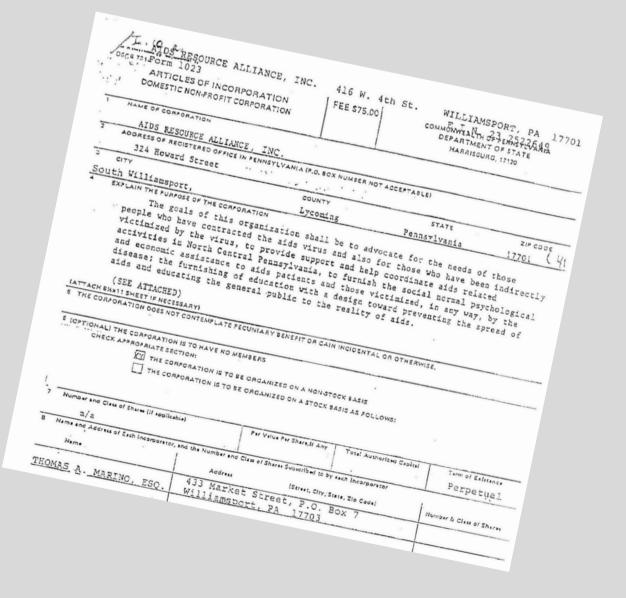






AIDS Resource is founded by community members concerned about the plight of those dying of AIDSrelated causes in Lycoming County.



## OUR ORIGINAL MISSION

Was to provide hospice-like care to ensure people could die with dignity and in comfort.



#### AS TREATMENTS IMPROVED

People began to live longer, and our mission evolved to provide supportive services instead of end-of-life care.





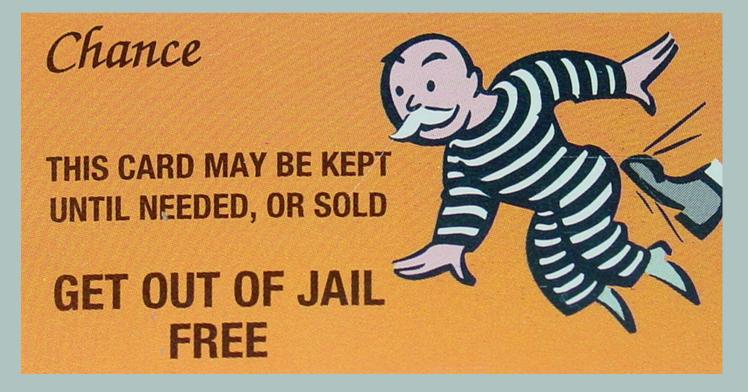
# THE GREAT EMBEZZLEMENT

In 1991, a board member embezzled over \$50,000. AIDS Resource had to take out a loan to pay back the grant, resulting in a decade of extreme financial insecurity.



# NO

The board member did not go to jail, and it took him over 12 years to pay back what he had stolen.



We launched an aggressive decade-long fundraising campaign to keep the agency afloat. Fundraisers included AIDS Walks at Bucknell University and Lycoming College, Hiawatha cruises, murder mystery dinner theatres, candle sales, dish sales, book sales, yard sales, apple dumpling sales, raffle tickets... You name it, we sold it.



SUN Family Planning, the provider serving Snyder, Union, and Northumberland counties, voluntarily gave up its contract, and the Coalition asked AIDS Resource to serve those counties.



We began offering HIV testing (at the time, it was an oral swab, with results available in about two weeks).



In a misguided attempt to save money, the Department of Health stopped funding outreach.





We received our first "Minority AIDS Initiative" (MAI) grant from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. This grant is designed specifically to help engage people who are lost to care or are in danger of being lost to care.

# W Е HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

We won a national contest recognizing "Heroes of HIV" and were featured in a documentary by Academy Award-winning director Cynthia Wade.



The AIDS Project (TAP) buckled under gross financial mismanagement and lost its contract with the Coalition, which then asked AIDS Resource to serve Centre and Clinton counties.



## SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY

We lost Northumberland County and picked up Potter.

We began offering STI testing.



We began receiving 340B pharmacy rebates, which are partially unrestricted and allowed us to expand services and staff.



# 2016 – THE CLARION DEBACLE

Facing mounting pressure from the Health Resources and Services Administration and federal authorities to consolidate Coalitions, the Department of Health approved a plan for the Northwest Coalition to absorb our Coalition.

The plan was for AIDS Resource and Caring Communities to stop existing and for Clarion University (which acted as the Northwest Coalition) to take over the provision of services.

We were given less than two weeks' notice.



# OUR RESPONSE

We spent those two weeks rallying clients and supporters and contacting legislators and the press. The effort culminated in a bus trip to Harrisburg, where we held a rally at the capital and presented over 1,000 petitions to the Governor's office.





# WE WON

The enemy was vanquished. The Department of Health called off the deal, and we resumed business as usual. \*

\*Interested in hearing all the gritty details? Ask Kirsten. She *loves* to tell this story.



Frustrated by local providers' unwillingness to prescribe PrEP, we opened the region's only PrEP clinic—thanks to Dr. Haussmann's willingness to volunteer once a month.



Frustrated by the Department of Health's nurses' lack of compassion, we began offering free STI treatment.



We began providing services to Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, and McKean counties under our Minority AIDS Initiative funding through the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.



# 2020 - COVID

COVID forced us to reconsider how we did everything and led to lasting improvements, including home-delivered meals and hygiene programs, digital files, HIV home testing kits, improved technology, and the adoption of telehealth.



# 2022 – THE BRIAN SPIES BOUTIQUE

Inspired by a transgender ally being harassed, we founded the Brian Spies Boutique, a free boutique for people who are transgender and gender expansive.



The outreach program was reinstated.







#### 2023 – AR HEALTH

Dr. Haussmann joined our team, fulfilling our long-standing dream of having a clinic catering to people living with HIV and members of the LGBTQ+ community.



A sizeable grant from the AstraZeneca Foundation enabled us to provide free care, tests, and medications to AR Health patients who are uninsured or underinsured.



# ALONG THE WAY

We had the great fortune of meeting titans in the field.



**Peter Staley** 



Larry Kramer



#### **Timothy Brown "The Berlin Patient"**