

THANK YOU

GRANTS AND DONATIONS:

Abbvie Canada
All Charities Campaign
A Women's Event (Pride 2014)
City of Winnipeg
Club 200
CN Railroaders in the Community program
Gilead Sciences Canada
Hilary Druzman
Janssen Inc.
Merck Canada Inc.
Ontario HIV Treatment Network
Saskatchewan HIV/AIDS Research Endeavour
United Way's Donor-Directed Giving Service
ViiV Healthcare
The Winnipeg Foundation (Uncovered)
Women's College Hospital

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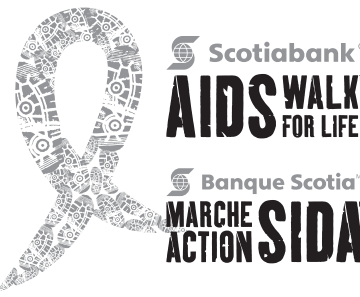
SCOTIABANK AIDS WALK FOR LIFE:

Adam and Eve
The Banana Republic/Gap Team
Benjiman Figler & Somebody Language
Beth Thrall, Scotiabank
Brett Howe
Canadian AIDS Society
Chocolate Zen Bakery
City of Winnipeg
Club 200
Davids Tea
Debra Bruce
Deseo Bistro
emk clothing
Energy 106
Grands 'n' More
JD Francis
Jenny Gerbasi
John Sharp, National Coordinator
Jonnies Sticky Buns
Jordan Knight
Kim Brennan & Mardi Gras Face Art
Knox United Church
Lilac Bakery
MAC Cosmetics
Manitoba Museum
Michelle Burkowski & Starbucks Coffee
Nine Circles staff pancake lunch
Nyle Hawrylyshen, Industry Audio Productions
Prairie Theatre Exchange

Pictoria Secrete & Gloria Booths
Pride Winnipeg
Rob Kristjansson
Scott Carman
Sisters in Spirit
Sydney's at the Forks
Tall Grass Prairie Bakery
Tracy Koga & Shaw TV
Winnipeg Art Gallery
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
Workboot Factory
WOW Hospitality

THANK YOU AS WELL TO OUR PRIMARY FUNDERS:

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Public Health Agency of Canada



Scotiabank
AIDS WALK FOR LIFE

Banque Scotia
MARCHE ACTION SIDA

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2015
Central Park, 400 Cumberland Ave
11:30am - 3pm

Show your support for Manitobans living with HIV. Plan to walk, volunteer or donate today!

walkforlife@ninecircles.ca
www.aidswalkforlife.ca

PARTNERS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

2014-15: PROGRAM BRIEFS

CLINICAL PROGRAM

The Nine Circles clinical team has dedicated great time and energy to improving efficiencies in the clinical program, allowing us to expand access to primary care services over the past year. In 2014-15, Nine Circles accepted 172 new patients, which includes both clients for HIV care and general primary care. This past year there was a total of 11,529 visits to the clinic.

Community partnerships have been key to expanding our services. The clinical team is excited by a new partnership with Dr. K. Kaita, Director of the Viral Hepatitis Investigative Unit at Health Sciences Centre. This partnership will allow Nine Circles to expand access to Hepatitis C (HCV) treatment for eligible clients through a model of care similar to the Manitoba HIV Program.

PREVENTION

This past year, Nine Circles' prevention team hosted three Sexual Health Assessment trainings with 44 clinicians and frontline service providers. The goal of the training was to increase the capacity of individuals to provide STI testing. The team also focused on HIV 101 and Sexual Health 101 training, providing 142 community members with the opportunity to expand their knowledge.

Our STI Testing Nurses took Nine Circles services beyond the walls of 705 Broadway, establishing new partnerships to provide HIV/STI testing. Last year they

started testing high-risk and sexually exploited female youth at Project Neecheewam. They continue to partner with the Youth Addiction Stabilization Unit for regular testing, as well as joining R.A.Y for their annual testing event and doing testing and education for newcomers with SERC. In all, the team participated in three testing events. 24 community testing clinics were held with a total of 168 attendees.

HEALTH PROMOTION & SOCIAL SUPPORT

The Health Promotion and Allied Care team developed and facilitated 332 groups and workshops over the last year with 2,414 attendees. Clients had an opportunity to share and learn in programs such as Living Well with HIV, Get Better Together!, Dream Big, cooking group and Aboriginal cultural programming.

The Mental Health Therapists developed a new group therapy program, Seeking Resilience, a four-week closed group for clients who have experienced and been impacted by any type of trauma. The focus was on learning skills to cope with flashbacks, substance use and emotions. In addition to running groups, the therapists made 700 contacts with top issues being relationships, anxiety and depression.

Another new program developed this year was Diabetes 101, put on by our Dietician and an RN. The program was designed to

help participants understand and manage their diabetes.

Nine Circles' Client Advocate and Long Term Support Coordinator made 2,448 contacts in 2014-15. The top issues for clients included income assistance, activities of daily living, housing and medical assistance. Outreach Workers, who spend the majority of their time outside the office, had 2,727 contacts with clients, helping with appointment management, transportation support and isolation/social support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & FUND DEVELOPMENT

2014-15 was a year of growth for both the Community Engagement and Fund Development programs. In June, a large number of staff turned out for Pride Winnipeg where Nine Circles walked in the parade as Team Red and took home the prize for "Best Representation of the Pride Theme." There were also two community fundraisers during Pride that brought in \$4,600 in donations.

In September, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life was a huge success. Attendance was over 300 people, and \$47,000 was raised for people living with HIV in Manitoba, making it the most successful walk in Nine Circles history. Later in the year, Nine Circles lit up the Legislature in red for World AIDS Day on December 1 and supported media engagement and an education blitz for Sexual & Reproductive Health Awareness Week in February.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mike Payne and Jim Kane with the Honourable Deanne Crothers, Minister of Healthy Living and Seniors, at World AIDS Day 2014.

The Nine Circles Board of Directors is excited to share highlights of our agency's progress towards creating healthier communities for Manitobans.

This spring, Nine Circles completed our **Strategic Planning 2015 - 2018** process with engagement from board, staff, clients and community partners. A new cycle of planning and evaluation will ensure that the strategic plan, program plans, evaluation plans, human resources and financial planning are done on an ongoing basis and are integrated to tie program contributions to the organization's mission and vision.

Building strategic partners and allies in the community was a major effort this year, resulting in extremely successful **Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life** and **World AIDS Day** events. In an environment with limited resources and increasing need for supports within and outside of Winnipeg, it has never been so important for our members and supporters to participate in such public events to raise awareness and, when possible, support our fund development goals. Thank you to all participants and supporters from last year and we look forward to seeing you at this year's walk on September 13!

Nine Circles has been networking with decision makers at all political levels, ensuring that the needs of people living with HIV (PHAs) are heard. Over the summer of 2014, Nine Circles coordinated the **Manitoba HIV Program Consultation**, involving stakeholders from each regional health authority, various provincial departments and external partners. Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the consultation was designed to

advance and support collaboration across Manitoba to bridge the gaps in access to HIV treatment, care and support. 2015 priorities include: securing provincial and regional commitments to a "truly provincial" program, increasing access to services for people living with HIV in Manitoba and securing free antiretroviral medications for all.

In 2014, Nine Circles was **honoured** for our work in the community through the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's "Honouring our Caregivers" award and by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly through a Membership Statement on World AIDS Day. We also received a citation award from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists that acknowledges the contributions to or accomplishments of agencies, programs or individuals to the health and well-being of Canadians.

All of us at Nine Circles would like to extend a special thanks to outgoing volunteer board members Roberta Sarty (Secretary) and Elisha Watanabee. The community-board of Nine Circles is essential to our success. We wish our outgoing members well in their future endeavors. Thank you as well to our dedicated team of staff at Nine Circles. Best wishes to Erin, Holly, Kim, Salma, Heather P. and Tara who have transitioned to new opportunities throughout the year.

We welcome the new 2015-16 board members and look forward to the opportunities and challenges in the year ahead.

Mike Payne, Executive Director
Jim Kane, Board President

HIV IN MANITOBA 2014 STATISTICS

There were **87** new clients to HIV care in Manitoba. **66** of those clients were newly diagnosed with HIV.

43% of new HIV clients identified as heterosexual.

30% of new HIV clients identified as MSM (men who have sex with men), the highest proportion since 2009.

38% of new HIV clients are Indigenous people and **36%** identify as female.

61% of new HIV clients *outside* Winnipeg presented late to care. *Inside* Winnipeg, just over **38%** of new cases presented late.

Source: 2014 Manitoba HIV Program Report

FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Visibility: Our Stakeholders know what we're about.

Environment: We create an environment that makes it possible for people to talk about healthy sexuality and behaviours.

Access: We contribute to increasing Manitobans' access to HIV, HCV and STBBI testing, care and support.

Engagement: We make it easier for people to take care of their health on an ongoing basis.

Evidence: Our programs and services are based on the best available evidence.

Source: Nine Circles Strategic Plan: 2015-2018

SPOTLIGHT: THE MANITOBA HIV PROGRAM

The Manitoba HIV Program was established in 2007 as a partnership between Nine Circles Community Health Centre (NC) and Health Sciences Centre – HIV Program (HSC). We provide:

- A seamless point of access to community primary care and hospital-based care: ensuring the right care, at the right time, by the right provider.
- An integrated model of care, using multi-disciplinary teams.
- Specialized client-centered care, treatment, and support for Manitobans living with HIV.

The Manitoba HIV Program was officially endorsed in 2008, by (then) Minister of Healthy Living, Kerri Irvin-Ross.

The Manitoba HIV Program Leadership Team includes: Dr. Ken Kasper (Director, HSC), Dr. Marissa Becker (Associate Director, HSC), Dr. Laurie Ireland (Primary Care Director, NC), Michael Payne (Executive Director, NC), Bobbie Jackson (Manager of Patient Care, HSC), Carla Pindera (Director of Clinical Services, NC) and Tammy Reimer (Director, Allied Care and Health Promotion, NC).

Our efforts are significantly strengthened by **HIV Program primary care partner agencies**, including Aboriginal Health and Wellness, Bridge Care, Gay Men's Health Centre (Our Own Health Centre), Klinik CHC, Mount Carmel CHC, and a growing list of individual partners throughout Manitoba. Securing new primary care partners and establishing a sustainable network for existing partners is a major goal of the leadership team in 2015/16.

Over the summer of 2014, Nine Circles coordinated the **Manitoba HIV Program Consultation**, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and led by Consultation Deroche Consulting. The project engaged Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) as well as provincial and federal partners in a process designed to advance and support collaboration across Manitoba and bridge the gaps in access to HIV treatment, care and support. It was hoped that this process would help to: inform priorities for the Manitoba HIV Program Leadership Team planning; guide RHA planning; clarify role and relationship between the Manitoba HIV Program, RHAs and Province; be a catalyst for action on HIV within the context of the Provincial STBBI

(Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections) Strategy.

Key 2015/16 priorities from the consultation include:

- Building sustainable HIV Program partners.
- Securing commitment for free antiretroviral medications for all Manitobans Living with HIV.
- Keeping HIV care in the community.
- Ensuring quality of care, testing and treatment.
- Establishing leadership, role clarity and accountability.
- Obtaining RHA and Provincial commitment.

Leadership Team members have been working hard to engage community, RHAs, and provincial leadership to secure the necessary commitments and resources needed for action.

Together we are committed to ensuring everyone who tests positive for HIV in Manitoba has the same standard of care and treatment, regardless of where they live in the province.

SPOTLIGHT: THE FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER TEAM

Nine Circles volunteers are a valuable part of our organization. They help at events like the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life, provide support to clients and staff during group programming, keep Nine Circles looking its best by managing poster boards and maintaining plants, provide administrative support and sit on our Board of Directors.

Our largest volunteer team runs our weekly food bank. They've added to the sustainability of an important program and contributed to food security for a marginalized population. In 2014-15, food bank volunteers donated over 1,000 hours of their time, making 2,428 contacts with 238 unique individuals.

Every week, food bank volunteers unload food from the Winnipeg Harvest truck, then sort and repackage it. Because we work with immunosuppressed clients,

there are specific food security issues our team has to take into account, like ensuring that food isn't expired. The volunteers take great pride in making sure the food they're giving our clients is fresh and palatable. For example, they take initiative to sort through produce and weed out mouldy items. During food distribution, they encourage a dignified experience and provide clients with a choice that acknowledges individual dietary preferences as well as living situation, as some clients do not have access to cooking equipment or a fridge. The volunteers are compassionate, non-judgmental, and treat people with dignity. They contribute significantly to breaking down stigma and discrimination often experienced by people living with HIV. From feedback, we've established that clients greatly value the Food Bank program and the contribution of the

volunteers in making the food bank a safe space and a positive experience. They highlighted several aspects of the food bank that they enjoy and value, like improved food security, a welcoming, comfortable and respectful environment, and a fair, efficient system. Thanks to all our volunteers for their work this year!

*Interested in joining the volunteer team?
Contact ninecircles@ninecircles.ca*

**"WE'RE TREATED
LIKE PEOPLE, NOT A
NUMBER"**

**"I FEEL GOOD EVERY
TIME I COME IN"**

Source: Food Bank Client Feedback, August 2014