



Check out Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance’s New Services!



Results from the 2021 needs assessment show housing assistance & peer support are needed in our community. KAA is starting to address these needs by developing an Eviction Prevention Program & a Peer to Peer Advocacy Program.

Eviction Prevention Program

KAA is in the process of creating an Eviction Prevention Program. We will work closely with legal services to reduce evictions for HIV positive tenants where the issue is non-payment of rent.

Currently, without rental assistance, the tenant would have limited, if any, defenses to a charge of non-payment of rent. Without rental assistance, they are likely to be evicted and a record of eviction makes it harder for them to find new, stable housing.

Our goal is to launch the program this summer. Keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters for more information!

Did you know people with stable housing are more likely to achieve HIV viral suppression?

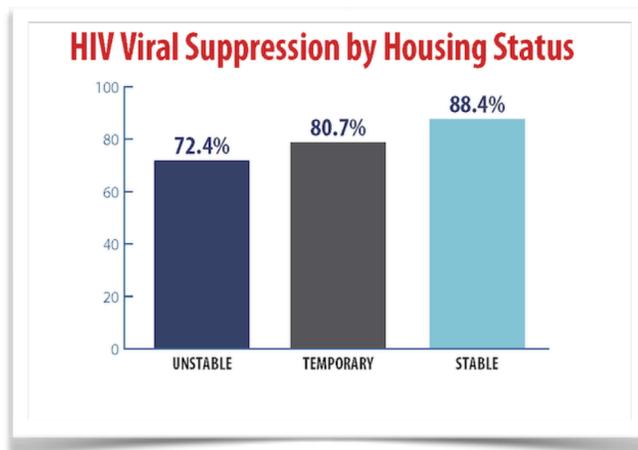


Image Credit: hab.hrsa.gov



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)

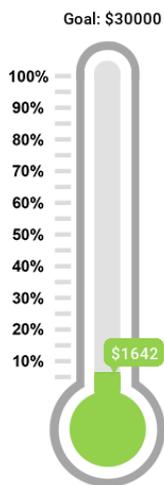
National HIV/AIDS Awareness Days

April 10th and 18th

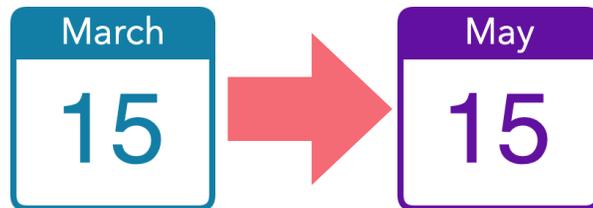


See Page 3 for an Organization Spotlight on **House of Ruth** and recognition of one of our donors, **John Timmons!**

March into May!



In collaboration with AVOL in Lexington, KAA has launched 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 HIV viral suppression. 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 an individual 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!](#)



Spotlight Section



Organization Spotlight: House of Ruth

For nearly thirty years, House of Ruth has worked to find housing and provide supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS. We operate on [the Housing First model](#), which advocates that a stable place to live is the first step in breaking the cycle of homelessness. In other words, once safe and permanent housing is secured, it is easier to find employment, access healthcare, begin healing substance use disorders, and so on. House of Ruth works first and foremost to secure stable housing for homeless people and their families affected by HIV/AIDS.



There are many reasons why a person may become homeless. Homelessness most commonly results from a lack of affordable housing, unexpected job loss or bills, or mental illness without access to treatment. Once homeless, it's extremely difficult to free oneself from the cycle. The Housing First model relies on wraparound services that support clients working towards financial and housing stability. The holistic services we provide at House of Ruth help clients overcome the obstacles faced in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Much of what House of Ruth does is simply helping our clients overcome barriers, whatever they may be. Some of these necessary services may surprise you.

- **Basic Needs**, such as a weekly food pantry and access to toiletries
- **Government-Issued Identification**, which is necessary for many things, like housing applications, visiting federal buildings, receiving SNAP benefits, and more
- **Case by Case Support**, helping clients overcome any roadblocks they may have (such as low literacy skills, or monthly rent)

You can learn more about our mission and services by visiting us online at HouseofRuth.net, and by following us on social media: Instagram: [@houseofruthlou](https://www.instagram.com/houseofruthlou) Facebook: [@HouseOfRuthLouisville](https://www.facebook.com/HouseOfRuthLouisville).

Donor Spotlight: John Timmons, WFPK Mid-Morning Host



I am proud to be a longtime supporter and advocate of the Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance. In its 28 years, it has continued to grow as the needs of our HIV+ community members change. As an example, they have been developing a peer advocacy program and an eviction prevention program. In a time when the spotlight of AIDS awareness has been overshadowed by the pandemic, KAA stands strong and continues to keep awareness in the spotlight.

I was proud to be a sponsor of the White Gala in 2019. It was a great opportunity to share my love of music and the opportunity to unite local talent with a great cause. Because of COVID, KAA has not been able to host any live fundraising events recently. Fortunately, I was able to continue showing my support of KAA through several virtual events.

I am proud of the work that KAA continues to provide, and wish them further success going forward!



April 10th is National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day #NYHAAD

The 2020 theme announced by Advocates for Youth is "Young People to the Front: Ending the HIV Epidemic in America #OurHIVPlan #NYHAAD".

April 18th is National Transgender HIV Testing Day #TransHIV

NTHTD recognizes the importance of routine HIV testing, status awareness and continued focus on HIV prevention and treatment efforts among transgender and gender non-binary people.



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!



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