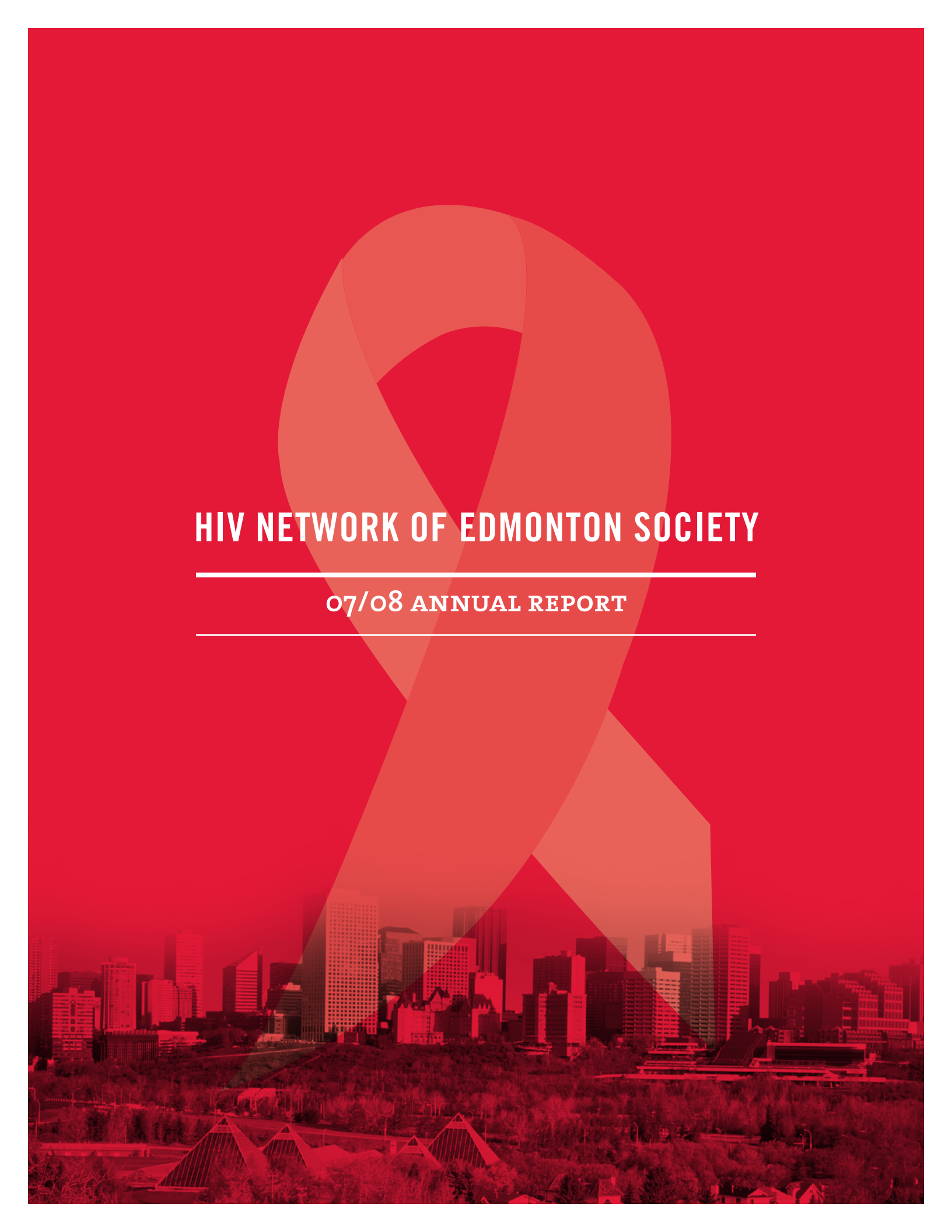




HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

07/08 ANNUAL REPORT

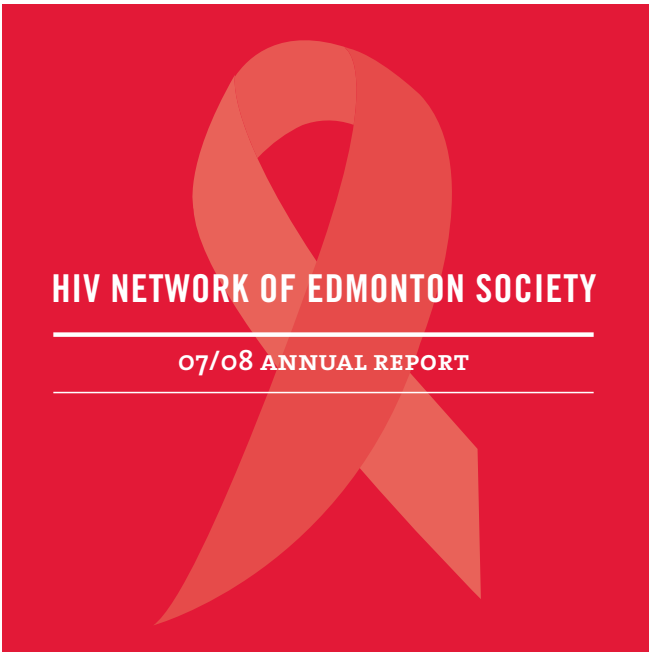


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HIV EDMONTON



HIV EDMONTON STAFF

HIV Edmonton staff members are the core of our organization. We could not serve our clients or meet our goals without the dedication, energy, and passion of the following people:

Jasmine Abrahamson	Jen Pollard
Dolan Badger	Leah Portelance
Misty Bjerky	Sylvie Seguin
Jill Delarue	Robert Smith
Amanda Goertzen	Meghan Stover
Debra Jakubec	Lynn Sutankayo
Ted Kerr	Andrea Yacyshyn
Sue Ann Paydli	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board of directors plays an integral role in our ability to successfully deliver services and programs. The direction and support given so generously by the following board members allowed us to make great strides over the past year:

Janice Cain	Jeffrey Terrance Keller
Ryan Cooper	Sarah Hayward
Jocelyn Crocker	Deana MacFadyen
Anne Fanning	Jacqlyn Padavell
Susan Jamieson	Mary-Karen Reid
Kari Jesswein	Oliver Kamau
Jennie Johnstone	

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am proud to report that we have reached our goals for the year.

Under the leadership of our wonderful executive director, Debra Jakubec, we have continued to create a solid foundation of expert staff, appropriate supports, well-refined administrative processes, and an atmosphere of goodwill and optimism.

Last year, the board of HIV Edmonton approved a three-year strategic plan, and again received core funding from the Alberta Community HIV Fund. We know our priorities and we are resolute in pursuing them:

- We will, first and foremost, help those at risk for, infected with, or affected by HIV, to get the help they need.
- We will partner and collaborate with all agencies working in the field of HIV/AIDS, to increase our collective capacity.
- We will ensure appropriate and accurate information for people at all levels—clients, health professionals, managers, policy makers, and politicians—because good information enables better decision making and also reduces stigma and discrimination.

Last year, the board undertook a major organizational review and revitalization. As a result, we felt very confident that the year would be one of energy and increased impact. “Energized” indeed described the tone of HIV Edmonton’s work this year. The board’s commitment to renewal focused our energy on the work of our reconfigured board committees:

- The Executive and Finance Committee worked with Debra to revamp the financial reporting standards, ensure high-quality oversight of all financial matters, and advise on governance issues.
- The Policy Review Committee, under the leadership of Sue Jamieson, undertook a complete assessment of all policies, to rationalize them and ensure their relevance, consistency, and alignment with the current context. This work is ongoing.
- The Fund Development Committee, under Jeff Keller and Jacqlyn Padavell, created ambitious goals for fund-raising and developed a detailed plan to achieve those goals. A new fund development consultant is in place and the board, staff, and volunteers are determined to ensure we are effective in its implementation.

- The Ross Armstrong Committee, under Anne Fanning and Janice Cain, remained dedicated to continuing our relevant and responsive Ross Armstrong Program, to support the personal needs of people living with HIV. The committee ran the program in collaboration with staff and surveyed users to find new ways to meet their priorities.
- The Nominating Committee, under Jennie Johnstone and Bernie Modrovsky, actively and effectively identified outstanding community members who want to give their time and talents. These incoming board members demonstrate the growing interest in tackling the issue of HIV.

The energy and commitment of our board members are matched only by the energy and commitment of our staff. Their ‘ripples’ of support for the committees evidence a much larger ‘rock’ than they actually represent. Whether in jails, with youth, at round dances, on the streets, or in our own offices, our staff reach out and touch many people.

At our Walk for Life in September, the growing interest of the community was palpable. People from all walks of life clearly want to join in the effort against AIDS and to support those affected by HIV. Our job as an agency is to welcome their efforts and find a place for their varied gifts and perspectives.

As I move on from four years on the board, it seems we have come through a time of transition and are emerging into a period of stability and, I hope, growth. Thanks to the achievements of our long-time previous executive director, Sherry McKibben, we are a respected agency with a voice and a reputation for caring and commitment. Thanks to the outstanding dedication, endless energy, and deep knowledge of our current executive director, Debra, we are building on the work of the past to respond to new needs, create new relationships, and establish new programs.

If we can maintain our sense of purpose and remember that HIV affects everyone, we will continue to lead positive social change.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. – Margaret Mead

Sarah Hayward

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For over 22 years HIV Edmonton has been making an impact in the community.

We have evolved from a locally focused organization, run mainly by passionate volunteers, to an organization run by a diverse group of paid staff supported by volunteer contributions, who work locally while also contributing to the ongoing development of provincial and national AIDS movements. Today, we maintain the passion and commitment that created the organization and combine this with the intentional provision of evidence-based services to effectively meet the needs of our clients and the community at large.

The 2007–2008 year marked the first year of implementation of our 2007–2010 strategic plan. It was a time of tremendous growth and transition, during which we worked diligently to accomplish our goals and objectives while also meeting the increased demand for support, outreach, advocacy, and education caused by the climb in the population of the Capital Health Region.

In the pages that follow, you will have an opportunity to learn about some of our specific activities and accomplishments. You'll see that our small but mighty Support and Outreach team has demonstrated a nimble flexibility to provide a variety of client interactions including drop-ins, talking circles, different types of support, and the Ross Armstrong Program. This flexibility is also demonstrated through new locations for service provision, as the team works hard to meet clients where they are most comfortable and where they want or need to be served, at our offices or in outreach locations.

You'll read about the depth and breadth of learning activities and services provided by our Community Education team, who maximize their considerable talents

and limited resources to reach diverse audiences by using an impressive variety of learning methods and keeping on the leading edge of HIV/AIDS knowledge.

Finally, you'll hear about our hard work in organizational development, partnership creation, fund development, volunteer management, and needs assessment and evaluation. You'll see that we're strengthening our infrastructure to ensure we have a solid foundation from which to continue our growth.

I would like to thank our 2007–2008 board of HIV Edmonton for their support, insight, and guidance over the past year. Their knowledge and competence have helped steer us into the future and be proactive in monitoring upcoming trends in our work.

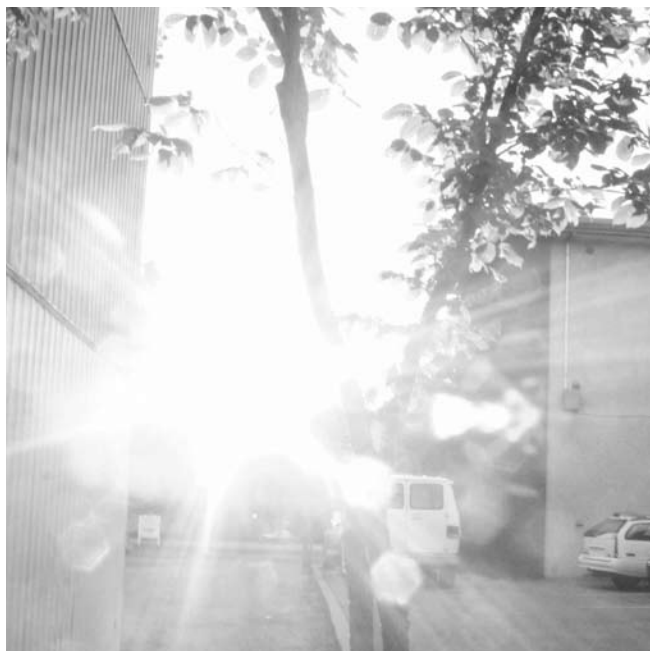
The amazing dedication of our staff and volunteers is demonstrated throughout the report and I would like to thank them for their passionate commitment to HIV Edmonton. Volunteers and staff are the true heroes of the agency, ensuring that the strong day-to-day service continues and that our clients receive the support they need.

I am also grateful to the donors, members, and partners who have stood with us and enabled us to continue our prevention work and provide support services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

I hope you will find this summary of our work both thought-provoking and informative.

Debra Jakubec

FUND DEVELOPMENT AND VOLUNTEERS



FUND DEVELOPMENT

HIV Edmonton is blessed to receive financial support from a number of sources and we are very grateful for every single donation and donor. Support has come through grants, corporate donations, in-kind contributions, memorials, individual donors, the Walk for Life, the United Way Donor Choice program, matching funds, third-party events, www.CanadaHelps.org, and employee giving groups. We are leveraging these gifts by working strategically to ensure our long-term sustainability as an organization. To this end, we've re-invigorated the fund development committee, worked with the committee to perform a SWOT analysis and return on investment of each our fund development activities, prepared a fund development plan for 2008–2009, and begun working with a professional fund developer in order to implement this plan. As well, we've completed considerable work on our fund development infrastructure and look forward to reaping the benefits through our next round of fund-raising and friend-raising activities.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

For the last 22 years, HIV Edmonton's programs and services have been made possible only through the generous donation of time, enthusiasm, and passion from our dedicated volunteers.

Whether they were preparing and serving lunch at our drop-In, labelling condoms for our various education sessions, or handing water to thirsty walkers at our AIDS Walk for Life, the support of our devoted volunteers made it possible to accomplish our ambitious goals.

Working together, volunteers contributed to creating a more compassionate community for people living with HIV/AIDS.

By opening their arms and challenging the stigma people living with HIV/AIDS face, our volunteers embodied and inspired real change in our community.

In 2007/2008, 133 dedicated volunteers devoted 1,275 hours to help ensure HIV Edmonton's support programs continued.

200+ new clients

284 information-related phone calls

SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2007/2008, HIV Edmonton continued to offer high-quality support services to people living with HIV, their friends and family members, and those at risk. This year a new support team was hired after internal restructuring. Currently, the team consists of two full-time support workers and a part-time position dedicated to organizing a peer support program.

In the last year we have seen a 70% increase in intakes of new clients to Support and Outreach. The number of intakes are one of the best predictors of the number of new clients accessing our services. We had over 2,000 visits to the office by people requesting support.

DROP-IN

During the summer of 2007, we began to hold a weekly drop-in event at HIV Edmonton. This gave people the chance to share a meal and relax in a safe and caring environment. Activities included playing a safe-sex trivia game, holding a workshop on hepatitis C and HIV transmission, and watching a documentary on harm reduction. We have found that the drop-in is an excellent way for new clients to get to know others and our staff. It is often the 'hook' that gets people to register in our programs.

TALKING CIRCLE

At the end of January we began to hold a weekly talking circle. This allows our clients to smudge and share their concerns, challenges, and joys in a supportive, culturally relevant environment. While the number of attendees is relatively small, those who attend are committed to ensuring the talking circle continues.

NUTRITION SUPPORT

Access to adequate nutrition is a challenge for many of our clients. To help address the need for a high-calorie and high-protein diet, we have been distributing cans of Ensure™ meal replacement. This year, we distributed 799 cans, but the demand was much higher. We were limited by the amount of product donated; finding more donors is a challenge for the upcoming year.

OUTREACH

This year, HIV Edmonton has begun to do more outreach. When required, a member of the Support and Outreach team now goes with people who wish to get tested for HIV, accompanies them to doctors' appointments, and visits them while they are in drug treatment programs. We now also meet with clients outside of the office to provide support if coming to the office poses a hardship.

387 people registered in the
Ross Armstrong Program

112 conversations
about medications

HAART HOUSE

Once a week, an HIV Edmonton Support and Outreach staff member goes to HAART House as part of its program of providing HIV medication to homeless clients. HAART House provides a hot meal and stores and administers the clients' medications; this dramatically increases people's ability to take their medications as prescribed.

HAART House has only two staff administering medication to about 50 people a day.

Our staff does outreach to reduce the workload of the HAART House staff, connect with HIV positive clients, promote awareness of HIV Edmonton and our services, and help create a safe, caring atmosphere at HAART House.

ROSS ARMSTRONG PROGRAM

The Ross Armstrong Program provides people living with HIV with access to vitamins, hygiene supplies, and a \$10 grocery card. We currently have 387 people registered with this program. Average attendance each month is about 40 people.

This year we also held a holiday dinner and presented each attendee with a gift bag. Over 70 people attended the event, which received rave reviews. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who made our holiday dinner possible.

2009 visits to the office

2473 client entries
into database

300 adult attendees

700 youth attendees

ADULT HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

This year, Community Education led 17 workshops for over 300 adults—students, members of vulnerable populations, and/or service providers. We received more interest this year from professionals in the areas of nursing, social work, and education, and from community-based organizations and those involved in international development. Students in these fields often attend our workshops and visit our office for information. Some of the organizations we served this year include:

- ACGC Global Voices Conference
- Edmonton Institution for Women
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- Grant MacEwan Community College
- University of Alberta
- Morgentaler Clinic
- NAIT
- Salvation Army

Workshop evaluations indicate that overall participant knowledge about HIV/AIDS increased. The number of workshop requests, resource requests, and workshop attendees from Edmonton and surrounding areas show continued demand for community-based HIV/AIDS education.

Thank you to Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association (ECALA) for providing funding for the “HIV—The Basics” and the “Dynamics of HIV/AIDS” workshops.

YOUTH HIV/AIDS, STI, AND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

The Community Education team facilitated interactive youth-focused workshops for more than 700 youth this year in public schools and alternative education settings.

The Triple Threat Youth Peer Education Project trained youth volunteers as peer educators, who in turn facilitated workshops among their peers. Through this project, HIV Edmonton conducted needs assessments and formed new relationships with youth and youth service providers. As a result, HIV Edmonton is better able to serve youth living in care (group homes, shelters), incarcerated youth, and youth enrolled in life-skills training in alternative education settings.

JOINING THE TRIPLE THREAT PROGRAM HAS MADE A HUGE impact on my life. When I first came to the program I had no idea what HIV/AIDS was and I had a completely different outlook. This program opened my eyes and made me realize that the youth of today can really make a difference and that there are so many people out there that need help, but can't always ask for it.

Youth peer educator, age 15

In the summer of 2007, SIHA and HIV Edmonton's Summer Student Program conducted 37 presentations at 5 schools across Edmonton.

BEING HOMOSEXUAL AND FROM A CONSERVATIVE FAMILY, attending this conference immensely impacted my life. To see a community of people articulating and demanding for LGBTQ rights made me feel proud of who I label myself as. Presenting at the conference showed me that I can have a voice to express who I am and to give dignity to the LGBTQ community.

Youth peer educator, age 22

Youth peer educators also completed a Youth Zine Project in partnership with a sexual minority youth group, Youth Understanding Youth. The zines were distributed among the participants and showcased in the Canadian AIDS Society's *InFocus* magazine. The youth peer educators received scholarships to attend and present their 'zines in a workshop at the Outrights Human Rights Conference in Calgary.

Thank you to all of the youth peer educators who devoted their time, skills, and energy, and to the Wild Rose Foundation for funding this two-year project.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Guest speakers providing lived experiences and a unique points of view are a highlight of our workshops. This year, the Community Education program was greatly enhanced by the stories of Curtis, David, Jasmine and several others. Their speaking skills, wisdom, and courage are beyond value and sincerely appreciated.

University students interested in HIV/AIDS education have provided support in terms of research, workshop facilitation, and workshop development this year. Their contribution toward enhancing the Community Education program is very much appreciated.

STUDENTS' INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SIHA)

HIV Edmonton renewed its partnership agreement with SIHA to reflect changes in our relationship over the past several years. SIHA and HIV Edmonton continue to work together to facilitate the Think Positive, Test Negative workshops in schools across Edmonton. This year, HIV Edmonton trained approximately 30 students in SIHA's local and global chapters. HIV Edmonton continues to support SIHA as it expands its curriculum.

Out of youth surveyed in the
Triple Threat Evaluation.

89%

SAID THEY HAD MORE
KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT
THEMSELVES FROM HIV/AIDS.

69%

STATED THEY WERE MORE
COMFORTABLE TALKING
ABOUT HIV/AIDS AFTER
THE PRESENTATION.

CANADIAN AIDS TREATMENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE (CATIE)

HIV Edmonton completed its third and final phase as a CATIE capacity-building partner. This phase included a number of treatment education activities. CATIE facilitated a treatment integration workshop with HIV Edmonton staff as well as a two-day treatment workshop attended by 20 people from the Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) and the community.

CATIE also sponsored an HIV Edmonton representative to attend the annual Canadian Association for HIV Research Conference (CAHR) and the Pre-CAHR Learning Institute. Two HIV Edmonton staff were also able to attend a Bodymapping Train-the-Trainer workshop. As a result of the CATIE partnership and these training opportunities, HIV Edmonton has updated its treatment library, developed a treatment workshop, trained staff in HIV/AIDS research, and is planning a Bodymapping Retreat for fall 2008.

37 presentations
in 5 schools

133 volunteers

PRIDE WEEK

HIV Edmonton kicked off Pride 2007 by co-sponsoring the Pride Awards at City Hall. There, we revealed a new award to the community—The HIV Edmonton Youth Leadership Award. This award, with bursary, was developed so community members could recognize the youth and other individuals who make a difference in the lives of sexual minority youth. HIV Edmonton's own youth volunteers made an appearance at the annual Pride Parade. They donned the rainbow colours of pride, intertwined themselves with red ribbon, and marched, skipped, and danced down Jasper Avenue. Their efforts and antics won HIV Edmonton the “Best Walking Entry” award for the second year in a row.

ASSESSMENT OF HIV/AIDS SERVICE NEEDS IN REGIONS 5 AND 7

Early in 2008, HIV Edmonton was notified by the Alberta Community HIV Fund (ACHF) that HIV Edmonton would receive funding to provide services in East Central Health Region (#5) and Aspen Health Region (#7—the area east of Whitecourt, not including Whitecourt) for the 2008–2009 fiscal year. Although we had received some funding in the past, we were unable to provide comprehensive services in these regions. Within the parameters of the additional 2008 ACHF funding, HIV Edmonton will use community input to determine and offer specific, targeted services to better meet the needs of these regions' populations.

Before delivering new services, an assessment of HIV/AIDS service needs in regions 5 and 7 was conducted. The purpose of the assessment was to seek input from individuals/organizations currently providing HIV services, or interested in participating in developing a plan for providing additional HIV services.

Despite the different target populations in each region resulting from the demographical and geographical/industrial differences between them, the results of the survey and focus group(s) demonstrated significant interest from both regions in the services HIV Edmonton may be able to offer.

Commonalities existed across the two regions in the enthusiasm for access to information through a toll-free line to HIV Edmonton staff, support services for diagnosed individuals in these communities, and access to regular updates and HIV/AIDS education for youth, providers, and community agencies. While this funding does not cover work on First Nations, significant opportunity still exists for collaboration with existing service providers in regions 5 and 7, including Aboriginal (First Nations / Metis) organizations, to enhance service provision to people living with HIV and those at risk in these regions.

EVENTS

AIDS WALK FOR LIFE

For the 17th year in a row, HIV Edmonton held the AIDS Walk for Life, a fundraising event that is replicated in 130 Canadian cities to support local HIV/AIDS programs and services. 244 walkers raised an amazing \$66,500. Support from walkers, sponsors, and those who raised pledges made this year's walk another success.

SPONSORS:

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| · HiQ Soft Inc. | · GAP | · Venture Publishing |
| · Starbucks | · Cookies by George | · Laurie Hawn |
| · Streetworks | · RJA MediCentres | · Peterson Walker LLP |

Friend

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| · Bear Hands
Holistic Care &
Consultation | · Myros Pharmacy | · French Meadow
Bakery Cafe |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|

244 Walk for Life participants

21 generous Walk for Life sponsors

2 new community discussions

\$87,528 raised by the Walk

SPRING FOR LIFE

2007 was our last Spring for Life flower sales event. HIV Edmonton sold over 5,000 flowers and raised a small amount of funds. In spring 2008 the Fund Development Committee analysed the sale's return on investment and determined that the event was no longer viable.

AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

This year, to honour AIDS Awareness Week leading up to World AIDS Day, we hosted two community discussions. The first, called Then/Now, brought together some of the most senior and newest voices in the HIV Edmonton community. The second, called Local/Global, aimed at building upon the success of last year's We Are the Remedy event held at Remedy Café. In partnership with the Art Gallery of Alberta and Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival, HIV Edmonton was part of a reception on World AIDS Day at the Art Gallery celebrating the end of a Queer Youth art show and a day of family art workshops. This year, HIV Edmonton also hosted the annual AIDS Vigil, the final event of the week.



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