



DAMIEN CENTER
ONE HOME FOR HIV WELLNESS



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A Private Philanthropic Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Damien Center Receives \$100,000 Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Funding will help Damien Center address emerging client needs related to housing, food, and other basic needs

INDIANAPOLIS (January 6, 2021) – [Damien Center](#) has received a \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., which is making a series of grants to help organizations working to mitigate the human and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Marion County.

Damien Center will use the grant to address emerging client needs through direct financial assistance, especially those related to housing, food, and other basic needs. Funds will also be used to support Damien Center staff members who have been working tirelessly to maintain services to the Center's client base. With this funding, Damien Center will be able to continue its commitment to preventing the spread of HIV through prevention, support, and medical services that empowers people in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity so they can lead abundant and productive lives.

"COVID-19 has exacerbated many of the barriers already faced by Damien Center clients, resulting in a growing need for ongoing basic needs and services," explained Alan Witchey, president and CEO at Damien Center. "As an essential healthcare and social services agency, it is imperative that we remain fully operational throughout the pandemic. With this funding, we will continue to adjust to meet critical needs that are both direct and indirect results of COVID-19 through our food pantry, mental health and medical services, housing assistance, and case management programs. We are grateful to the Lilly Endowment for their continued support of our clients."

Damien Center is one of 38 organizations that Lilly Endowment has made grants to through its latest round of funding to help organizations respond to the pandemic's effect on communities in Indianapolis. Since March 2020, Lilly Endowment has made nearly \$208 million in grants related to COVID-19.

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[Lilly Endowment Inc.](#) is an Indianapolis-based, private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J. K. Lilly and his sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with its founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education, and religion, and it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

[Damien Center](#) is Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization and leads the effort to prevent the spread of HIV. The Center opened in 1987 and offers a one-stop-shop model of care that includes preventive, supportive, and medical services that empowers people in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity so they may live abundant and productive lives. Damien Center believes passionately in the dignity and worth of every person who seeks their services and strives to be a safe and welcoming place so that no barriers separate people from the services they need to prolong and enhance their lives. For more information visit: <http://www.damien.org> or follow them on Twitter at [@DamienCenter](#) or like them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thedamiencenter/>.

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