, and for years to come.

Dine Out. Fight AIDS.

Dining Out For Life (DOFL) takes place Thursday, April 26th

On Thursday, April 26th, join Four A's at partner restaurants across Alaska to make your meal meaningful! Four A's is hosting its fourth nationally recognized Dining Out For Life event. Four A's first hosted this event in 2015 and, thanks to Dining Out For Life, has raised \$34,600 to support Four A's efforts in providing HIV preventative services and compassionate care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Many thanks to the partners who have supported Four A's in this endeavor. Table 6 and Haute Quarter Grill have signed on for their fourth year, Pizza Man for their third year, Turkey Red and Mexico In Alaska for their second year. This year Four A's is excited to have Rustic Goat, Pangea Restaurant & Lounge, Firetap Alehouse on O'Malley, and BurgerFi at the Sears Mall join our 2018 Dining Out For Life event. New this year, Four A's is expanding Dining Out For Life to Juneau to support the services we provide to Southeast Alaska. Join us at GonZo AK, and McGivney's valley and downtown Juneau locations.

Thursday, April 26th, please join Four A's and treat yourself to a meal that makes a difference!























Essential Conversations, Thanks to Your Support



Jordon regularly visits Four A's to stay on top of his HIV status and collect condoms and lube. Earlier this winter, when he came in for his routine HIV test, Four A's staff immediately noticed a difference. The typically cheerful Jordon was somber and uneasy. During the counseling session, Four A's staff eased into conversation asking if there were any possible exposures he wanted to disclose. Jordon said that he had just broken up with

his girlfriend of several years and fell back into "old habits." He went on to say, "I used to shoot heroin, well, I guess I still do. I started using again."

The break-up was extremely hard on Jordon. He became depressed. He lost his job. He started using heroin again. He was contemplating suicide. Jordan said he felt like he was spiraling when, "I liked the Four A's page on Facebook and yesterday I saw you had posted something, it reminded me that I really enjoy talking to you guys and I needed to come back in."

Jordon and the Four A's tester had a long conversation about his options and what he felt were the next best steps for him. Jordon's self-harm

ideation was very concerning and in the end, he decided to get a voluntary mental health

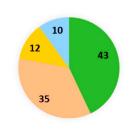
"You guys saved my life, just by talking. A little bit of conversation means a whole lot."

assessment at the hospital where he would be able to get the help that he needed. Jordon came back to Four A's this month to get his routine HIV test.

Jordon has been clean for 3 months, has stable employment, and is back to being his cheerful self. He wanted to pass on his thanks, "You guys saved my life, just by talking. A little bit of conversation means a whole lot."

How Your Gifts Are Being Used

- ♦ 43% Client Resources
- ♦ 12% Prevention & Education
- ♦ 35% Four A's Syringe Access Program
- ♦ 10% Area of Greatest Need



On My Own

Lars has been a client with Four A's over the past few years. After being diagnosed with HIV, Lars struggled to maintain full-time employment because of his health challenges. Over time, and with the help of his case manager, Lars's health improved. Eventually, Lars was able to land and maintain full-time employment. The first thing Lars wanted to do after getting his job was to pay for his own health insurance. Even though Lars would have qualified for assistance from Four A's, he thought it was important to be able to support himself. This year the cost of his insurance premium even went down. Lars is ecstatic that he has been able to pay for his health insurance for two years now, and we are very excited for his success.

Thanks to your generosity our clients are back on their feet and making their own way.

Four A's Syringe Access Program (FASAP) Update

Since January 1, 2018 Four A's has provided:

333 Narcan Kits 252 HIV Rapid Tests 54 HCV Rapid Tests Distributed 107,382 Sterile Syringes Disposed 157,120 Syringes



Thanks to your support, Four A's is able to provide compassionate harm reduction services to individuals utilizing the Four A's Syringe Access Program. Often, participants express their thanks stating, "I don't know what I would do if you weren't here, I am so much safer for having this option." - FASAP Participant

Thank you for your ongoing support of this crucial community and public health program.

VISIONARIES (Over 25 years)

Corbett Mothe

Dan Seiser & Mark Bell

Drs. Robert & Joan Bundtzen

Svlvia Short

Thomas Bucceri & George Taylor

CHAMPIONS (20-25 years)

Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters

Barbara Brink & Heather O'Brien

Barbara Karl

Bagoy's Gallery of Flowers

Cara, Davin and Ruari O'Brien-Holen

Carolyn Foust Stiles

Credit Union 1

Dean Nelson & Rhonda Roberts

Donna & Edward Hyatt

Gail & Jan Sieberts

Heather Davis

Jacqueline & Gordon Higby

Jane & Norman Schlittler

Laurie Gregory & Griffith Steiner

Melba Cooke

Pride Foundation

Providence Alaska Medical Center

Rick Miller & April Arnett

Robin Figueroa

Susan Orlansky & Jim Bouchard

GUARDIANS (15-19 years)

Bell's Nursery

Cara, Davin & Ruari O'Brien-Holen

Christopher J. Taylor

Deborah Nance

Dr. Morris & Lorrie Horning

Mad Myrna's

Mariben O'Brien

Marsha Burns & Lynn Highland

Middlecott Foundation

Nordstrom Cares

Penny Cordes

Peter & Jo Michalski

Susan Williams

Thomas Williams & Roberto Lau Kant

AMBASSADORS (10-15 years)

Alan Schuyler

Anchorage Moose Lodge No. 1534

Brenda Davis

Candace Bell

Catherine Smith & Suzanna Marshall

Charles Hamilton

Marie Matsuno-Nash

Owen & Jean Carey

Patricia McAdoo

Paul & Jacqueline Frederickson

Peg Faithful & Bob Hume

Robert & Leslie Baker

Teddy & Cindy Michel

Timothy Pearson & Brian Chen

LEADERS (5-10 years)

Alaska Advanced Dentistry

Brian Chen & Timothy Pearson

Comer Family Foundation Diane Timberlake

Dr. James & Teresa Carns

Duane Miller & Linda McAlister

Great Land Infusion Pharmacy

Greg & Kelley Hartlieb

Gregory Johnson

Heather & Josh Harris

John & Tina Delapp

Katie Bisson & Tyler Robinson

Kelly & Karl Pasch

Linda Kumin

Lt. Col. Majorie Ream

Marc & Susan June

Michael Mraz

Omer & Carol Carev

Richard & Connie McAffrey

Scott & Kathleen Griffith

Sonya Harris & Andrew Johnson

PARTNERS (1-5 years)

2 Friends Gallery

AK Starfish

Aisha & David Barnes

Alaska Leather Inc. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Allen Moma & Laura Jones

Altman, Rogers & Co.

Andrea & Monica Isabella

Annette Hewitt

April Wisebaker

ASD Charitable Giving Campaign

Bill Wilks

Castle Megastore

Chris Terry & Bob Hancock

Cindie's Boutique

Dr. Jay & Narda Butler

Drs. Michael & Laurie Bleicher

Edward & Nina Yakely

Erik & Robin Hill

FASAP Donations - Anchorage

HIV Testing Donations - Anchorage

Hope McGratty & Tyler Jones

Jamez Terry

Jared Cockman

Jenny Dawson

Jenny Naylor Kimball

Jim & Mary MacIlmail

Joanne Myers John Pepe

Jok Bondurant

Karl & Michele Wilhelmi

Katie Sevingy

Kevin Bergsrud

Kim Ciccone

Krista Schwarting

Kristin Lanz

Larry Jones

Laura Oden

Lawrence Woodall & David Gibson

Lee Harrington

Mary Ruebelmann

Middle Way Café

Municipal Employee Campaign

Nick Whitmore

Oxford Metals

Patricia Petrivelli

Pure Romance

Rachel Gearhart

Rod Gordon & Dennis Richardson

Sam Iaquinta

Sean Fitzgerald

Shades of Opulence

Spenard Roadhouse

Stallard Family Fund of the YCF

Sacramento Region

Tandy Leather

The Men's Warehouse

UAA Charitable Giving Campaign

Wendy Woolf & Patrick Athey

FRIENDS (less than a year)

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Amy Bristol

Anchorage Ballet

Anders & Leslie Harstad-Bell

Britt Tonnessen

Brittany Walkenford

Bryan & Amy Anderson

Carlos Romero Jimenez

Celia Crossett

Cheeky Chic Designs Edward Woznicki

Erich Scheunemann

Gail Jackson Indigo Tea Lounge

Jennifer & Gordon Hall-Jones

Jeremy Davies

Joni Haas Kathy Klos

Kylee Smith

Majorie Schultz & Delores Petersen

Nina Murtah

Ryan Webb Rev. Martin Eldred

IN MEMORY OF

David Hvatt

Donnie J. Hanna Frank L. Foust

Jim Williams & Guy Bassett

Mike Bergsrud

Rev. Steven C. Moore Steve Petrivelli

IN HONOR OF

Hope McGratty

Melba Cooke Ted Ryberg & Bob Williams

A huge Thank You to ALL our donors for spreading joy to our programs.

Friday Lunch!

Thank you to our 2018 volunteers and sponsors of Friday Lunches. Already, your support has provided 350 meals for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Not only does Friday Lunch provide an essential nutritious meal for Four A's clients, it creates a space and time to spend with friends in a place completely free of the stigma associated with HIV.

Thank you to:

Anchorage Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
Bear Tooth Theater Pub
Beth & Will Saltonstall
Chrissy Bell
Great Land Infusion Pharmacy
Imperial Court of All Alaska
Leslie & Anders Harstad-Bell
Maureen Suttman
Michael Kind
Michael Mraz
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Trevor Storrs
Urban Greens



If you would like to host or sponsor a lunch in 2018, contact Petra at pdavis@alaskanaids.org or (907)263-2046

Volunteer With Four A's

Four A's would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers. Helping us compassionately meet the needs of our syringe access program participants, serving Friday lunches to clients living with HIV and their family members, helping plan and facilitate fundraising events; in these and so many other ways, your efforts have had a tremendous effect on our services. In 2018, Four A's volunteers have already dedicated a whopping 620 hours! Want to join us in making a difference in our communities? Contact Four A's at (907)263-2050 or pdavis@alaskanaids.org.





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.

Four A's Board of Directors

Kyle Griffiths | President
Nick Whitmore | Vice President
Beth Saltonstall | Treasurer
Ryan Webb | Secretary
Albert Fogle
Candace Bell
David Butts
David Hannon
Hope McGratty

Melissa Griffiths Nikole Nelson

Rick Miller

Nikole Nelson

Southeast Advisory Board

Claire Geldhof Lindy Ferguson Melissa Griffiths Owen Hutchinson Tonda Wolfe 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.

Anchorage Office

1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 102 Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 263-2050 (907) 263-2051 (fax) AAAA@alaskanaids.org Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Juneau Office

174 S Franklin Street, #207 Juneau, AK 99802 (907) 586-6089 (907) 586-1089 (fax) 1-888-660-2437