



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Happy New Year! This past year was a banner one for ARG and its numerous programs and initiatives. The agency and its staff made tremendous strides in improving the services and quality of care received by all ARG clientele. I could not be happier with how the previous year turned out, and I am looking forward to an even more successful 2012.

In March of last year, ARG was awarded \$39,000 from the Indiana State Department of Health to increase our testing and outreach components. As a result, ARG doubled the amount of tests it provided, free of charge, to residents in southwestern Indiana. In September of last year, the staff decided to take on a huge task in the organization and implementation of *Graceful Giving*, an initiative providing gifts and food baskets for clients in need during the holidays. This project went over very well, securing sponsorship from individuals, churches and businesses throughout the region. In all,

204 individuals received gifts and 100 households received food baskets and gift cards. Kudos to the staff for taking on such a meaningful project.

Finally, ARG was awarded "AIDS Service Organization of the Year" by the Indiana Minority AIDS Council on World AIDS Day. This award demonstrates the commitment of both the staff and the community toward helping those most in need. I could not be more proud of the work we have done in 2011 and look forward to more triumphs and successes in the coming years!

All the best,

Brian Revalee, MSW, MPSA

### Your AIDS Resource Group Staff

**Samantha Buente**  
*Care Coordinator*

**Tim Carter**  
*HIV Testing Counselor*

**Stacey Easley**  
*Comprehensive Risk Counselor, Prevention Program Manager*

**Tracy Huck**  
*HIV Services Program Manager*

**Molly Hartshorn**  
*Housing Specialist*

**Shannon Loehrlein**  
*Care Coordinator*

**Lesi Nelson**  
*Care Coordinator*

**Brian Revalee**  
*Executive Director*

**Grace Winiger**  
*HIV Prevention Specialist*

**Emily Woodruff**  
*Supportive Care Counselor*

**Matthew Zielske**  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Mardis Bras 2012!

ARG and Casino Aztar present the 3rd Annual Mardi Bras event, hosted in the conference center at Casino Aztar on Saturday February 18. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Mardi Bras is electric, classy, fun and will feature artwork that takes the form of corsets, brassieres or eveningwear. Tickets go on sale on January 27 for \$25. Limited VIP seating is available (see website for details). Proceeds benefit the clientele at ARG. ARG serves over 3,000 individuals annually with HIV prevention education, specialized HIV case management, substance abuse counseling, financial assistance and HIV/hepatitis C testing—all free of charge. For more information on Artists, Sponsors and Entertainment as well as to purchase tickets, please visit [www.mardibras.org](http://www.mardibras.org).

### Graceful Giving

As the fresh, young, new administrative assistant at ARG, I wasn't sure what to expect. Although I am an open-minded individual, I didn't know how to prepare for the experiences I would have here. What I've witnessed is nothing short of inspirational, moving and humbling. Surrounded by an office of people who work tirelessly with no concern for recognition is an amazing sight. That was never more evident than our recent Christmas campaign entitled, "Graceful Giving." The community out pouring to give gifts; wrap presents and provide food was much appreciated. The staff spent long hours creating food baskets, wrapping presents, shopping and then delivering those packages to various clients who couldn't themselves come get them. The appreciation on the faces of clients was heart warming. The experience really dug deep for me when a client broke into uncontrollable tears because they received two big bags of food for their pets. Something that appears on the outside to be so simple for them is something special. In total ARG and the community served 100 households and over 200 people; proof that when we come together and combine our resources we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. I, for one, am sold on what ARG does and have without a doubt been captivated by the idea that change starts with us. 2012 is going to be a great year for ARG, its staff, clients, contributors and the community. Stick around and be apart of it. I promise it'll be worth it.

- Matthew Zielske, Administrative Assistant

## Care Coordination Update

During the fourth quarter of 2011, the AIDS Resource Group Care Coordination program served a total of 204 clients, 7 of which were new intakes. The care coordinators provided almost 1,200 hours of service to clients and were able to help 15 clients access health insurance during this time. Through referrals from the Care Coordinators to ARG's Housing Specialist, clients were assisted with various housing related costs. Over \$15,000 from long-term HOPWA was used to help clients with rent. Over \$9,000 was spent in short-term HOPWA to assist clients with rent, mortgages and utilities. In addition, over \$1,100 was spent in housing placement HOPWA in order to assist clients in eliminating housing barriers. The Care Coordinators also provided financial assistance to clients for rent, utilities, medications, physician visits and transportation from the Indiana AIDS Fund, with about \$1,727 being spent in this quarter alone.

*- Tracy Huck, MSW  
HIV Services Program Manager*

## Supportive Care Update

During the fourth quarter of 2011 the supportive care program served 33 clients, two of which were new intakes. As the supportive care counselor I continue to provide counseling and referral services to clients struggling with substance use and tobacco cessation concerns. There continues to be a growing number of participants at ARG's three monthly support groups. Family Reunion (Support Group) attendance has steadily increased to a record number of 18 client participants in the November 2011 meeting. WINGS (We Inspire Nurture & Give Support), which launched in August 2011, provides a safe space to explore healthy coping mechanisms such as deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, yoga, and interactive discussions about wellness. In partnership with the Patoka Valley AIDS Community Action Group we now offer a third support group in Jasper, IN. This group targets ARG's clients who reside in the northern counties of Region 12, though all clients are welcome and encouraged to attend.

*- Emily Woodruff, MSW  
Supportive Care Counselor*

# SAVE THE DATE



**20th Annual SW Indiana AIDS Walk**  
**Old Courthouse—Downtown Evansville**  
**Saturday, September 15, 2012**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

## To Your Health License Plates Benefit HIV/AIDS Programs

Not a fan of the new Indiana license plates? By purchasing a "To Your Health" license plate when you renew each year, the proceeds will help to benefit the Indiana AIDS Fund. IAF is a generous supporter of HIV/AIDS education programs in southwestern Indiana, and has been integral in helping the AIDS Resource Group sustain their Youth Education Initiative and Direct Emergency Financial Assistance Program for many years. License plates can be purchased at any License Branch in Indiana.

## Support the Indiana AIDS Fund by Remembering a Loved One

Want to remember a loved one lost to HIV/AIDS? The Indiana AIDS Memorial, funded by the Joseph F. Miller Foundation, is located in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, IN (northeast corner of section 90). For an order form, please contact the Indiana AIDS Fund.

**Indiana AIDS Fund**  
**429 E. Vermont Street, Suite 300**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**  
**(317) 630-1805**

**Don't Forget SPOTLIGHT 2012**  
**Monday, May 7 at 7:30 pm**  
**Clowes Memorial Hall**  
**Butler University—Indianapolis, IN**  
**Tickets start at \$15**

