



AIDS
WALK
Atlanta
MUSIC FESTIVAL & 5K RUN

AHF **INSIDE SCOOP**

2024 Q2



Excited AIDS Walk Atlanta runners take off for charity.

AIDS WALK ATLANTA

MEET THE BENEFICIARIES ON THE GROUND

While HIV and AIDS have fallen out of the spotlight in recent years, the epidemic is far from over. An estimated 1.2 million people in the US are living with HIV, and about 13% of them don't know it.


AIDS Walk Atlanta (AWA) brings attention to this issue, educates, and inspires our community to work together to support the almost 40,000 people living with HIV in the greater Atlanta area.

Fundraising for AIDS WALK Atlanta plays a vital role in supporting AWA beneficiaries, the organizations that provide crucial services to individuals living with HIV and AIDS in and around Atlanta.

This year AWA kicks off on September 28th, and you can show your support for these organizations by visiting aidswalkatlanta.org to help fundraise or join a team.

The 12 AIDS Walk Atlanta beneficiaries that provide resources and support for people living with HIV to thrive and lead fulfilling lives are:

A Vision for Hope, Aniz, AID Atlanta, Bridge of Light, Center for Black Women's Wellness, Georgia Equality, Georgia Harm Reduction, I am Human Foundation, Lost N Found Youth, Positive Impact Health Centers, Thrive SS, and Trans Women of Color Healing Project.

Get to know every beneficiary and the amazing work they do. 

COMMUNITY

ADVOCATES AT WORK

A Vision 4 Hope

A Vision 4 Hope is a non-profit organization located in Fulton County, Georgia, dedicated to providing support, resources, and opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive and create a brighter future. It's a pioneering organization that combines both community and faith-based initiatives in its region. Visit a avision4hope.org to learn more.



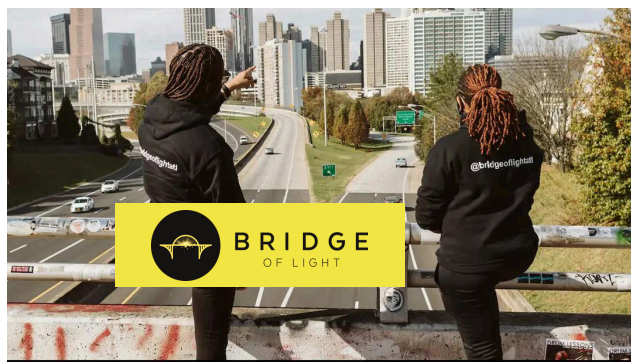
Aniz

Aniz, Inc. is on a mission to promote emotional and physical wellness through mental and emotional support services and sexual health education to reduce risk behaviors in individuals affected by sexual health disparities in Atlanta. Visit aniz.org to learn more.



Bridge of Light

Established in 2015, Bridge of Light is an Atlanta-based, non-profit organization empowering people who are unhoused or living in poverty. They provide resources and safe spaces to restore dignity and hope, countering the stigmas of homelessness. Visit bridgeoflightatl.org to learn more.



RESTORING HOPE TO INDIVIDUALS

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Celebrating 30 years and counting of empowering women to become whole, healed, and well, the Center for Black Women's Wellness (CBWW) offers low/no-cost healthcare, health education, prenatal visits, financial literacy, and micro-business training. Visit cbww.org to learn more.

Georgia Equality

Georgia Equality focuses on pro-equality legislation and electing fair-minded officials and voter education, registration, and mobilization, promoting LGBTQ rights. Visit georgiaequality.org to learn more.

Georgia Harm Reduction

Georgia Harm Reduction Coalition, Inc. (GHRC) is a statewide wellness organization committed to promoting health and dignity by reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, STI, and Substance Use within vulnerable communities. Visit georgiaharmreduction.org to learn more.



DESTINED TO CHANGE OUTCOMES

Lost N Found Youth

An Atlanta nonprofit that seeks to end homelessness among Atlanta's LGBTQ+ youth. They were turned away when attempting to place queer youth into local shelters and youth aid programs and resolved to find other solutions. Visit Infy.org to learn more.



I am Human Foundation

I Am Human was created to empower the lives of LGBTQIA individuals. Their goal is to create a safe space for individuals who are homeless, living with HIV, and trans youth. Visit iamhumanfoundation.org to learn more.



Positive Impact Health Centers

A comprehensive HIV/AIDS Service organization with a mission to give Georgian's a life worth loving. Positive Impact Health Centers provides medical services, emotional wellness and recovery programs, pharmacy services, support programs, prevention, screenings, immunizations, and testing services. Visit positiveimpacthealthcenters.org to learn more.



EMPOWERING

PEOPLE TO THRIVE

Trans Women Of Color Healing Project.

The Trans Women of Color (TWOC) Healing Project's mission is to speak knowledge to power and combat the erasure of Trans lives, narratives, and, most importantly, Trans contributions to society. Their goal is to raise awareness for the great work of trans women of color, their communities, relationships, and movements. Visit twochealingproject.org to learn more.



THRIVE SS

Thrive Support Service is building support networks for people living with HIV across the country. Their mission is to achieve health equity for Black gay men through direct support, advocacy, and building collective community power. Visit thrivess.org to learn more.



AID ATLANTA

MEET THE FOUNDERS OF AIDS WALK ATLANTA



AHF & AID Atlanta have been working together since 2015


AID Atlanta has been providing HIV/AIDS-related services, care, and education since its inception in 1982.

The agency was established in response to the devastating impact that HIV/AIDS was having on the Atlanta community.

In the face of fear and bigotry, founding members volunteered their time to provide support and education

The organization quickly expanded to engage Black and Latino populations and meet the evolving needs of our diverse community in response to the epidemic.

Today, AID Atlanta offers a broad range of services and is the most comprehensive AIDS service organization in the Southeast

AID Atlanta currently offers HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, including (but not limited to) HIV Medical Care, HIV/STD Screening, PrEP, Community HIV Prevention Programs, Linkage Services, Case Management, and a state-wide Information Hotline. The mission of AID Atlanta is to reduce new HIV infections and improve the quality of life of its members and the community by breaking barriers and building community. 



AID Atlanta opens its doors to a brand new facility in 2023

Thriving



HIVcare.org



AHF

Eye Syphilis

is Serious

freeSTDcheck.org




AHF



POWERED BY IDENTITY FLUX IN 2024

AHF's Affinity group, FLUX, led by International President, Her Majesty Queen Victoria Ortega, and International Vice President, Her Majesty Queen Chela DeMuir, continued to fulfill its mission of raising the profile of the Trans & Gender Non-conforming Community as Flux celebrated its 7th year. With its formula of producing inspiring and impactful events, content creation centering on health and "four-dimensional wellness," and its of, by, and for community ethic, FLUX is a leading voice in the US and (soon) the world with chapters in Mexico City Guadelarja, the UK, Brazil and India. In 2021, FLUX & AHF made history, joining with the oldest Black Trans-led organization, Queen Chela's Unique Women's Coalition to create The Connie Norman Transgender Empowerment Center, a 20,000 square foot community space.

Connie Norman has become a hub of community life, averaging three community events per week, but also houses six other trans-led nonprofits. This year, FLUX made history again, turning the Connie Norman Center into an official voting center. "Civic engagement and voter registration are one of this year's pillars of advocacy," declares Her Majesty Queen Victoria. FLUX will host a series of Town Halls to inform and engage our community. The voting center is an inclusive and safe space for all voters. 




BLACC TESTS AT HAITIAN HEALTH FAIR

In Little Haiti, Miami, AHF, BLACC (Black Leadership AIDS Crisis Coalition), HAPC, and other local community organizations teamed up during Haitian Heritage Month for a Haitian Health & Resource Fair.

The event featured on-site HIV testing, breast cancer screenings, community resources and a panel discussion hosted by BLACC.

Panelists encouraged attendees to take charge of their sexual health by engaging in open conversations with partners, healthcare providers, and community resources. By normalizing discussions about sex and promoting a supportive environment, the community can foster healthier attitudes toward sexual well-being.

A key focal point of the panel was advocacy for regular medical visits. 

Panelists underscored the preventive benefits of routine check-ups in managing chronic conditions and promoting overall well-being. They stressed that early detection through regular screenings is crucial for maintaining optimal health.

Cultural sensitivity in healthcare delivery was also highlighted. Panelists emphasized the need for healthcare providers to understand and respect cultural nuances within the Haitian-American community. They discussed strategies for improving healthcare access by addressing language barriers, cultural beliefs, and socioeconomic factors.





The Latino Outreach and Understanding Division

SOMOSLOUD

is an affinity group of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) dedicated to addressing the social and health disparities affecting the Latine community. Originally founded by passionate individuals in 2013, SOMOSLOUD seeks to make a difference by combating HIV/AIDS in underserved areas while also prioritizing Latine issues that affect our community. Through culturally relevant marketing campaigns and direct action, we aim to drive change for our gente! SOMOSLOUD has chapters in major cities across the United States and Latin America. Within our network, volunteers not only find a sense of community but also support one another in our mission to empower and improve the health of Latine communities. We are familia!



SOMOSLOUD Pillars

1. **Educate:** Providing culturally relevant information and resources to promote healthier lifestyles.
2. **Motivate:** Offering support and amplifying voices within our community to drive positive change.
3. **Advocate:** Empowering individuals through campaigns that encourage action for the betterment of our community.





SOMOSLOUD
IQUITOS
supports
school-aged
children

SOMOS

A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE
BY SOMOSLOUD IQUITOS
(PERU)

The Loreto region in the Amazon Jungle in Peru faces significant educational challenges, prompting SOMOSLOUD IQUITOS to organize an event aimed at supporting the development of children. The event, "Al Cole Con LOUD" (Back to School with LOUD), was created to provide educational and training opportunities to 100 children from three different settlements in the districts of San Juan Bautista, Belén, and Punchana, in the city of IQUITOS.

LOUD

BRINGING WOMEN
TOGETHER WITH
SOMOSLOUD CHICAGO

During this support group session, participants engaged in open discussions about the cultural and societal pressures faced by Latina women, examining how these influences might impact self-esteem, personal growth, and relationships. Through the sharing of experiences and collective wisdom, members challenged stereotypes and overcame limiting beliefs, leading to personal liberation and empowerment. The gathering provided a platform to explore cultural values, gender roles, and the experience of growing up in the USA. To make the event accessible to all, professional portraits were provided to attendees, recognizing the potential financial constraints associated with such services. 

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT SOMOSLOUD



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Chicago's Public Health Division Sr. Program Manager, Lluvia Ramirez (she/they) is a committed advocate for LGBTQ and trans rights, and she provides healthcare and social services to her community.

In this employee spotlight interview, learn how community activism is a part of Lluvia's DNA, the work that makes her stand out to her regionals, and some surprising facts about her youth.

Inside Scoop: Explain to me what your official title is at AHF, what your role is, and a little bit about what you do in your day.

Lluvia:

My official title here at AHF is Senior Program Manager for the Public Health Division in Chicago. I oversee the Wellness Center. We do testing, get people on PrEP and PEP when they need it, and provide treatment for people who test positive for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis or HIV. I feel like we're the control center. We meet people, and we start to push them out to where they need to go into the other departments that we have here. I also do a lot of community engagement within the city of Chicago since I'm very connected with a lot of organizations throughout the city. I've helped start our eco-friendly, sustainable fashion show here in Chicago during Chicago Fashion Week. I help organize the Taste of Northalstead, where we help check people in, provide information about PrEP, and check in people for the Crawl. I also sit on a couple of HIV planning committees and boards here in Chicago. I sit on the board of the first Black Trans Led Social Service organization in the Midwest called "Life Is Work".

Inside Scoop:

Wow! That's incredible. Is it that community work that led you to AHF or did you kind of stumble into AHF?



Lluvia:

I knew about the organization from being in LA, so when AHF came to Chicago, I saw that an Out of The Closet store had popped up here in the gayborhood where we're at. I worked for Howard Brown Health before I came here, one of the country's largest LGBT-specific organizations. I ended up leaving Howard Brown and then coming over here because I knew it was similar work to what I was doing in line with my mission in life and in my values, which is I tend to put community first.

I wanted to work somewhere where access [to care] was easy for the people that I knew in my community, so I started this work. I started work back in 2007 as a drag queen. I used to host a drag show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I'm from, and they saw that I had a big following, so they recruited me to be a recruiter.

LLUVIA

SO I WAS GETTING PEOPLE IN TO GET TESTED DURING MY DRAG SHOWS

I was able to get 10, 15 people in a night.

Inside Scoop:

Do you see a lot of people coming in to get PEP more or PrEP?

Lluvia:

Well, we're starting to notice more of an influx in PEP, especially around, well, when it starts to get warm outside. We tend to see an influx around when it's LGBTQ Festival time.

Inside Scoop:

When it's party season.

Lluvia:

It's Party Season. I always like to tell people, "It's like Plan B, but..."

RAMIREZ

... YOU GOT TO COME AND SEE US WITHIN 72 HOURS."

And since I've been here, I've gotten a lot more responsibilities, especially with the community engagement component. I'm an AHF ambassador for Pride.

Inside Scoop:

How do you like being an Ambassador?

Lluvia:

It's a good way of doing employee engagement. A lot of the employees here, they call me Mother. So, a lot of the people who work here are my daughters. So usually, when there's stuff going on, I'm like, "Girl, I need you to come do this. We need volunteers."

Inside Scoop:

Being called mother, and your natural draw to community affiliation, do you think those are traits that led your Regionals to nominate you for this?

Lluvia on the runway at Chicago Fashion Week





AMBASSADOR

"I THINK SO.
I THINK IT'S THAT THEY SEE MY DRIVE..."



and how dedicated I am to the work and also how dedicated I'm to getting things done. And I follow through with almost everything that I do. I love taking on extra projects, especially if I'm working in a place that I have a passion for. Here, I don't mind helping get AHF known out here in our city. I know we're known internationally, but as far as in the pockets where we really need to make a difference, promoting us in those spaces. I think that they've noticed that because almost everything they've ever given me to do, I go above and beyond.

A lot of the employees here, they call me Mother. So, a lot of the people who work here are my daughters.

Inside Scoop:

What else has attracted you to AHF?

Lluvia:


It was more or less Michael Weinstein and his mission from when he first started this organization. I just saw that he had the passion to help people who needed help. I think that's one of the main reasons I came here, and it was a step up in my career, moving to one of the largest HIV/AIDS organizations in the world. However, it was influenced by Michael Weinstein and his mission here at AHF. I could have gone to many other places, but I came here.

Inside Scoop:

If there was something you wanted the public to know about AHF that they don't, what would it be?

Lluvia:

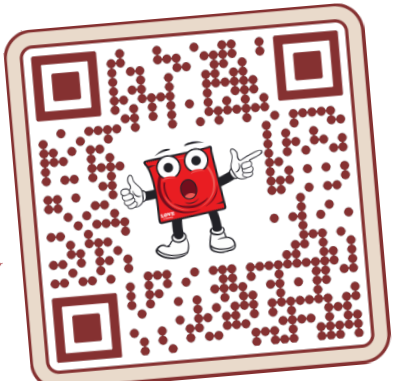
I think for me it's just more or less that we have our hands in a lot of different things. And I think that at least here in Chicago, we haven't experienced it yet, but I'd love to tell people that we're involved in food pantries, we're involved in housing, we're involved in a lot of advocacy work and things like that. Those are all things that as we're building AHF here in Chicago, those are all things that are going to be able to come here and we're going to be able to offer those resources to our community.

Lluvia Ramirez has a warm and friendly smile, and she's a fierce advocate for her community—one she loves so much; she's an open book. But one thing her community might be surprised to know is that she starred in an episode of Jerry Springer—apparently the fights aren't real. 

Find Jimmi

Circle all of the Jimmis you see (up to 6) and upload (1) photo of your finds on the QR code link for up to 3,000 A&B points.

This one does not count!






THE NORTH STAR IN ACTION

WATCH HERE

At AHF, we want to continue to inspire you to exhibit North Star principles to help us improve our client relations and increase our census in an effort to eradicate HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases from the world.

Now, you can hear from staff around the organization about how they put our North Star into practice in a brand new North Star video series. Scan the QR code below to watch. 



**SCAN
ME!**



NORTH STAR

CENSUS GROWTH THROUGH OUTREACH, RETENTION AND A SEAMLESS CLIENT EXPERIENCE

OUTREACH:
CAST A WIDER NET,
IMPROVING ACCESS TO
OUR SERVICES.

RETENTION:
PREVENT ANY PAIN
POINTS THAT WILL DRIVE
A CLIENT AWAY.

CLIENT EXPERIENCE:
ENGAGE AND TREAT
OUR CLIENTS
LIKE FAMILY.




WeRx

FILL BETTER WITH AHF PHARMACY

Ready to join forces with AHF for better health outcomes?

Switch your prescriptions to our pharmacy to help provide free-to-low-cost care.

WeRx is an employee program that helps us make a difference.

In 2023, we launched WeRx to encourage all staff to use AHF Pharmacy to fill their prescriptions so that we can better serve our 2.0 million clients.

Because 96 cents of every dollar earned at AHF Pharmacy goes back into HIV care, your prescriptions will save more lives.


And the more people who fill with AHF, the more resources we'll have to expand our reach in areas without HIV care.

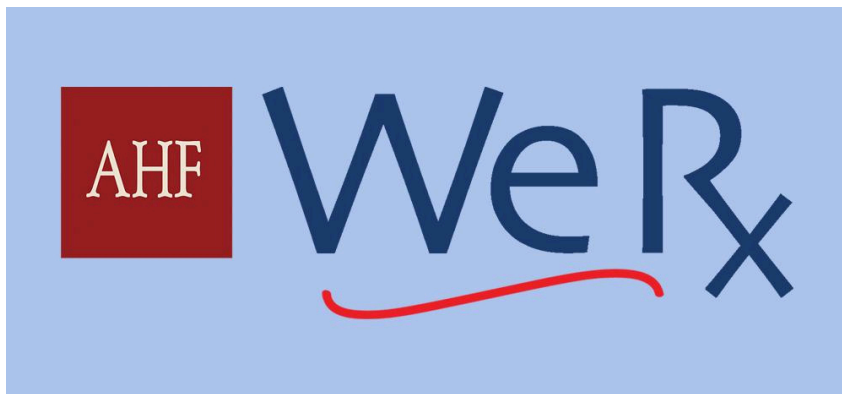


How it Werx

- Step 1: Switch to AHF Pharmacy by filling out [this form](#).
- Step 2: Once you've switched, show proof of your first AHF-filled prescription by filling out [this form](#).

What you get

- 5,000 Above & Beyond points when you switch and show proof.
- Or 5,000 Above & Beyond points when you show proof of any current AHF prescriptions. 



SUMMER IS HERE

ENJOYING EMPLOYEE-APPRECIATION EVENTS

Whether park, zoo, carnival, or BBQ

AHF is gathering to celebrate our amazing staff and the work they do year-round.

Ready your summer essentials—sunscreen, shades, and Flip-Flops—because AHF staff picnics are coming up fast. And don't forget to RSVP to your region's picnic through an Eventbrite when you receive your email invitation.

See pics from past events for inspiration for what's to come!





AHF families gather in Columbus, New York, and Los Angeles



JOIN THE PARTY IN THE PARK

REGISTER AT [AIDSWALKATLANTA.ORG](https://aidswalkatlanta.org)

SPOTLIGHT

MEET AHF
AMBASSADOR
LLUVIA RAMIREZ

AFFINITIES

LEARN ABOUT
THE IMPACT
THEY'RE MAKING
IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES

AIDS WALK ATLANTA

MEET OUR 2024
BENEFICIARIES