annual report 2003

connext

WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC

Whitman-Walker Clinic is a non-profit community based health organization serving the Washington, DC metropolitan region. Established by and for the gay and lesbian community, our Clinic is comprised of diverse volunteers and staff who provide or facilitate the delivery of high quality, comprehensive, accessible health care and community services. Whitman-Walker Clinic is especially committed to ending the suffering of all those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

connect v. To join, unite, or cohere; to have a close relation
next adj. Immediately following, as in time, order or sequence

connext

Letter from the Executive Director & Chairman

The passing of time evokes the memories that create today's reality. To render its passing perceptible requires us to mark events in a manner that brings meaning and focus to what has come before.

At Whitman-Walker Clinic, we well remember the time before the HIV epidemic – before the losses mounted among lovers, family, friends and friends of friends. Scores of them. Hundreds of them. Thousands of them. We remember a time before it seemed as though AIDS was all there ever was and all that there ever would be. From the beginning of this epidemic we have been on the front lines of a battle that is yet to be won.

Acknowledging that historical context every day at Whitman-Walker Clinic, we go about our work with one abiding conviction: We will be here for as long as it takes to end the suffering caused by AIDS. And we will also remain true to our founding vision of a healthy, vibrant gay and lesbian community.

The year 2003 marked a number of milestones in the history of Whitman-Walker Clinic. It was 30 years since the founding of the Gay Men's STD Clinic, 20 years since the Clinic held the first major community meeting on AIDS and the beginning of the DC AIDS Information Line, and 15 years since we began to deliver HIV/AIDS services in Northern Virginia.

While we embrace the past, the board, staff and volunteers have remained focused on the present and its challenges. This year was also a year of innovation and planning for the future. We were among the first community health organizations in the United States to adopt large scale rapid HIV testing. And we have initiated a financial restructuring to ensure that our services will continue to be available to those most in need during these troubled times.

Through your support, we will continue to build on our past achievements and create a brighter future for our community. Thank you for your dedication along the way.

Cornelius Baker
Executive Director

Mark M. Levin
Chairman

"We will be here for as long as it takes to end the suffering caused by AIDS. And we will also remain true to our founding vision of a healthy, vibrant gay and lesbian community."

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Dr. Bryan Baugh Staff Physician

Dr. Brian Baugh, MD is staff physician at Max Robinson Center of Whitman-Walker Clinic, where he also runs a weekly Men's Wellness/STD Clinic.

Putting it in Perspective – Thirty Years of the STD Clinic

In 1973, with STD rates among DC's gay population rising steadily, a group of five concerned men organized the Gay Men's VD Task Force. They recognized the need for a safe and comfortable place to be tested and treated for sexually transmitted diseases and decided to start the Gay Men's VD Clinic. They affiliated with the Washington Free Clinic that year and recruited 10 more volunteers. Two months later, in November of 1973, the doors of Whitman-Walker Clinic opened in the basement of the Georgetown Lutheran Church on Wisconsin Avenue, NW.

There are no figures to reflect the number of men that the Clinic saw in its first year of operation. However, in 2003 the Gay Men's Health Clinic at Whitman-Walker Clinic treated nearly 2,400 men. This year the rates of syphilis in greater Washington rose dramatically. Whitman-Walker Clinic has worked in concert with both the DC and Prince George's County Departments of Health on programs to bring this new syphilis outbreak under control.

above: The Georgetown Lutheran Church at 1556 Wisconsin Avenue, NW was the first home of the Gay Men's STD Clinic, the longest continuing program of Whitman-Walker Clinic.

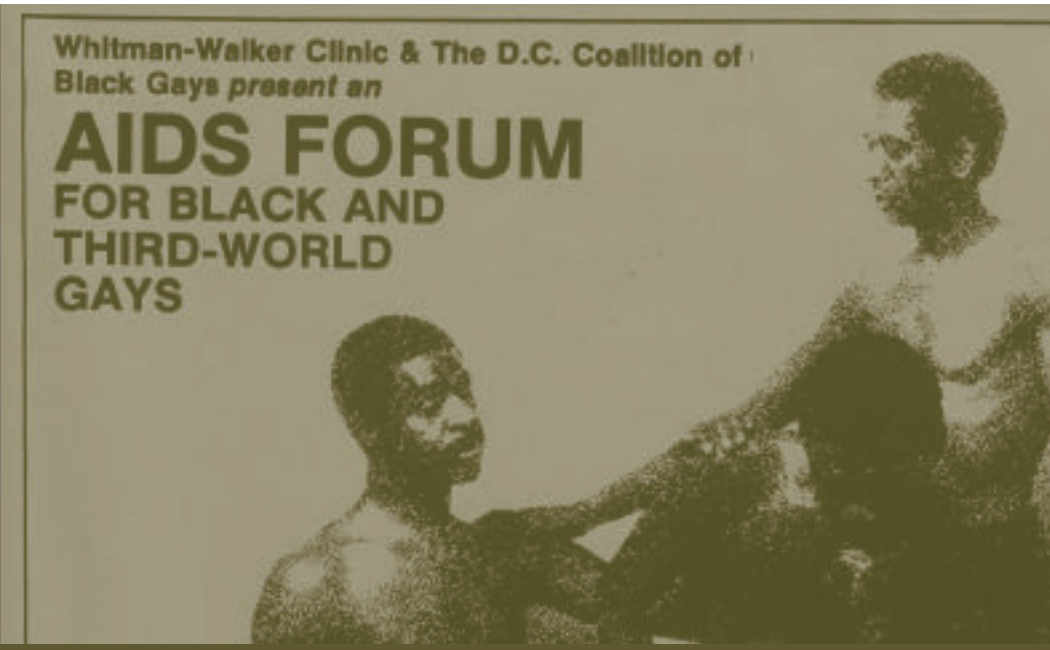
Twenty Years Since Our First Response to AIDS

In 1982 there were 1,300 reported AIDS cases in the United States, yet no one knew how the disease was contracted. Rumors spread and confusion abounded. In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, there were 22 reported cases and eight had already died.

Whitman-Walker Clinic understood that ignorance bred fear. And the fear was palpable. So, on April 4, 1983 Whitman-Walker Clinic held the first Community AIDS Forum in Washington, DC at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium. Before a standing room only crowd of more than 1,200 men, physicians and health educators answered questions until late in the evening.

It was a first step toward addressing what had up until that point been spoken about only in hushed tones – people were dying and few seemed to have answers. At a time when so many others turned their backs on the sick and the dying, we tapped into our deepest strengths to care for our community. During the rest of 1983, under Whitman-Walker Clinic leadership, the community began to mobilize and build an effective response to this growing epidemic and provide the services that others dared not.

That year the Clinic began the AIDS Education Fund, the Buddy Program and the AIDS Foundation that granted awards for emergency financial assistance. And that summer



the District government awarded the Clinic the first municipal AIDS contract in the nation to operate the DC AIDS Information Line, which the Clinic still runs today. Even in those early days, the black community was disproportionately affected. Whitman-Walker Clinic took early leadership in addressing the problem in September of 1983 by holding another important AIDS education forum at The Clubhouse, a famous nightclub for black and third world gay men.

Whitman-Walker Clinic today stands as a world model of compassion and care for thousands of people with HIV/AIDS. In 2003, we performed more than 11,100 primary medical care appointments, 9,300 mental health counseling and addictions treatment appointments, and provided HIV testing and counseling to nearly 7,000 people throughout the greater Washington metropolitan area. We also operated the District's bilingual AIDS Information Line, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And we awarded thousands of dollars through our Hank Carde Foundation to provide direct emergency financial assistance to people living with AIDS to cover basic survival needs such as housing, utilities and health insurance premiums.

above left: Poster for the April, 1983 meeting at Lisner Auditorium

above right: Poster for the September, 1983 meeting at the Club House.

The first permanent Whitman-Walker Clinic office in Northern Virginia opened in 1989.

Paul Rose, Case Manager at NOVA

Rod McCoy, HIV Testing and Counseling staffer at NOVA

left: Hired 18 years ago, Paul Rose, PhD, began to lay the groundwork for providing services in Northern Virginia.

right: Rod McCoy was hired this year to do HIV testing and counseling at our Northern Virginia site.

Fifteen Years of Service in Northern Virginia

In February of 1986, with little money to spare, Whitman-Walker Clinic negotiated with county health departments to provide operating space while one of only five Clinic employees rotated time between Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax. It soon became clear that the number of clients outstripped the capacity of these three floating case management and social service centers and warranted one office that was devoted solely to the support of people with HIV/AIDS.

Fifteen years ago, finding such space was no easy task. Leases were signed and then broken when landlords discovered that people with AIDS would receive services on site. And timing was critical since it was usually just a matter of months between a client's AIDS diagnosis and his death. But it took a full year to secure the first permanent Whitman-Walker Clinic office in Northern Virginia, which opened in 1989.

Today, with increased access to testing and the availability of a wide range of medications, our services are helping people with HIV live longer, healthier lives. Increasingly, however, many of our clients have dual, triple and even quadruple diagnoses. Poverty, homelessness, mental illness and substance abuse combine to make HIV treatment and adherence to a drug regimen all the more difficult and require a greater need for intensive case management over a much longer period of time.

The most formidable weapon in our arsenal is HIV testing. Early diagnosis and treatment keeps people healthy. This year, Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia became the fourth of our regional centers to begin an independent HIV testing program.

The Latino Art Auction – A Decade of Accomplishment

October 2003 marked the tenth anniversary of "Art for Life," an auction that has raised nearly $1 million to provide direct HIV/AIDS services to the Latino community. It has not only raised money but also has raised critical awareness about HIV/AIDS among Latinos region-wide and galvanized the community in the fight against the disease. In a decade where others have come and gone, the patrons of Art for Life have declared that they will be in this fight for as long as it takes.

Whitman-Walker Clinic is proud of our commitment to accessible services that we provide to diverse populations, especially to our region's burgeoning Latino community. Delivering HIV/AIDS information and services is always challenging, but is further magnified when language and immigration difficulties create additional barriers. For years Whitman-Walker Clinic's Latino Services Program – based in the District–provided interpreting services, support groups and education and prevention information with special sensitivities to the needs of the Latino population throughout the metropolitan area. Our Spanish Speaking Pathways client advocacy program, located at Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center, worked with case managers, physicians, legal services, mental health counselors and others throughout Whitman-Walker Clinic to establish an integrated approach to serve our clients. The Clinic is now transitioning itself toward full cultural competency for Spanish-speaking clients throughout each of its centers.

Hector Torres, Founder and Artist of Latino Art Auction

above: Hector Torres is the founder and original curator of Art for Life, which has brought together hundreds of artists, diplomats and celebrities to focus on HIV/AIDS in the Latino Community.

left: Miguel Mejia is the client advocate at Spanish Speaking Pathways program at the Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center

Miguel Mejia, Client Advocate

The Healing Garden at Whitman-Walker Clinic of Northern Virginia offers a peaceful haven for the Clinic's clients, volunteers, staff, neighbors and friends. Its classic seven-circuit labyrinth enhances the impact of the garden by inviting visitors to follow the repeated turns of its path, encouraging focus and inner clarity. A living tribute to members of the Whitman-Walker family lost to AIDS, the garden is a place of hope and encouragement for those living with HIV/AIDS and those who love them.

Today, Enhancing Our Commitment

In 2003 Whitman-Walker Clinic enhanced its commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and promoting LGBT health.

On National HIV Testing Day, Whitman-Walker Clinic began a pilot project to launch our rapid HIV testing program. Nearly 400 people visited the Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center that day, each of whom received their test results in less than an hour. Rapid tests, provided by OraQuick technology, also eliminate the need for clients to make a second visit for their results and enable HIV counselors to get those who test positive into a treatment program immediately, thereby offering earlier medical intervention. At the end of 2003, rapid testing became the standard at each of our regional centers and through our mobile outreach program.

Whitman-Walker Clinic played a major role in the first annual National LGBT Health Awareness Week. Through its association with the National Coalition for LGBT Health, the Clinic co-sponsored the launch of this initiative designed to educate the public and LGBT community about its health issues. Over the course of the week, LGBT Coalition members met with Congressional leaders in an effort to secure more federal assistance for LGBT health.

Capital Pride, a program of Whitman-Walker Clinic, in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and the DC chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, presented a town hall meeting entitled “Is There

a Gay Agenda?" Over the course of the evening, leaders of eight major national LGBT organizations offered their reflections. The standing room only crowd of 300 asked questions and offered their input on the issues facing the LGBT community as we approach a presidential election year. The meeting was moderated by Craig Wilson, columnist for USA Today and was covered by CNN, BET, Washington Blade, and Metro Weekly.

Legal Services was awarded funding from the Skadden Fellowship Foundation to staff a fellow — a new attorney fully funded for two years to work on an HIV Legal Check Up program. Our fellow began working with us in September and will be funded on this project through August 2005. Legal Services also developed several important initiatives with the law firm Venable, which has made several important commitments to us in terms of fundraising and volunteering for our clinics. Legal Services also developed a new relationship with the Virginia law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop to assist in our immigration practice, in addition to developing new relationships with three local law firms.

Lesbian Services Program's Breast Health Initiative staff set a goal to refer at least 450 women for mammogram screening. They exceeded the goal by referring 487 women. They also conducted four successful health days and produced the first directory of lesbian-competent health care providers.

G-NET, the gay and bisexual men's prevention outreach in the District, made 3,392 referrals to HIV Counseling and Testing; 5,132 to the STD Clinic; 421 to other prevention programs; 387 to MHATS and similar mental health programs; and 259 to ACCESS and similar HIV treatment programs. G-NET also had 21,566 face-to-face interventions and distributed 69,646 prevention materials to individuals.

Prevention Services reached a total of 750 Latino men having sex with men (MSM) and held 12 monthly single sessions attended by 377 Latino MSM participants in the District. The Clinic also obtained a two year $100,000 grant from the Office of Minority Health to provide outreach to the Latino MSM community in suburban Maryland.

A Spanish Speaking Pathways workgroup was appointed to develop and implement a work plan to specifically address the design of Clinic pathways for Spanish speaking and other LEP clients. A plan was also developed to enroll 12 employees in an intensive two-week Berlitz language program in 2004.

The Clinic recruited 250 new volunteers. In particular, the Black Men's Health Network expanded from five to 30 volunteers, allowing us to increase the frequency and intensity of outreach.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Each year Whitman-Walker Clinic recognizes those individuals and organizations who have significantly contributed to the work of the Clinic. We salute the following individuals and organizations who contributed so much over the past year to helping people living with HIV/AIDS and in service to the GLBT community.

The "Partner for Life," the Clinic's highest honor is awarded by the board of directors to those who make significant contributions in the battle against HIV/AIDS. This year, the award was presented to NBC-4, which through broadcast journalism has helped millions of men, women and children put a human face on a disease and enable them to understand the impact of HIV/AIDS in the National Capital Area. NBC-4 has been a longstanding corporate partner of our fundraising efforts.

The Courage Award is presented at every AIDS Walk Washington. We honor an individual living with HIV or AIDS who has shown remarkable courage and leadership in their fight against the disease. This year, the award was presented to Wallace Corbett, founder of Brother-to-Brother, Sister-to-Sister United.

The Larry Medley Staff Award is presented each year to honor an individual's outstanding commitment to the Clinic's mission, as exemplified by performance, exemplary service, and accomplishments while a member of the Whitman-Walker Clinic staff. The award is named in memory of its first recipient, Larry Medley, and nominations and endorsements for this award are staff initiated. The winner this year was Steve Geishecker of the Access Center.

We honored seven outstanding individuals with **the Gene Frye Awards,** presented annually to volunteers who have distinguished themselves through their commitment, hard work and enthusiasm. This year's Gene Frye Award recipients included: Jay Ball, George Christensen, Manuel Claros, Jeff Murray, MD, Mary Schmidt and Mary Anna Donohoe, Esq. **The Fred Steen Buddy Award** was presented this year to Michelle Desiderio.

The "Going the Extra Mile" Award was presented by our Legal Services Program to the law firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll for their service to people living with HIV/AIDS. **The Joel A. Toubin Memorial Award** was presented to Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for his outstanding advocacy on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Capital Pride Hero Awards recognize those who have gone beyond the call of duty in their efforts to bring full equality to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. This year nine individuals were so honored: Chris Dyer, Blake Humphreys, Rev. Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, Sarah Kellogg, Sgt. Brett Parson, Bruce Pennington, Mark Phemister, Michael "Micci" Sainte-Andres and Barbara Warner.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors
Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc.
Washington, DC 20009

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc. (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related statement of activities, functional expenses, changes in net assets and cash flows for the twelve months ended December 31, 2003 and fifteen months ended December 31, 2002. The Clinic changed its fiscal year end from September to December effective January 1, 2002. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Clinic's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and cash flows of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc., as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and results of its operations for the twelve months then ended and fifteen months then ended, respectively in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 9, 2004 on our consideration of Whitman-Walker Clinic, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and other supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U. S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Berry Group, P.C.

Alexandria, Virginia
June 9, 2004

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2003

ASSETS	2003	2002
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,118,391	$ 1,820,652
Funds held in bank reserve		
Accounts receivable		
Grants and contracts	3,063,245	2,550,218
CFC/United Way	161,114	221,248
Related entity	206,837	164,738
Other	477,433	433,893
Investments	699,771	688,660
Inventory	64,284	86,802
Prepaid expenses	152,421	116,126
Total current assets	8,943,496	6,082,337
Property		
Land, buildings and improvements	11,954,527	13,024,497
Furniture and equipment	2,338,281	1,958,044
Transportation	78,078	78,079
	14,370,886	15,060,620
Less depreciation and amortization	(4,220,100)	(3,931,663)
Net property and equipment	10,150,786	11,128,957
Other		
Deposits	111,628	43,007
Unamortized bond cost	221,718	220,181
Total other assets	333,346	263,188
Total assets	**$ 19,427,628**	**$ 17,474,482**

LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 2,534,480	$ 1,508,616
Line of Credit	300,000	–
Current portion of long-term debt	393,999	281,467
Refundable advances	143,191	186,782
Total current liabilities	3,371,670	1,976,865
Long-term		
Long-term debt, net of current portion	6,735,346	7,129,111
Total long-term liabilities	6,735,346	7,129,111
Total liabilities	**10,107,016**	**9,105,976**
NET ASSETS		
Endowment-board restricted	3,101,942	2,885,227
Net Assets	6,218,670	5,483,279
Total net assets	9,320,612	8,368,506
Total liabilities and net assets	**$ 19,427,628**	**$ 17,474,482**

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

December 31, 2003

REVENUE	2003	2002 - 15 MONTHS
Public Support		
Contracts and grants	$ 15,738,856	$ 17,292,918
Contributions	5,010,372	6,884,137
Special events	3,062,788	3,393,763
Cost of direct donor benefits	(592,215)	(656,014)
CFC/United Way	734,329	940,721
Program service donations and fees	252,043	256,315
Medicaid third party payments and other	2,502,726	2,694,195
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of prog.& time restrictions		
Total public support	**26,708,899**	**30,806,035**
Other revenue:		
Pharmacy	221,523	260,066
Gain on disposition of real estate	2,257,799	_
Investment Income	109,668	_
Rent	117,634	178,753
Total other revenue	2,706,624	438,819
Total revenue:	**29,415,523**	**31,244,854**
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Behavioral health	$ 5,034,351	$ 5,234,044
Preventive health	1,796,939	2,252,800
Legal Services	966,100	1,041,528
Communication/PA	712,248	997,872
WWC - Virginia	2,042,469	2,478,116
WWC - Maryland	5,282,776	4,377,261
External affairs	602,259	541,908
Medical services	3,965,453	6,184,345
Volunteer resources	488,869	246,991
Max Robinson Center	1,487,493	1,736,583
Total program services	22,378,957	25,091,448
Support services		
Management and general	3,233,146	1,631,185
Development	2,851,314	4,729,101
Total support services	6,084,460	6,360,286
Total expenses	**28,463,417**	**31,451,734**
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	952,106	(206,880)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	8,368,506	8,575,386
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	**$ 9,320,612**	**$ 8,368,506**

VITAL STATISTICS

Over the course of the last fiscal year, the demand for our services has increased significantly. Our client base continues to grow and consists largely of those most in need.

	2002	2003
Medical Services		
Number of HIV Clients	7,238	7,266
Medical Appointments	11,790	11,112
LGBT Health Appointments	3,794	4,170
Dental Appointments	2,683	3,189
Behaviorial Health & Social Services		
Mental Health Appointments	4,719	4,756
Addiction Services Appointments	5,359	4,697
Case Management Appointments	17,850	18,346
Bags of Groceries	15,681	18,194
Health Promotion & Disease Prevention		
Number o f HIV Tests	4,849	6,914
Legal Services		
Number o f Appointments	1,152	1,174
Percentage of Clients Living Below $12,000 per year	89%	84%

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WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC

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