

How DIFFA/Chicago has impacted your organization?

Northwestern Memorial Foundation – Vivek Venugopal, Center Manager

The HIV Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital provides comprehensive medical, psychosocial and pharmacy support to those living with HIV/AIDS. Since 1991, the DIFFA/Chicago fellowship has provided Northwestern Infectious Disease fellows the opportunity to train in HIV clinical care, clinical and laboratory based HIV research. The longevity of this relationship has not only contributed to the ongoing education of these physician trainees but has impacted those working with them in hospital and clinical settings. As the fellows train other medical residents and students, more HIV patients will benefit from DIFFA support.

The breath of impact of this relationship is seen worldwide: DIFFA Chicago Infectious Fellowship Program physicians are currently caring for HIV infected persons in Chicago, St. Louis, Arizona, Greece, Singapore, Tanzania and Uganda.

FCAN - Families & Children AIDS Network - Trisha Curran, Grants & Development Coordinator

DIFFA's contributions fill the "gaps" that are not recognized by government funding sources but are significant in serving HIV-affected families. Support from DIFFA allows us to realize our Red Ribbon Trails camp each year. Previous support from DIFFA has allowed us to make up-front payments to the summer camp, purchase supplies for the Red Ribbon Trails retreat, and provide for transportation costs for families.

This year, funding from DIFFA has been allocated to support the work of FCAN's Volunteer Coordinator. Our volunteers are vital in shaping our programs and responding to the needs of HIV-affected families throughout the state of Illinois. Each year, the Volunteer Coordinator recruits and trains approximately 100 volunteers to support HIV-affected children and caregivers at Red Ribbon Trails, FCAN's series of semi-annual family and teen retreats.

FCAN's extensive network of volunteers helps to make our Red Ribbon Trails program successful each year. In addition to assisting with the facilitation of therapeutic and recreational activities for family members, volunteers also learn about the unique needs and gaps in care that HIV-affected families experience. Through training sessions with FCAN and personal interactions with family members, our volunteers take the knowledge and experiences that they acquire into their own communities. FCAN's strong volunteer network allows us to better serve families affected by HIV in Illinois.

Chicago House - The Reverend Stan J. Sloan Chief, Executive Officer

DIFFA Chicago was one of the first funders of Chicago House, the Midwest's first provider of AIDS Housing and Support Services. Over the years DIFFA has remained one of our biggest blessings, consistently provided desperately needed funds and visibility to Chicago House's mission and work.

InterFaith House - Jennifer Nelson-Seals, Executive Director

"DIFFA has long recognized the at risk status of Chicago's homeless population, helping Interfaith House provide health care and support services for the 26% of our clients impacted by HIV/AIDS, and supporting our efforts to place these men and women into permanent housing, a necessary part of keeping a healthy life.

Vital Bridges - Deborah R. Hinde President & CEO

DIFFA/Chicago was the first foundation to fund Vital Bridges' food and nutrition services, and you have sustained your support for 20 years. This consistent support has allowed Vital Bridges to grow and improve its food and nutrition services, evolving from providing solely home delivered meals to providing nutritious groceries at five sites in the city and suburbs and delivering groceries when clients can't get to us. In addition, your support has helped us build professional nutrition services that educate clients about good nutrition and its impact on their health and help them individually to use the food to support their medical regimens. Your investment in Vital Bridges has helped sustain our ability to provide high quality, professional nutrition services to thousands of low income people living with HIV/AIDS who have no where else to turn.

Howard Brown Health Center -Donald Rolfe, Director of Communications & Business Development

A grant from DIFFA/Chicago enables Howard Brown to provide medical care to low-income people living with HIV and lack health insurance. As a result, Howard Brown has served 21% more uninsured, low-income HIV-positive clients than in the previous year, while the cost of uncompensated care for these patients continued to grow. Howard Brown is able to meet this need through continued support from DIFFA/Chicago.

The Children's Place Association – Jennifer Sampson

With the assistance of DIFFA/Chicago The Children's Place Association is able to strengthen our advocacy and education programs in order to help children and families affected by HIV/AIDS from across Chicagoland. DIFFA's contributions have directly supported our early childhood education program and the application of a specialized diagnostic assessment tool, Creative Curriculum, which supports individualized programming for each child, as well as measures classroom and overall program effectiveness.

DIFFA's generosity helps The Children's Place Association continue to deliver the programs that help give our children the happy, loving childhood they deserve and the future that their parents dream of for them.

Children's Memorial Hospital - Section for Pediatric, Adolescent, and Maternal HIV Infection (Special ID) - T. J. Johnson

Funding awarded by DIFFA is essential to sustaining and growing our Outreach and Education program, ensuring that we have a direct and positive impact on HIV education and testing for youth in Chicago. DIFFA support helps us provide rapid testing, pre- and post-test assessment, education, and prevention supplies and counseling. The program is entirely funded by philanthropy and grants, and we are deeply grateful for the funding we have received, and the informed and engaged support of the DIFFA community.