

AIDS SERVICES FOR THE MONADNOCK REGION
THE CLEVE JONES WELLNESS HOUSE
POB 396 . 16 High Street . Gilsum, NH 03448

It has been a year of tremendous growth for the agency. Our accomplishments will have a long-lasting impact and we're pleased to share them with you!

HIGHLIGHTS

SB215 FUNDING

In January 2006, Boston Public Health notified New Hampshire that Ryan White funding provided through Boston would be decreased by at least \$1 million. This funding historically had been provided only to agencies in Manchester, Portsmouth and Nashua. For the first time, NH would have to face this deficit by providing replacement funding to support its HIV+ residents.

This challenge was a daunting one and in November 2006 a plan still had not been developed to address the shortage. That's when the Executive Directors of NH's five AIDS services organizations knew we had to act. For the following 7 months we met with legislators, liaisons for the Governor and other State personnel to provide detailed data about our agency and client work, resulting in a Senate bill (SB215) submitted by Martha Fuller Clark of Portsmouth and the Governor including \$1m in his biennial budget proposal. When the bill and budget proposal passed, it represented the first time that NH had publicly recognized its obligation to our clients and, more importantly, created parity across the State, another first-time accomplishment, so that our agency and clients were now entitled to a share of these funds.

The agency portion is based on per-client capita, totals \$41,000 and is divided among four categories – Food & Nutrition, Housing, Mental Health Counseling and Transportation. This funding has brought income to Wellness House, allowed us to become members of the NH Food Bank and create a food pantry for all clients, provide dollars for transportation costs and pay for mental health counseling.

The Food pantry has been especially rewarding. Once Target learned that we had a pantry, they began making weekly food donations to us as well. With three donated freezers, we are able to offer our clients high-quality food year-round. Community Kitchen resources can now go to others... in fact, sometimes *we* donate back to the Kitchen due to the largesse of Target!

HOPWA (HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS) RENTAL ASSISTANCE

It has taken 16 months, but the last of the red tape has disappeared and we are now able to offer Wellness House residents access to this federal rental assistance, a huge help to House tenants *and* our operating expenses. During a visit last week with the new HOPWA contract administrator, we learned that he will be recommending Wellness House as a model demonstration program of excellence to show HUD the value of their funding.

WELLNESS HOUSE UPGRADES

We've been busy inside and out! The yard is now manicured beautifully. Thanks to the generosity of a Boston contractor, we have a gorgeous new front entry and hallway. Old, soiled carpet has been removed from the first floor stairs and second floor hallway and replaced with new paint, runners and area rugs. Our most exciting accomplishment has been to put an end to basement water with some old-fashioned, inexpensive ingenuity. C&S Wholesale Grocers emptied out their warehouse and we benefited with new beds, bureaus, living room and porch furniture. At our September Open House, we were happy to hear from visitors that Wellness House resembles a lovely B&B-like home... *and this with every stick of furniture donated!*

COBBLESTONE MEMORIAL GARDEN RELOCATION

It took over two years, but we now have a permanent home for the Cobblestone Memorial Garden at the Unitarian church on Washington Street, Keene. Renamed the Starr Cobblestone Memorial Garden in honor of UU Minister Deane Starr, we are fully partnered with the church to create and maintain this splendid location.

FISCAL SNAPSHOT

31 December 2006 and 2005 as audited by Robert Halverson, CPA

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Government Grants & Contracts	\$46,608	\$35,544
Other Grants	11,660	3,700
Monadnock United Way	30,000	30,000
City of Keene	7,000	7,000
Fundraising	54,433	49,231
Individual Donations	9,451	4,958
Housing	<u>8,675</u>	<u>-0-</u>
TOTAL	\$167,825	\$135,854

Number Employees	One full-time position, Executive Director
Case Manager	Half-time sub-contracted position
Client Educators & Speakers	Four
Board & Volunteers	Core group of 20

Clients Served	54	57
	<i>(28 infected, 26 affected)</i>	<i>(29 infected, 28 affected)</i>
Client Assistance Funds	\$14,523	\$12,568
Education Outreach to Individuals	6,782	6,867
HIV Tests Conducted	187	156
Outreach Cost Per Person	\$7.26	\$7.38

Other Federal and State Financial Assistance provided to clients in 2006: \$200,408**
 Value of Education Outreach and HIV Testing provided in 2006: \$ 50,600

***If not for ASMR accessing and providing these assistance dollars to clients, the budgets of Southwestern NH towns and cities would have had to absorb all or part of these costs.*

The Mission of AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region

- PROVIDE services, housing and support that facilitates a high quality of life for people living with the chronic and life-threatening illnesses of HIV/AIDS/HCV, and their loved ones, in order to elicit a compassionate and informed response;
- SUSTAIN informed public awareness about HIV/AIDS/HCV;
- PROMOTE and implement educational programs about HIV/AIDS/HCV and other sexually transmitted diseases in order to reduce transmission of infectious diseases; and
- PREVENT HIV transmission by encouraging HIV testing that is accessible, confidential and administered based upon ability to pay.

<u>2008 ASMR Board of Directors</u>			
<i>Chair</i>	Arne Grandell (06)	<i>Treasurer</i>	Tricia Ferguson (06)
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<i>Executive Director</i>	Susan MacNeil	<i>Case Manager</i>	Laurie Meyerrose