

Annual Report
2020



DAMIEN
CENTER

REFLECTING ON 2020

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. In it, we want to reflect back on 2020 and what it meant to Damien Center and our clients, while also looking forward to see how Damien Center can expand and meet the needs of our community.

In 2020, seemingly overnight, the world turned upside down and calls for help emerged all around us.

But that is not the end of the story: there was a response to those calls. It came from foundations and as a tremendous outpouring of grassroots generosity from neighbors wanting to help. It came from businesses reconsidering their philanthropy and their role in structural inequities. Even as crises unfolded again and again, support emerged from new quarters of people wanting to help. **This devoted philanthropic community helped Damien Center end 2020 in a healthy financial position.**

And the support was critical. Damien Center's clients suddenly found themselves cut off from many services and unable to meet basic needs—all while managing concerns about being immunocompromised during a pandemic. But Damien Center remained open throughout, striving to adapt to meet these increased and changing needs with programs like:

- Virtual services for clinical care, mental health, and case management
- Ongoing emergency financial assistance, food, and housing assistance
- A new Damien Pharmacy reducing barriers to medication
- Expanding youth services
- Safe shelter in hotels for people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic

This list could go on. But the past year has also clarified several things as we look toward the future. The one-stop shop model is working—and as we expand services, we will only improve its efficacy. However, we need more space to serve clients safely and effectively and house the staff for growing programs; as we look to the future, we will consider how best to expand our one-stop shop.

Damien Center was born out of a crisis. **We will continue to do all that we can to seek out and serve some of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in central Indiana.**

Warmest regards,



Alan Witchey (*he/him/his*)
President & CEO



Garry Elder (*he/him/his*)
Board Chairman (2018–2020)



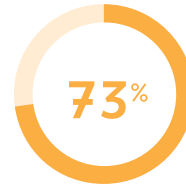
COMMUNITY IMPACT

ONE HOME FOR HIV WELLNESS



VIRAL SUPPRESSION

89% of our medical patients achieved an undetectable viral load compared to the Central Indiana average of 65%.



RETAINED IN CARE

Our clients had a retention rate of 73% compared to the Central Indiana average of 42%.



CLIENTS SERVED

*Through all of our programs, we served **3,334 individuals** in 2020.*



KNOW YOUR STATUS

2,222 free HIV tests were completed in 2020.



QUALITY OF CARE

95% of patients were satisfied with their care.

At the center of Damien Center's success as **One Home for HIV Wellness** is its one-stop shop model, which allows clients access to everything they need to survive and thrive in one place. Our clients face disproportionately high barriers to accessing equitable care.

89% of Damien Center's clients struggle to make ends meet. A majority are people of color and many identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Many experience homelessness or are regularly exposed to drug use or sex work. Housing struggles, mental health issues, poverty, systemic racism, and discrimination are compounded by the medical needs and social stigma related to HIV. The COVID-19 pandemic only increased health risks, isolation, and social and economic insecurity for these individuals.

COMMUNITY FOCUS

OUR SERVICES



LONG-TERM THRIVERS

SURVIVING AND THRIVING WITH HIV

The Damien Center has been offering care to people with HIV for nearly 35 years. In its earliest days, it provided support so that people could die with dignity. But some survived—and the numbers of survivors have greatly increased over time, even though their stories are not widely portrayed in the media or understood by society. HIV is no longer a death sentence for those who can access care; many achieve an undetectable viral load, where they can live a full and healthy life and not risk transmitting the virus sexually.

Some of Damien Center's current clients have been accessing services for nearly as long as the agency has been in existence. These long-term HIV survivors never expected to live so long. In the 1990s and early 2000s, nobody realized that words like "undetectable" and "untransmittable" would ever be applied to HIV.

Jeffrey Tuttle, the Food Pantry Coordinator at the Damien Center, was first diagnosed with HIV on Christmas Day, 2001. Back then, he says, "it was a death sentence. I was helpless, and the Damien Center stepped in. I would not be here if it wasn't for the Damien Center."

But now Jeffrey, like other long-term survivors, is able to take medications and live a normal and happy life. He is no longer afraid of HIV. "I foresee growing old to be an obstacle. But I don't foresee HIV to be an obstacle," Jeffrey shared.

And these long-term survivors do not feel defined by their HIV status. Michelle Harris, another Damien Center client, wears a shirt that reads, "B.I.T.C.H. Beautiful, Intelligent, Transgender, Courageous with HIV/AIDS." She says, "I'm a person. I like to travel. I cook a little bit. I have beautiful grandkids."

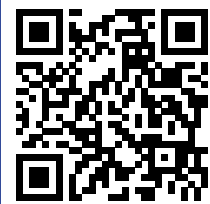
Jeffrey loves being able to give back through his job at the Damien Center. "I found that I could help and lift up my brothers and my sisters at the food pantry window."

"It's like everything has lined up," he says. "I'm thriving. And I am exactly where I should be."

We foresee a future and an end to the epidemic. "No matter what, we're going to be here," says CEO Alan Witchey. "We're going to be here until it's over, and then we're going to be here past that."



Scan the QR Code to watch the full video featuring
Long-Term Thrivers at the Damien Center!



ONE HOME FOR HIV WELLNESS

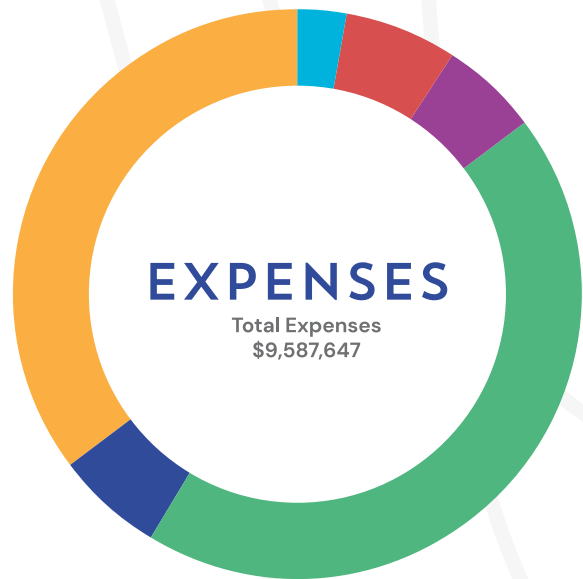
Ebony, a Damien Center client, says that at the Damien Center, it is important that everything is in one building. "You don't have to go to a million places in order to get what you need for HIV and AIDS." You do not have to tell your story over and over again. People help, and they do not judge. "It's really easy to use them.... They get you into services.... You won't go hungry. You make new friends."



REVENUE & EXPENSES



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ■ Program Income
\$3,492,530 | ■ Special Events
\$156,815 | ■ Private Grants
\$824,504 |
| ■ Contract Fees
\$2,796,304 | ■ Client Service Revenue
\$352,177 | ■ Retail Pharmacy
\$297,627 |
| ■ Bequests
\$310,056 | ■ Grant Service Contracts
\$3,325,285 | ■ Unrestricted
\$127,017 |
| | ■ Other & In-Kind
\$26,771 | |



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| ■ Fundraising
\$288,706 | ■ Management and General
\$595,651 | ■ Prevention
\$551,205 |
| ■ Medical Programs
\$4,199,897 | ■ Care Coordination
\$584,542 | ■ Housing Assistance
\$3,367,646 |

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A special thank you to all of the generous restaurants who supported Dining Out For Life at a very challenging and unpredictable time!

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Partner - 25%+

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 Arni's Greenwood
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 Water Taproom
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