

# YOUR IMPACT

**“ When we have knowledge we have power. When we have power we can break free from stigma. Groups help with that. ”**

– Volunteer ACT group facilitator

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A Message From  
Leadership

\*We have chosen to use the term “gay” recognizing that this term may not resonate with all gay/bi/queer/2 Spirit men (including queer trans men). Our objective is simplicity of language and we recognize that our services and service networks must be equally skilled at being relevant and accessible to all men who have sex with men, regardless of how they understand their sexuality in relation to their core identity.

# A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO GAY MEN'S HEALTH

▶▶▶ With the support of donors like you, ACT has been able to lead the way in providing a more holistic approach to services for gay men, both HIV-positive, and those at increased risk.

'Syndemic' is the term often used to describe the issues that put negative guys at increased risk for HIV, and poz guys in danger of compromised health. Anxiety and depression, bullying, and substance use are issues ACT has worked to respond to and have helped guide and enhance ACT's programming for gay men.

In each instance, the critical component is offering the chance to talk and share experiences.

"Loneliness is the number one issue for many gay men in Toronto," says John Maxwell, ACT Executive Director. "If we can bring guys together to have conversations, or provide opportunities to engage with trained ACT staff or volunteers, gay guys can see improved health outcomes and we support them in reducing risk of HIV-transmission."

Through the leadership support of the MAC AIDS Fund, ACT first established a series of support groups to address issues of anxiety and depression, body image and drug use. An additional group called Crystal Meth and Sex, built upon the success of SPUNK!, supports gay men who are trying to avoid crystal meth, while providing a judgement-free space to talk about crystal meth and sexuality.

"Stepping through the door for the first time into one of our group rooms is taking a step towards bettering your health," explains Gay Men's Group Program Coordinator Vincent Francoeur. Sharing experiences in a supportive environment, group participants come to realize that their fellow participants share similar struggles, and are no different than the neighbours or co-workers they had viewed as successful or problem-free.

“ This program is addressing a dire need; to have GBT men chat and discuss challenges and heartaches in a safe space. Love it! ”

– Body Image Support Group participant

Groups often fill up quickly, and participant feedback from earlier groups has helped ensure that the topics are meeting the needs of diverse gay men, including offering more age-specific groups, and the first for gay men who are 60 and older to talk about a topic often considered taboo — aging as a gay man.

Bradley Garrison certainly sees the need for these support services for gay men. Working to be responsive and meet guys where they are at, Bradley, a Community Counsellor with ACT, is embedded at the Maple Leaf Medical Clinic (MLMC) on College Street, one of the city's largest primary care clinics for people living with HIV, as well as a clinic that sees many HIV-negative gay men.

"For HIV-positive guys, there are a lot of emotional, psychological, and practical skills support that they need. For those who aren't living with HIV but are at risk, supporting them is an important form of HIV-prevention," says Bradley.

Through funding from MAC AIDS Fund, Bradley has already seen 91 gay men living with HIV or at risk referred by physicians from MLMC, some receiving as many as 15 one-on-one sessions. Patients have been helped to manage such issues as HIV-related stigma, domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug use and homelessness. Those who need additional support are referred to one of ACT's gay men's groups.

"There's a difference between accessing care and accepting care," Garrison explains. A client may access care for something, but still feel awful about what it is

Photo: Support groups help gay guys have real conversations and remove feelings of isolation.



he's dealing with. But when he accepts care, he comes to see that 'something' as just another aspect of his experience, making him more open to tools to manage what he's dealing with day to day."

The challenge of loneliness among gay men is enhanced by today's digital age. "These days, young guys won't go up to each other at a bar. Instead, they'll send a message to the other person from their phone," explains Alex Urquhart, ACT Gay Men's Online Outreach Coordinator.

Those messages come through mobile apps like Grindr, Scruff and others that provide gay guys an opportunity to meet, connect, and hook-up, often within minutes. It's on those apps where you will find Alex, or one of his trained volunteers, providing such information as where to find condoms, offering support for accessing PEP or PrEP, or answering questions like 'What are my chances of getting HIV after having condomless anal sex?'


"Being present on these apps reaches people who normally wouldn't access information in person or come into the ACT office," says Urquhart. "It allows ACT to support guys in the online world."

**“ People were willing to be vulnerable. It allowed me to feel safe. ”**

– Crystal Meth and Sex Support Group participant

At its core, these programs are about meeting guys where they are at, whether that is a physical location like MLMC, a virtual world of sexual networking apps, or the emotional and psychological place that supports gay men dealing with syndemic issues.

ACT is grateful to MAC AIDS Fund for generously funding this pilot of groups and community counselling initiatives to better support gay men in our community. As a result of this pilot, and with the need for support growing among gay men, ACT built the case, and successfully received federal funding for its groups and community counsellor for five years, and will expand counselling to another clinic in the coming year.

Thanks to your ongoing support, ACT has been able to continue to lead the way in response to the needs of our community. We have moved beyond just talking about HIV and AIDS and are taking a more holistic approach, providing physical, practical and emotional support for guys who like guys as well as their friends and families. 

**1931** 

ACT staff and volunteers had significant conversations during outreach with **1,931** gay men this year.

**241** 

online interactions with gay men seeking information about PEP and PrEP via apps like Grindr or Scruff.



**170,000**

condoms given out this year.

## YOUR IMPACT

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US CHANGE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND IMPACTED BY HIV AND AIDS.**

**“I felt heard and understood.”**

– ART of Conversation participant



LEADING THE WAY

# GIVING BACK TO AN EVOLVING MOVEMENT

➤➤➤ Fear, isolation and a lack of understanding about Gay-related Immune Deficiency (GRID) was a part of the experience for gay men at the start of the 1980's. It was no different for Daniel Holland, who remembers lying in bed with a high-school friend, terrified and unable to touch — believing that the intimacy they shared over three years of sexual discovery had come to an incomprehensible end — certain death and irreconcilable shame to them, to their families.

Like many that lived through the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, Daniel had his own personal losses. His first was a neighbour in the suburb Daniel grew up in while still in high school. In Grade 13, at the same time he was coming out and taking on the local school board that was supporting anti-gay curriculum, Daniel jumped on a GO train and headed to ACT's Wellesley Street offices (above the Kentucky Fried Chicken) and joined as a volunteer on the Communications Committee. "There was no infrastructure in place to support the community, so we had to create our own. ACT became the home for that. We were one of the few resources our community could depend on."

As time went on, and one-by-one, fellow students, friends, lovers and so many others in Daniel's world continued to disappear. A cherished professor at the University of Toronto conveyed the devastating news that he would not be alive at end of term to grade his paper. In 1993, Daniel himself would fall ill. Bedridden, losing weight and experiencing health problems for months, he was told by an infectious diseases specialist, and in the absence of any conclusive test results, "I suspect you have acute HIV infection." Although this turned out not to be the case, Daniel lived with the possibility that it was perhaps 'his turn' for a long period of time.

As is the case for so many survivors, AIDS came to define much of Daniel's experience as a gay man through his

“ We thought we had killed each other. It was just a matter of time and we had no one to talk or turn to. ”

- Daniel Holland, ACT Leadership Donor

formative years and remains an indelible part of his experience today.

Knowing financial resources were necessary to continue ACT's work, Daniel became a donor, supporting ACT through its Direct Mail, and attending the annual Fashion Cares event. "Fashion Cares helped keep community support strong and bring some colour and life to the darkness we encountered every single day," he says. Most recently, Daniel has deepened his support of ACT, including becoming a Leadership Donor, and volunteering as a member of the SNAP Sponsorship Committee.

"I've always been challenged by HIV stigma, something ACT works to combat every day. I remember a conversation from only a few years ago, where someone said to me, 'You don't seem like the kind of person who would get HIV.' But we all know HIV doesn't care who you are."

Daniel wants to make sure that everyone who lives with HIV, and those at increased risk, have a safe, supportive oasis that is responsive to their individual needs. Donating to ACT is one of the ways he can ensure this. "If I ever need ACT services, I want them to be there. That is why I prioritize ACT when I make my social investments. There is nowhere else like it and we still have a lot of work to do." ▲

761 

ACT registered service users were HIV-positive in 2016.

305 

ACT registered service users were at-risk of HIV in 2016.

# AGING WHILE LIVING WITH HIV



▶▶▶ Many people living with HIV are now reaching comparable life expectancies to those who are HIV-negative due to advances in HIV and AIDS treatment, recent research shows. As the general population across Canada grows older, many in the HIV-positive community are also approaching their golden years, a significant change from the early years of the epidemic.

Over the past twelve months, 39 percent of the people living with HIV who accessed ACT services were aged 50 or older. This is the first generation of the aging HIV-positive community, and at ACT we are creating programs and services to make sure we are there for them.

Thanks to your financial support you are helping to create and sustain ongoing programming for people who are aging with HIV. These programs are delivered by extraordinary volunteers who are participating in the Buddy Program and helping by facilitating support groups and workshops.

“ The program came along at the right time for me. I was struggling a bit so it helped me feel more confident. ”

– Buddy Program participant

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

People who are aged 50 or older generally have specialized issues. If you are HIV-positive, those issues can be even more pronounced. Some of these issues can include:

- ▶ Concerns about changing cognitive abilities
- ▶ Worries about finances and retirement
- ▶ Feelings of being a burden to loved ones
- ▶ Loneliness, isolation and depression
- ▶ Visual impairment
- ▶ Difficulty taking care of oneself

There are a lot of unknowns about how to manage HIV as we age and once again ACT is at the forefront of the conversation and research.

“ The facilitators are beautiful people with amazing hearts! ”

– Planning for the Long Term participant

23% 

of HIV-positive service users at ACT are 40 to 49 years old.

## PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH ON AGING


As the population ACT serves ages, new challenges and questions arise. Through cutting edge research into cognitive impairment in HIV-positive older adults and providing programs specifically tailored to people aging with HIV, ACT is leading the way in addressing these issues.


Research shows that around age 50 — about 20 to 30 years earlier than the general population gets dementia — people living with HIV may begin developing cognitive difficulties. Last year, the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) funded an ACT research project on social work and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND). Findings from this study have recently been published in Social Work in Health Care. Over the coming year, ACT Group Programming Coordinator Andrew Eaton will begin a pilot trial to compare a new type of support group against the support group model that ACT currently uses. The new group will be a ten-week program that will involve a mix of brain training games on mobile devices to improve an individual’s sense of mastery and mindfulness-based stress reduction to assist with emotional regulation and relaxation. This pilot study is funded by the CTN (Canadian HIV Trials Network). Participants will be recruited from the Neurobehavioural Research Unit at St. Michael’s Hospital.

In addition to support groups, ACT offers psychoeducational workshop series focused on HIV and aging. These workshop series — Community Financial

and Estate Planning Management Program and Planning for the Long Term — are both in their sixth year at ACT. In these workshops, participants learn hard skills (like how to make a will and determine Power of Attorney, the importance of planning their funerals, and understanding drug coverage options and retirement subsidies), and connect with their peers regarding emotional wellness strategies (like managing disclosure, building healthy relationships, reducing anxiety and depression, enhancing memory and improving self-esteem).

Counselling services and ACT’s Buddy Program can also help break the isolation felt by HIV-positive older adults as they become less mobile or their friends pass away. “Through these programs, people living with HIV can build connections and form a stronger community,” says Andrew. “Some of our programs are dedicated to specific demographics, such as gay men and women living with HIV. Other programs are mixed-gender spaces. We have heard that people living with HIV appreciate a range of options for support services.”

Thanks to donors like you and extraordinary volunteers we are working together to make sure ACT is here for the long term. Your support provides information, strength, support, compassion and a place for senior members of our community to lean on. Thank you. 

 **31** people accessed 331 sessions in the Buddy Program this past year.

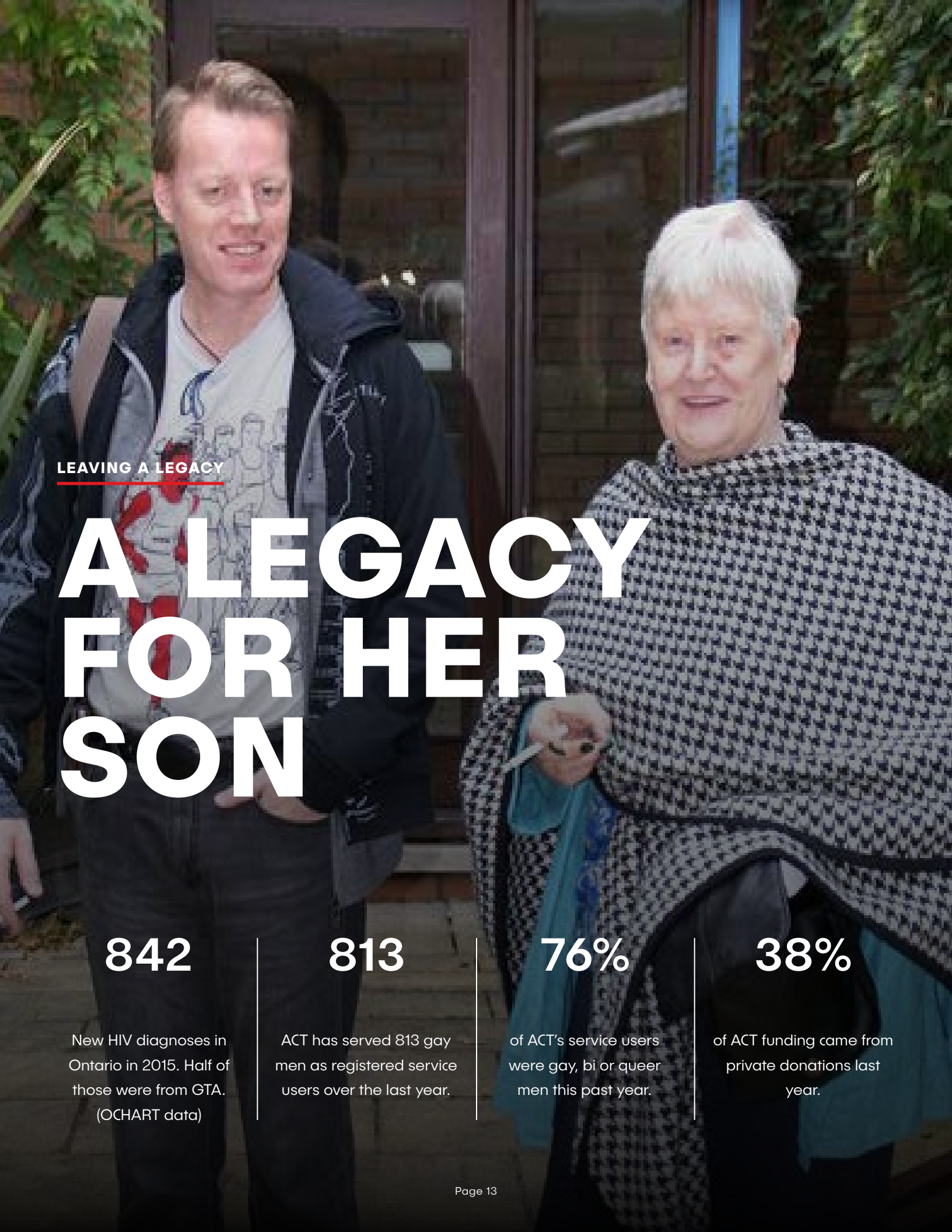
 **57** people were supported through Community Financial and Estate Planning Management Program and Planning for the Long Term workshops last year.



**39%** of people living with HIV at ACT are 50 or older.

### YOUR IMPACT

**YOUR SUPPORT HELPS ACT WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE AGING TO ENHANCE THEIR LIVES AND BUILD CONFIDENCE.**



LEAVING A LEGACY

# A LEGACY FOR HER SON

842

New HIV diagnoses in Ontario in 2015. Half of those were from GTA. (OCHART data)

813

ACT has served 813 gay men as registered service users over the last year.

76%

of ACT's service users were gay, bi or queer men this past year.

38%

of ACT funding came from private donations last year.

▶▶▶ Pam has spent most of her 75 years surrounded by gay men. "It started with gay men for me really – I shared a house with three gay guys in university in the '60s. We attended the first gay pride march in England in 1969."

So when Pam's eldest son Jason David, came out as gay she didn't miss a beat. "I knew David was gay at 18 months. Even without a nappy [diaper], he walked like Marilyn Monroe."

Upon moving to Toronto from Leicester, United Kingdom, Pam was quick to get involved in the gay community, including Toronto PFLAG, and volunteering at ACT.

Pam became a regular fixture at ACT over the years. From condom stuffing, to greeting people with a warm hello and friendly face at the Access Centre, to condom distribution with the Outreach Team she became an expert at the resources and support services ACT provided. "I would drop off condoms at the Black Eagle, but they wouldn't let me into the backroom," she says. Yet, even this couldn't prepare her for her own son's HIV-positive diagnosis.

In 2010, Pam's son David was diagnosed with HIV. "I admit that I was pretty surprised. David was in a long-term relationship AND he was also a doctor! It didn't occur to me that he would get HIV. But I guess no one is immune, and because of my work with ACT, I knew exactly what we needed to do. I said to David, 'Let's get to work.' And we did."

Pam and David immediately reached out to ACT and various people within the organization. They worked with ACT to find a doctor and connect him to care. David also accessed Employment ACTION services, but Pam admits he dealt with several secondary complications. "He was pretty sick at the time, his viral load numbers were really high. At one point he contracted shingles, so he couldn't even walk."

“ David was in a long-term relationship AND he was also a doctor! It didn't occur to me that he would get HIV. But I guess no one is immune, and because of my work with ACT, I knew exactly what we needed to do. ”

- Pam, ACT Legacy Donor

During the peak of David's illness, he moved back in with his mom so she could take care of him. The morning after attending a birthday celebration for Michelle DuBarry, legendary Toronto Drag Queen, David came into Pam's bedroom at 5:30 am, saying he couldn't breathe. He collapsed and had no vital signs. "I tried to do CPR, but he was already gone."

Following David's passing, Pam moved back to the United Kingdom to be with family and friends. When the time was right, Pam started thinking about her estate plans. ACT was top of mind. "ACT does a grand job. They did so for David, and they continue to help so many people. I am especially passionate about the outreach. HIV is preventable. I believe that together we can eventually get to zero transmissions. But there is a lot of work to do. When I'm gone, I want this work to continue."

Pam comes back to Toronto on occasion to visit friends, and of course, to volunteer at ACT, where she chose to celebrate her 75th birthday. We love her visits and her passion for the gay community. Thank you Pam for including ACT in your estate plans. We are deeply grateful and you can trust that David's legacy, and all those before him, will live on in your gift. ◆



# WHAT'S NEW AT ACT?

## ART OF CONVERSATION STUDY

▶▶▶ Substance use and social instability are common challenges faced among service users at Casey House, Canada's only standalone hospital for people living with HIV and AIDS.

As the result of these and other issues, when people are discharged from the hospital, they can struggle with adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART), leading to worsening health and readmittance into Casey House care. To aid them during their transition home, some service users have asked for peer support. ACT has responded to this need, in partnership with Casey House, by piloting a groundbreaking peer support program that could improve the lives of people being discharged from the hospital.

"Participants had many formal supports but not as many positive informal supports. Structural barriers often prevented participants from maintaining their health gains and medication adherence," explains The ART of Conversation Casey House Research Lead Dr. Soo Chan Carusone.

Following the success of our longstanding Buddy Program, ACT was a natural partner in such a project. "We reached out to ACT, and Andrew Eaton, because of ACT's experience with recruiting, training and supporting volunteers in the provision of peer support. While Casey House has many volunteers, we don't have any peer support programs. We thought it could be a great opportunity for the organizations to work together on an important initiative," says Soo.

This study is funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), with additional support from the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) and Universities Without Walls. We have trained and paired five HIV-positive volunteers with discharged Casey House service users, to check-in with them over the phone every day for the first three days post-discharge, and once a week for six weeks that follow. "We expect that this program will make the transition from the hospital to the home easier and that peer support will help with the hospital discharge," says Andrew, ACT Research Lead and Group Programming Coordinator. The study is ongoing with plans to wrap up in 2018. If this pilot study proves feasible and acceptable to Casey House service users, the team will evaluate a full-scale program.

“ The volunteer made me feel like someone cared... I know a lot of people cared but I shut a lot of people out. ”

– ART of Conversation participant

### POZ ALLIES GROUP

As the coordinator of ACT's youth program PYO (Positive Youth Outreach), Michael Schneider has heard from many parents and partners of young HIV-positive participants who say that they wish a similar program existed for them, so they could get more information about issues related to HIV and AIDS and their social implications. After speaking at a training for HIV service providers, Michael decided to make that program a reality, creating the Poz Allies support group at ACT.

Part support group, part educational workshop, the eight-week federally-funded program, now in its fifth series, is open to anyone who is a family member, partner, friend or ally to a person living with HIV or AIDS. "Think PFLAG for the friends and family of people living with HIV," says Michael. Participants have included caretakers, siblings, friends and parents of people living with HIV, as well as ACT volunteers and others who work with HIV-positive people.

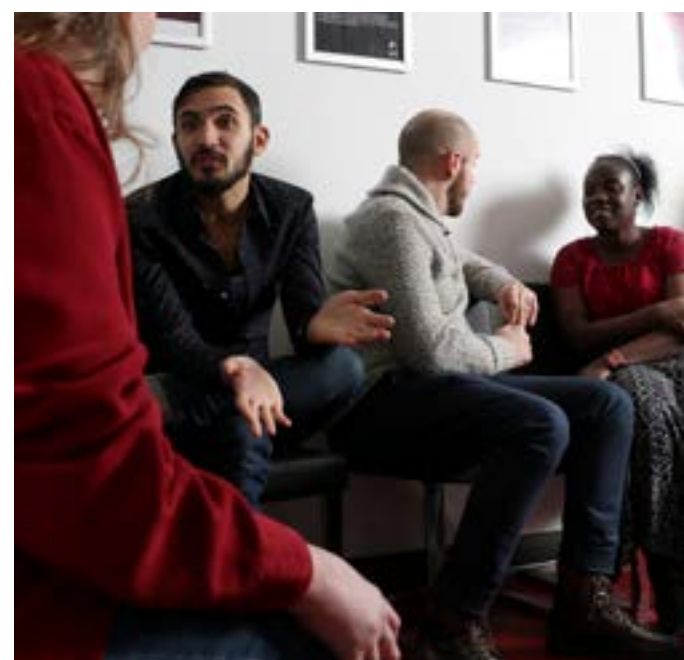


Photo: Poz Allies Group

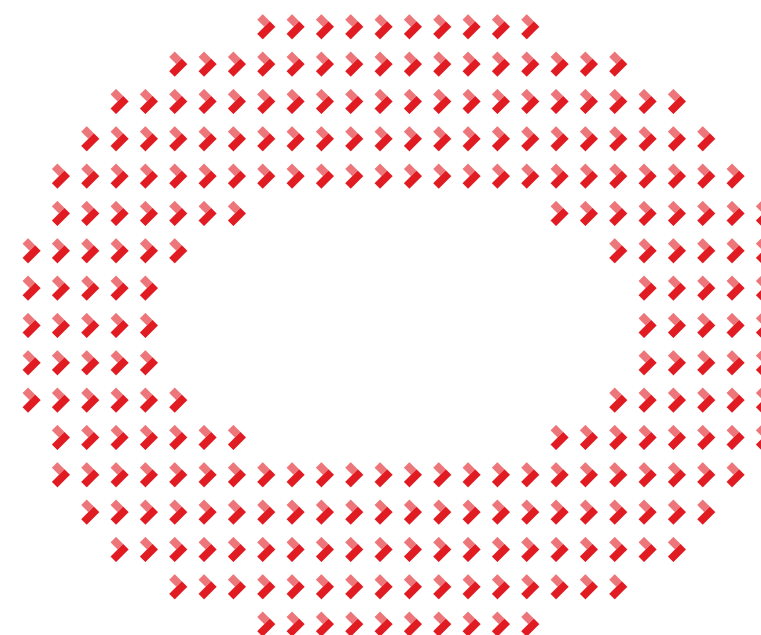
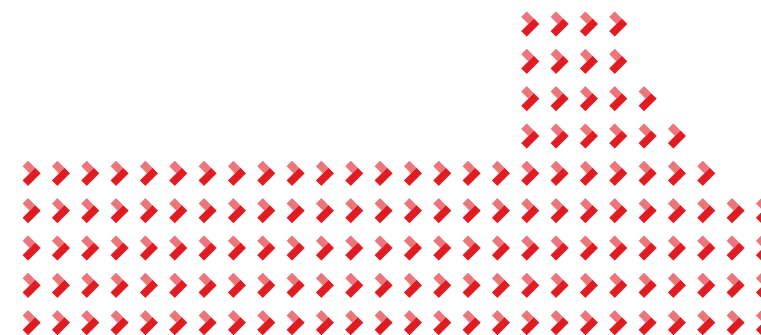
**“ I felt validated by the other participants and privileged to hear their experiences. ”**

- Poz Allies participant

The experience has helped one man get closure after the death of his partner, while another mother was grateful to learn about how to better support her child.

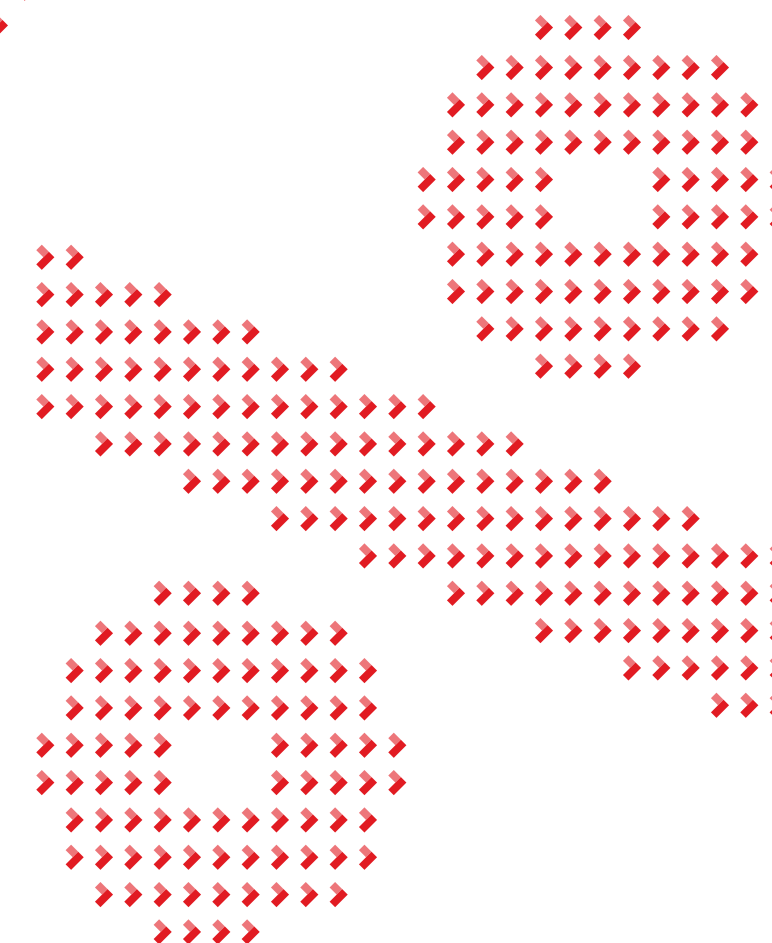
Michael has been amazed by the dedication of participants. "They really wanted to learn and acquire the knowledge from each session," he says. But he was most surprised by what people did not know. For instance, he says, some did not know the difference between HIV and AIDS before enrolling in the program. "Bettering the lives of people with HIV means talking to their partners and family members. I can provide unbiased information that they may never hear from their loved ones," he says. "Talking to them in a friendly, non-judgmental manner is part of how we move towards fewer new infections, improved treatment, and reduced stigma for people living with HIV."

The group has been so popular that a level two group has been created for people who are already starting with a greater level of knowledge about HIV and AIDS. "I would recommend it to anyone would wants to learn and apply the tools they have been given, because it's going to help them regardless of what kind of work they're doing," says ACT volunteer Savannah Nast who has completed the level two group and will soon be trained to facilitate the group. **▲**



**“ The group has opened my mind more about HIV and has helped me feel more comfortable and knowledgeable when dating HIV-positive people. ”**

- Poz Allies participant



People who use drugs make up more than **10%** of ACT service users.

**19**

service users participated in Poz Allies Support Group this year.



A GIFT OF TIME

# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH AND LEARNING

»»» When Savannah Nast moved from Montreal to Toronto to study sexuality at university, ACT was the first organization people recommended to her because of its high reputation. She wanted to get involved and gain more education in gender and sexuality in hopes of working in that area as a therapist.

Savannah appreciates being allowed the opportunity to grow at ACT during the past two years. "In my experience, ACT has a really positive environment and it's really open to teaching. I've learned a lot through this process."

During her time as a volunteer, Savannah has been paired with two people through the Buddy Program, which matches someone living with HIV with a volunteer for emotional support and social connection over the course of three months. "It's just a really great way to get to know people, help people and learn from them," she says. "I really like connecting with a person on that level and being able to make a difference in their life." Each time Savannah sees a buddy achieve a goal, make a small change or build their strength, she is inspired and motivated to do more.

After volunteering in the Buddy Program, at the Scotiabank AIDS Walk, at the Access Centre, and with the Women & HIV/AIDS Initiative (WHA!), Savannah had the opportunity to learn what it's like to participate in an ACT group as a participant in Poz Allies. The support group, which she will be trained to facilitate in the winter, is open to friends, family members, lovers and allies of people living with HIV. The experience taught Savannah self-care as well as how to connect with the HIV-positive community.

"I love volunteering for ACT. I feel like my contribution is really valued and the organization invests in my training and skills to make sure I can contribute to delivering great programs."

“ I have a really good time every time I am volunteering, if it's at the front desk, buddy program or doing mailouts. ”

- Savannah Nast, ACT Volunteer

Thanks to your support our volunteers are able to give back to the community and have a place to grow and develop their own skills. This is truly a win-win for everyone! Thank you. 💖



Photo: Savannah in action welcoming people at the Access Centre.

**546** 🏆  
active ACT volunteers  
this year.

**196**  
new volunteers joined  
ACT this year.

🕒 **12,133**  
work hours contributed  
by volunteers this year.

**\$290K**  
in-kind services provided  
by volunteers this year.



ACT PROGRAMS

# PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

▶▶▶ **Being new to Canada can be daunting. Being new to Canada and being HIV-positive can be debilitating. That is why your donations help provide women who are new to Canada and are HIV-positive a safe place to connect with other women in similar situations. Their backgrounds, circumstances, accents and skin colour may be different, but they have one thing in common. They benefit by connecting with other women who understand their unique circumstances.**

Did you know that one in five HIV diagnoses in Ontario is a woman, and 54 percent of those are African, Black or Caribbean?\* We remain dedicated to providing all HIV-positive women (including trans women) with opportunities to break free from isolation and combat stigma through connecting with each other in an enjoyable community atmosphere. This could be as simple as a cooking night, computer skills class or simply gathering over a cup of coffee.

"It's nice to not always focus on HIV. They already deal with that every day," says Women's Support Coordinator Sarah Schultz. Activities are wide ranging, this year including a workshop on aromatherapy and essential oils and a Zumba (aerobics/dance) class. Participants, many of whom are immigrants and refugees, are also given the chance to visit "hidden gems", like Spadina House, which they would not otherwise be exposed to.

The biggest highlight for participants this year has been the opportunity to join in a Native drumming circle led by Indigenous singer Aqua. After learning more about this sacred practice of Canada's First Nations People, some of the African women participants shared that they were reminded of similar singing and dancing that takes place in their home countries.

Through programs like Women Zone and Women's Coffee Night, HIV-positive women can drop by for a healthy meal, learn new skills, build on their knowledge and socialize with other women. Through your donations you are creating a sense of community for women, many of whom, until now, have lived a life of isolation. Thank you. ♡

\* As of OCHART 2016 data.

**1 in 5**

new diagnoses in Ontario is a woman.



**54%**

of HIV-positive newly diagnosed women are African, Black or Caribbean.

**12%**

of ACT service users are women.



Practical assistance, support groups and food programs were the top services used by women at ACT this year.

2016 - 2017

# ACT EVENTS



- ◀◀ Together toward zero luncheon.
- ◀ Loving our volunteers! Thanks guys.



- ◀ ACT staff hamming it up with volunteers.
- ◀ Fiercely fabulous Sofonda performing at the Scotiabank AIDS walk.



- ◀ Thanks to TD Bank SNAP was a huge success.
- ◀ Walk route volunteers busting a move.



- ◀ Justin Van Dette putting it all on the (punch) line for a good cause.
- ◀ Thanks TELUS for stuffing all that lube and condoms!



**YOUR COMMUNITY**

# THANK YOU

**GOVERNMENT**

**Federal**

Federal Government  
Community Action Fund (CAF), Public Health Agency of Canada

**Provincial**

Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, AIDS Bureau  
Ontario Disability Support Program

**Municipal**

City of Toronto Community Service Partnerships (CSP)  
Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF)

**REGIONAL PARTNERS**

Dixon Hall  
Neighbourhood Services

Ryerson University  
Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OTHN)

**CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS**

**\$100,000 +**

Scotiabank  
TD Bank Group

**\$50,000 +**

MAC AIDS Funds

**\$20,000 - \$49,999**

Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc.

ViiV Healthcare ULC

**\$15,000 - \$19,999**

Pride and Remembrance Association

**\$10,000 - \$14,999**

N/A

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Accenture Inc.

Merck & Co., Inc.  
The Village Pharmacy

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Hone Capital Corporation  
Anonymous Donor  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre

MJG Gallery

Richter Management Toronto Ltd.

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

The Philip Smith Foundation

Toronto Community Foundation

Totally Naked Toronto  
Men Enjoying Nudity Inc.

Tower Litho

WHIRL Inc.

**\$500 - \$999**

Alpema Foundation

Evelko Designs Ltd.

Fidelity Investments Canada Limited

Industrial Alliance Group

Kingsway Theatre

Odgers Berndtson  
Canada Inc.

Ontario HIV Treatment Network

Poppa Corn Corp.

Porter Airlines Inc.

Scotiabank - Yonge St Location

Toronto Centre Federal Association

Turner & Porter "Yorke Chapel"

**EMPLOYEE AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Hydro One Employee's and Pensioner's Trust Fund

Levi Strauss & Co.

Ontario Power Generation (Charity Trust)

**INDIVIDUALS**

**\$10,000 +**

Daniel Holland

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

David Carter  
Diane Klukach  
Don Penfold  
Douglas Young  
Julie Hannaford  
Kevin Crigger  
Robert D. Howe

**\$2,000 - \$4,999**

Brian Wu  
David Cameron  
David Clemmer and Stephane Aubin  
Don Pfeil  
Gale M. Kelly  
Glen R. Johnson  
John Maxwell  
John Lloyd  
John Goodhew and Jeff Axelrod  
Kelly D. Jordan  
Mahmoodi Manoochehr  
Michael Maciuk  
Philip Epstein  
Richard Cadieux  
Ron H. Rosenes  
Sean Chambers  
Tom Hutchinson

**\$1,000 - \$1,999**

Aaron Michiels  
Adam Black  
Anna Liscio  
Barry Goodwin  
Bob Hambley  
Bruce G. Lawson  
Carol Usherr  
Carolyn Archibald  
Chad VanDyk  
Christopher McKenzie  
David O'Brien

Elvira D'Ambrosio  
Esther Dryburgh  
Gulshan Singh  
James O'Connor  
James Waters  
James Ip  
James Beattie  
Jeannie Baxter  
Jim Gregory  
John Tory  
Jonas Giesen  
Joseph Iannuzzi  
Justin Delwo  
Katherine Gibson  
Kyle Spencer  
Maritza Yumbra  
Meredith Blidner  
Neil Guthrie  
Nicolaas Hulst  
Norma Bertuzzi and Larry Bertuzzi  
Paul Ellis  
Paul and Pamela Austin  
Penny Mirams  
Pierre Whitlock  
Pieter C. Huisman and Doug M. Adams  
Raymond Girard  
Richard J. Willett and Bradley Campbell  
Robert Yungblut  
Roland Fortier  
Russell B. Mathew  
Salah J. Bachir  
Simon Clements  
Timothy Thompson and Matthew Campbell  
Tom Greenwood  
William D. Arnott  
Zahid Somani

**GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS**

**543 Giving Circle**

C.G. Boisvenue  
Christopher D. Grimston  
Dan Caputo  
Evan Collins  
Francine Stowell  
George Ganetakos  
Glenn Campbell  
James Ip  
Jamie R. Slater  
Jason A. Patterson  
John Strachan  
John-David Fentie  
Louis Dimitracopoulos  
Pegi Ceconi  
Penny Mirams  
Rick Fishell  
Robert Bartlett  
Robert Feeney  
Robert Boardman  
Scott McConnell  
Steven Hutton  
Terry Christiansen  
Walter Thornton

**Charles M. Roy Giving Circle**

Al Ramsay  
David E. DesLauriers and Nicolas Burbano - Diaz  
David O'Brien  
Glen R. Johnson  
James Beattie  
John Goodhew and Jeff Axelrod  
John Maxwell  
Lea M. Rossiter  
Madhur V. Ramrakha  
Marian Johnson

Maritza Yumbra  
Paul Melville-Gray  
Ron H. Rosenes  
Zahid Somani

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

"Tell it to My Thighs"  
Improv Night  
Fox Theatre Presents  
Oscar Night  
Recognition and Roast for Justin Van Dette  
Sousatzka Ticket Offer  
(With a portion of the proceeds donated to ACT)

**AIDS WALK 2016 RED RIBBON HOSTS**

Café California  
O'Grady's on Church  
Pegasus on Church  
Rainbow Cinemas - Carlton Location  
Steamworks Baths - Toronto  
Woody's on Church

**Estates**

Estate of David Dennis Crombie  
Estate of Donald McLeish  
Estate of Dorothy Casson  
Estate of James Drewry Stewart  
Estate of Morris Findlay

**SNAP 2017 Adopt-A-Lot**

AXA Art Insurance  
BrandActive International Inc.  
Daniel Holland  
David E. DesLauriers and Nicolas Diaz  
E. Llana Nakonechny and Veysel Koruk  
Joe Mimran and Kim Newport-Mimran  
Robert D. Howe and Curtis Edwards  
TD Bank Group  
The Miller Group  
Timothy Thompson and Matthew Campbell  
Yellow House Gallery and Framing

**SNAP 2017 Sponsors**

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Eatertainment Events and Catering  
Georgia Scherman Projects  
Henry of Pelham  
Hughene Acheson Fine Art Consulting  
Jackie-O

Katherine McKechnie  
Museumpros Art Services Inc.  
Ontario Portable Display Systems  
Social Lite  
Steam Whistle Brewery  
SugarDaddy Cupcakes and Catering  
TD Bank  
The Printing House  
Toronto Image Works

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Scotiabank

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Porter Airlines Inc.  
Proud FM 103.9  
Samuel, Son & Co., Limited  
Starbucks Coffee Canada  
The Co-operators

**SCOTIABANK 2016 AIDS WALK TOP WALKERS**

**Top Walkers (+\$2,000)**

Christopher Collins  
David E. DesLauriers  
Dylan Rogers  
Jason A. Patterson  
John Maxwell  
Joseph Antonio Iannuzzi  
Litsa Skrivanos  
Navin V. Boodhoo  
Pieter C. Huisman  
Ronald H. Rosenes  
Sante Tesolin  
Sergio A. Martinez  
Sheila Chevalier  
Tamryn Jacobson  
Tom Hutchinson  
Tony Hamill

**\$1,999 - \$1,000**

Daniel B. Tewolde  
Evelyn Delaney  
Frederick Correa  
Gary W. Robinson  
Jamie Slater  
Jersey Anderson  
John Larsson  
John C. Hill  
Karen Avery-Lum  
Kevin Robitaille  
Kiran B. Dogra  
Leah N. Spicer  
Lesley Wilkins  
Mario Medeiros  
Mhairi Louise Cumming  
Paula Ravitz

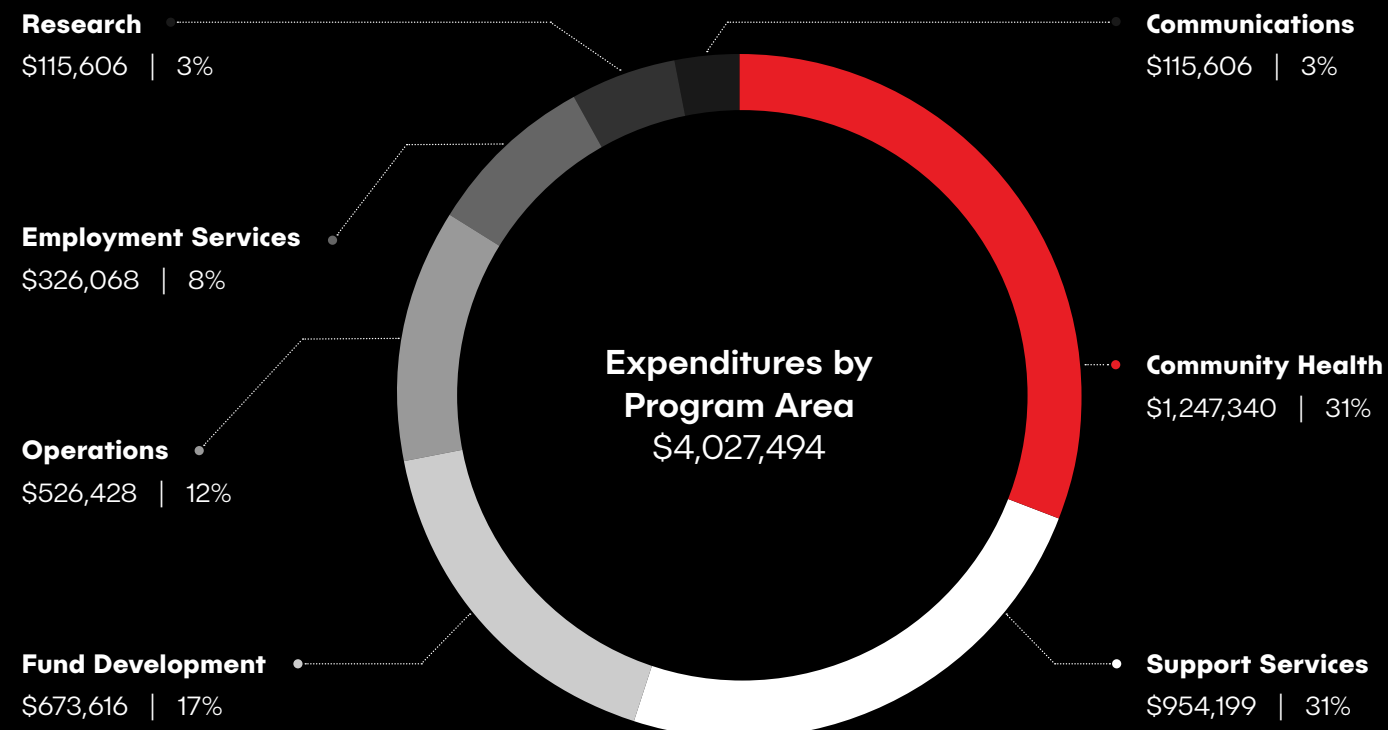
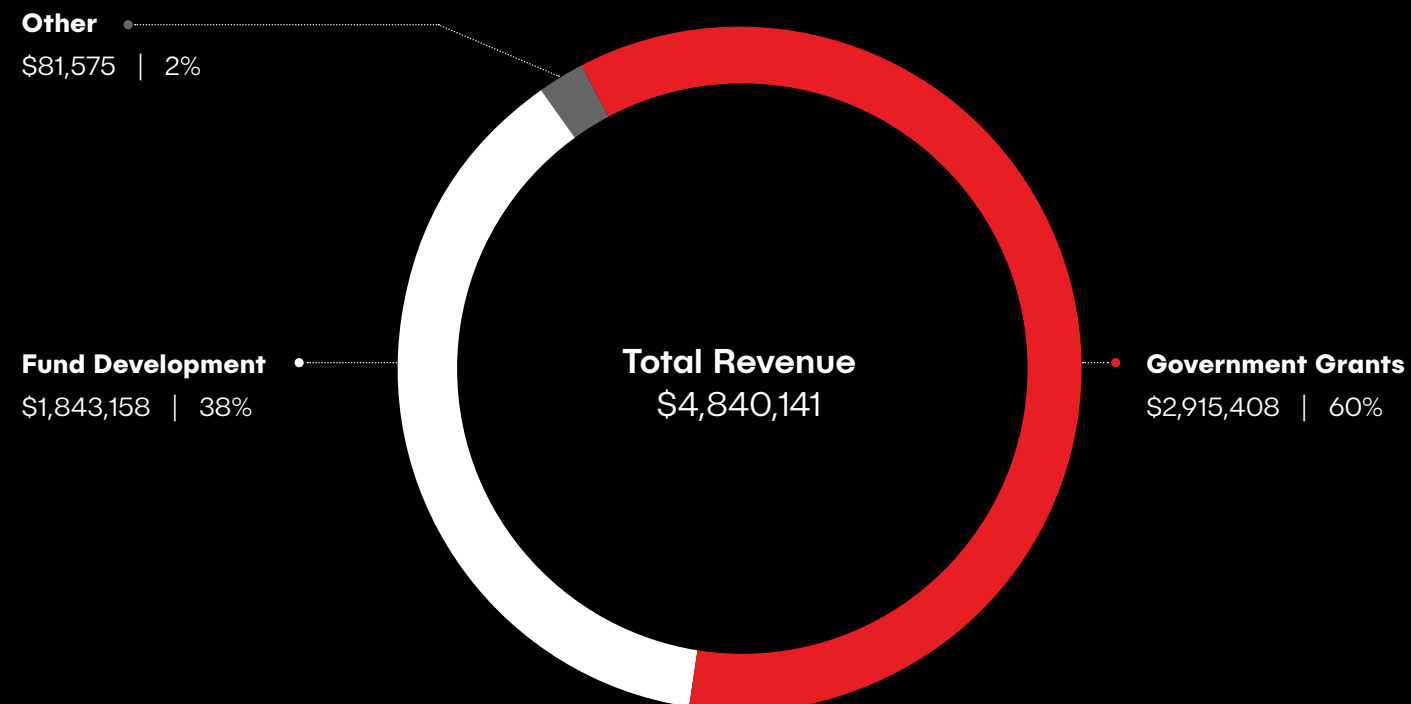
Penny Mirams  
Stefan Wypchol  
Stefan Naccarato

**\$999 - \$500**

Alex Roberts  
Amy Fedrigo  
Bradley Hickman  
Cameron Lewis  
Cathy Anne McKim  
Christopher Thomas  
Daniel D. Holland  
Danilo Malangis  
Dave Carroll  
David J. Salak  
Doug Rier  
Dustin P. Germain  
Elyse Hill  
Geri Savits-Fine  
Gulshan Singh  
James Azizieh  
Janine Baillie-Roos  
Kevin Delaney  
Louis Dimitracopoulos  
Maggie Wilkins  
Matthew Barnes  
Max Beck  
Mitch Holmes  
Owen Milburn  
Paula Martyn  
Peter McHugh  
Phil Gotfried  
Rupert Hon  
Ryan C. Lisk  
Sara Curtis  
Savannah R. Nast  
Sergey Talashkevich  
Steve Pena  
Steven Campbell

# FINANCIALS

2016 - 2017





WITH GRATITUDE

# GETTING CLOSER TO ZERO

▶▶▶ Every person on this planet deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. As ACT donor Daniel Holland put it so perfectly in his profile, 'HIV does not care who you are.' That's why at ACT, it's important to us that we care.

Regardless of sexual or gender identity, country of origin, HIV status, or whether you use substances, ACT is here to help. Just like we led the way at the beginning of the AIDS crisis in 1983, we continue to be at the forefront of our community demonstrating leadership, compassion and innovation.

Thanks to your support, this past year has been no different. Thanks to you ACT continues to be strong, resilient, and able to respond to the unique and changing needs of gay men, women and young people living with HIV, and those at increased risk. When you or your family needs us, we are there. Thanks to you.

While the needs of the HIV community have changed, we know without a doubt that if people who are HIV positive have a strong social network, access to medical care and treatment, and live in a healthy environment they can thrive. Our job is simple. We help people so they don't need us anymore. And this year we have been able to move that bar forward in a number of ways.

Your support this past year has helped make great strides in providing more holistic mental and physical support to gay men. In response to the complex needs of our community you have helped ACT respond with the creation of new programs to help with body image issues, crystal meth use, physical and emotional abuse as well as learning how to live a healthy, loving and sexually satisfying life with HIV.

“ Thanks to you ACT continues to be strong, resilient, and able to respond to the unique and changing needs of gay men, women and young people living with HIV, and those at increased risk. ”

Many gay men in these support groups describe themselves and feeling “broken” like there is something wrong with them. These new programs help people break free from the isolation and loneliness that can come with being gay, regardless of HIV status. Connections and friendships happen every single day, in our offices and out in the community.

In addition to these new services, ACT has made it a priority to be here for the first generation of HIV-positive men. These men were at the front lines thirty years ago and they continue to drive us forward as we look at the first cohort of men who are HIV-positive and over 50. ACT was there in the early days for these guys and it is a priority for us to continue to offer information, research and support to our long-term survivors.

Looking ahead we will be helping the community understand new ground-breaking and undisputed research, that if you are HIV positive, taking your medications and you have an undetectable viral load you cannot sexually transmit the HIV virus.

Every year we are getting closer to a Toronto where there are ZERO new HIV infections. Thank you for helping to make this happen. Together we are building a healthy community where everyone with HIV is treated with love, dignity and the respect that they deserve.

  
**John Maxwell**  
Executive Director




  
**Louis Dimitracopolous**  
Board Chair



# THANK YOU

▶▶▶ We are here for you. Stay informed and up to date with ACT's online resources and social channels:

[www.acttoronto.org](http://www.acttoronto.org)

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AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)  
543 Yonge Street, 4th Floor  
Toronto, ON | M4Y 1Y5

(416) 340-2437

CR Number: 11877 9024 RR0001

