



A special thank you to everyone who responded to our **Annual Needs Assessment!**

In January and February 2021, KAA sent a link for service providers to complete a Needs Assessment. Thanks to all who completed it!

Providers were asked to rank the need for various HIV-related services in the Kentuckiana area. The results are presented below and will help KAA determine what services need to be prioritized in the upcoming years!

Needs Assessment Results

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1</p> <p>HOUSING ASSISTANCE</p> | <p>2</p> <p>MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT</p> | <p>3</p> <p>PEER SUPPORT</p> | <p>4</p> <p>MOBILE HIV TESTING</p> |
|--|---|--|--|

Results from the needs assessment show support is needed in the following areas: housing assistance, mental health support, peer support, and mobile HIV testing. The KAA Board is using these results to develop our strategic plan.

We are currently drafting an Eviction Prevention Program that will assist patients living with HIV with housing needs, as well as developing a Peer to Peer Advocacy Program! If you are interested in helping with these endeavors, email getinvolved@kentuckianaaidsalliance.org. We value your input!



March Into May!

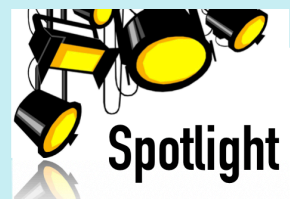
March 15- May 15 Fundraising Event (see details on Page 2)

AIDS Walk Kentucky!

Symbolic walk on April 25 (see details on Page 2)

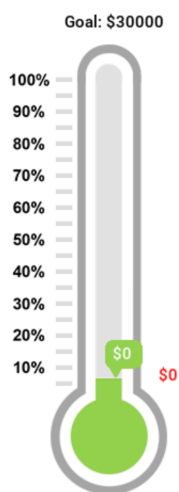
National HIV/AIDS Awareness Days

March 10th and 20th

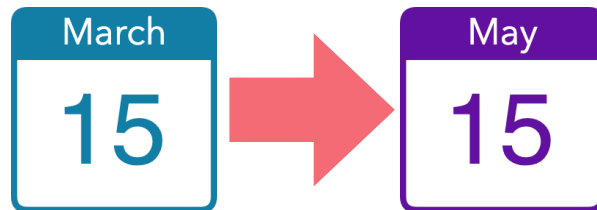


See Page 3 for Highlights on **KAA's New President** and an Organization Spotlight on the **550 Clinic!**

March into May!



In collaboration with AVOL in Lexington, KAA will launch an ambitious **fundraising period from March 15th through May 15th, with a goal to raise \$30,000.00!**



This will be an opportunity for virtual walkers to come together to show their support for KAA and the two new programs we are launching: our Eviction Prevention Program (EPP) and our Peer to Peer Advocacy Program (PPAP). After completing a needs assessment in January, the most prevalent gap in services that was identified is issues around stable housing. We know that stable housing increases the likelihood of better health and medicine regimen outcomes. It is our mission to be a compassionate and trusted resource for those who are at risk of losing their home because of eviction.

We also recognize that community is a big part of healthy living. With the changes COVID has imposed, in person gatherings of our HIV+ community members have been suspended. It is our desire to create a network of advocates who can be a text, phone call or safe-distanced visit away from anyone who applies for this program. We all look forward to the day we can gather, hug and celebrate being together, but until that day, we are committed to providing this vital contact on a one to one basis.

During this period, KAA will be collaborating with local organizations and sponsoring HIV testing for eight consecutive Wednesdays, at various locations around Kentuckiana.

Go to our new website to donate! <https://www.kentuckianaaidsalliance.org/donate>

AIDS WALK KENTUCKY!



In collaboration with AVOL in Lexington, **this year's walk will be a symbolic one.** Because of COVID-19 and precautions still in place, The Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance and our partner organizations will host a virtual walk for everyone impacted by HIV/AIDS. A small group of KAA will walk together (properly masked and socially distanced, of course) and we invite you to do the same with your individual organizations! We will be live-streaming and posting to our social media. Please join us on **Sunday, April 25th** for AIDS Walk Kentucky!

This year we will focus on why Getting to Zero is so important for all of us.

[Click here to "walk" with us and Follow us on Facebook!](#)

GETTING TO
zero

Spotlight Section

Meet KAA's New President!

Jeff Staton is an attorney with Legal Aid Project. He has served the Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance Board since 2008. When asked about his vision for KAA, Jeff responded:

"I am excited to step up as KAA president. During the HIV pandemic which is ongoing, I've witnessed many changes. Medications are safer and more effective. Many people diagnosed with HIV are able to live normal lifespans instead of HIV being a death sentence. With expanded health insurance, PEP, PrEP and other exciting scientific discoveries such as CRISPR, it is ever more possible to imagine a world without HIV.



KAA's mission under my leadership will be focused on getting to zero which means getting our community to work together to get viral load to zero and finally to achieve zero new infections. We must work as an organization to break down the remaining barriers preventing us from getting to zero by addressing social determinants of health and social justice. We must educate and collaborate with our whole community to focus on solutions rather than blame and stigma. The current COVID-19 pandemic we continue to endure should remind us that we are all in this together and we can only be as strong as the most vulnerable among us. KAA will work to protect those with HIV while seeking to prevent new infections.

Let's get to zero Louisville. Let's get to work."

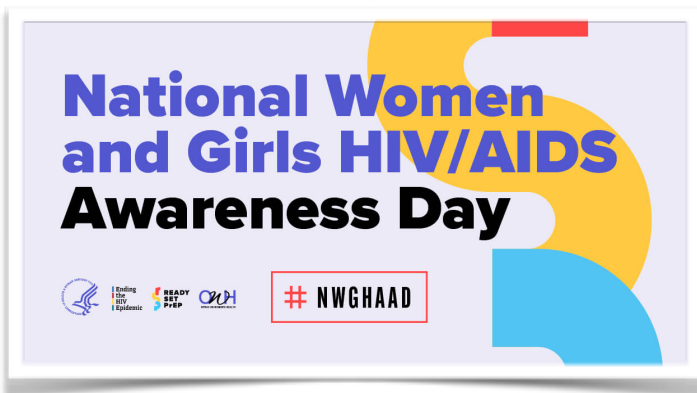
Organization Spotlight: 550 Clinic

Founded in 1995, the 550 Clinic (previously WINGS), is the only Ryan White-funded clinic in Louisville, serving seven counties in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. In addition to providing exceptional medical care to persons living with HIV, the 550 Clinic began offering HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services in 2017 to individuals at high risk of HIV acquisition. Recently, the clinic has had changes in their management team: the Medical Director is Dr. Julio Ramirez, and Assistant Medical Directors are William Briggs, PA, and Dionyzia "Dina" Dedina, APRN.

KAA had the opportunity to speak with Dina about the passion this team has for patient care. She told us, "We have a wonderful team of people who treat each patient as an individual human, holistically assessing their needs and trying to help however we can. It's not enough to listen to someone's lungs and write a prescription... our patients have truly complex needs. I find myself proud of the work our team does on a daily basis— for example, there is a patient our clinic's pharmacist calls every single day to remind him to take his medicine. My colleague, Bill, delivered a patient's medications to the jail when he contacted him, concerned he would go without. And I met someone at the clinic on Christmas Eve to give them a sample of Biktarvy because their pharmacy was closed. This is the kind of work we do. It goes above and beyond the prescribing and monitoring of medication. I am proud of the care we provide."

Dina joined the KAA Board this month. She says, "It's hard to focus on taking a pill everyday when you are concerned about not having a roof over your head, or going without food. That's why the work of KAA is so important— I am excited to contribute to KAA!"

To establish care at the 550 Clinic, call 502-561-8844.



March 10th is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10th is a day to raise awareness about the impact of HIV on women and show support for women with HIV.

March 20th is National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2007. The 2021 theme is "Zero is Possible Together: Innovation + Awareness."



Go to the [CDC Website](#) for sample Social Media Messages to help increase awareness!

We value our members and volunteers!

Interested in becoming a member or volunteering with the Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance? [Click here to sign up!](#)

Want to receive more updates on the work of KAA?

[Click here to Join our Email List!](#)

Have ideas for our next newsletter?

Please email us at info@kentuckianaaidsalliance.org. We value your input!

