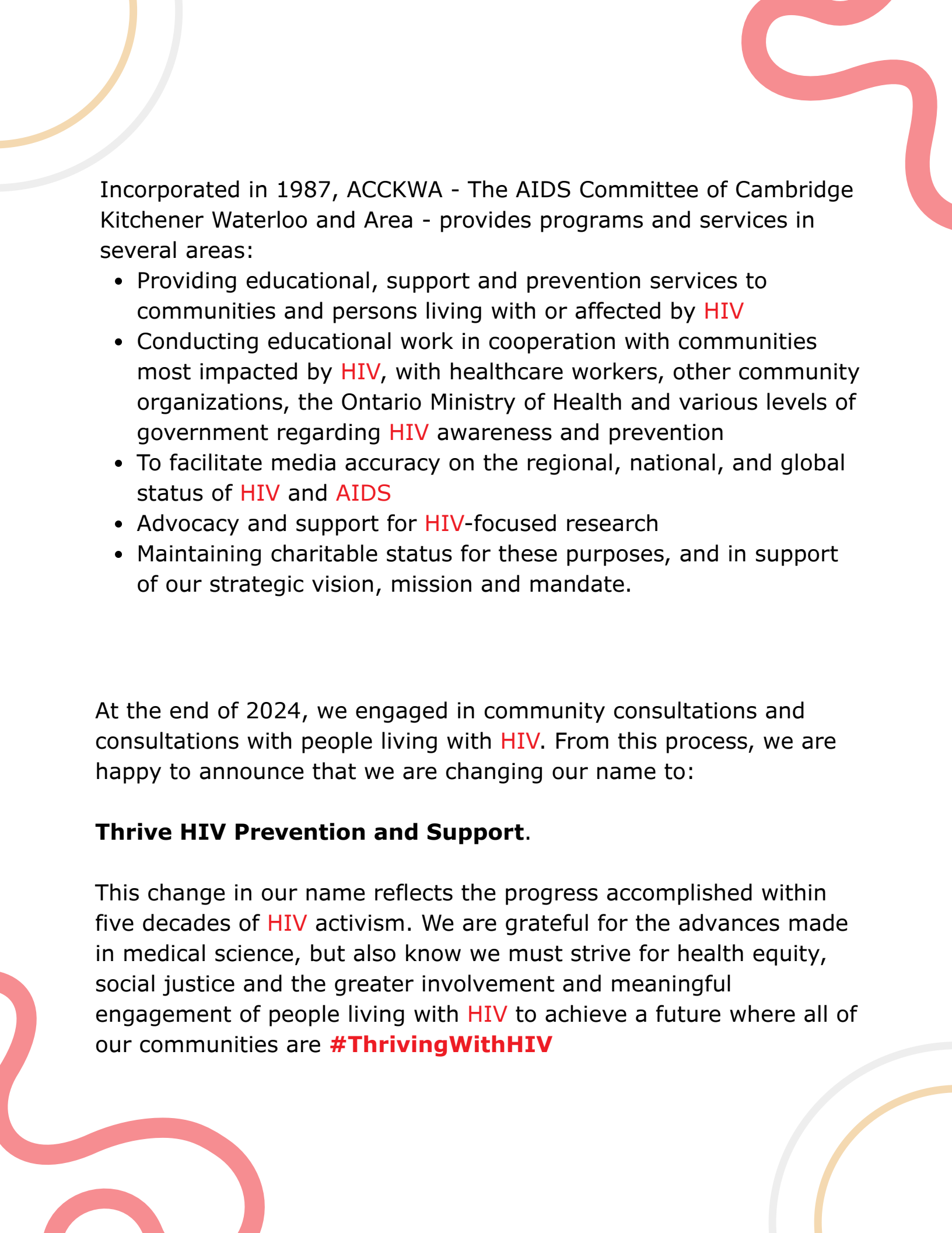




Annual Report

2024-2025



Incorporated in 1987, ACCKWA - The AIDS Committee of Cambridge Kitchener Waterloo and Area - provides programs and services in several areas:

- Providing educational, support and prevention services to communities and persons living with or affected by **HIV**
- Conducting educational work in cooperation with communities most impacted by **HIV**, with healthcare workers, other community organizations, the Ontario Ministry of Health and various levels of government regarding **HIV** awareness and prevention
- To facilitate media accuracy on the regional, national, and global status of **HIV** and **AIDS**
- Advocacy and support for **HIV**-focused research
- Maintaining charitable status for these purposes, and in support of our strategic vision, mission and mandate.

At the end of 2024, we engaged in community consultations and consultations with people living with **HIV**. From this process, we are happy to announce that we are changing our name to:

Thrive HIV Prevention and Support.

This change in our name reflects the progress accomplished within five decades of **HIV** activism. We are grateful for the advances made in medical science, but also know we must strive for health equity, social justice and the greater involvement and meaningful engagement of people living with **HIV** to achieve a future where all of our communities are **#ThrivingWithHIV**



New Name, New Logo
Same amazing work

2024-25 Staff & Board of Directors

Staff

Ruth Cameron	Executive Director
Matthew Freake	Operations Manager
Mark Jaques	Administrative Coordinator
Lynn Cashubec	Manager of Volunteers and Peer Engagement
Greg Mann	Waterloo Region Support Coordinator
Manuel Murillo & Lerato Mpubane	Practical Support Navigator
Randy Sorensen	Social Navigator
Alex Gallant	Peer Program Coordinator
Gillian Belcher	Waterloo Region Youth Sexual Health Coordinator
William Reign	Waterloo Region Youth Sexual Health Worker
Jesse Burt	Manager of Harm Reduction Programs
Alex Rooyakkers	Harm Reduction Capacity Worker/Emergency Shelter Harm Reduction Coordinator
Shaun Mullen & Jess Barnard	Harm Reduction Outreach Lead
Jieun Huh	Cambridge Harm Reduction Lead
Ben Warren & Philip Charbonneau	MSM Sexual Health Coordinator
Mike Scott & Pau Eleria	MSM Sexual Health Worker
Priscilla Muzira	Waterloo Region African Caribbean Black Coordinator
Kenique Toppin & Cassandra Odamtten	Waterloo Region WHAI Coordinator
Jose de Lima	Cambridge Site Manager
Aaron Fisher	Cambridge Site Coordinator
Lisa Badrov	Cambridge Site Worker
Mikaela Faustini	Street Outreach Worker
Brigette Medeiros	Street Outreach Worker
Jenn Boyd	Guelph Site Manager
Ogechika Eze	Guelph-Wellington African Caribbean Black Coordinator
Oluwaseun Abe	Guelph-Wellington Support Coordinator
Karen Lomax	Guelph-Wellington Admin & Volunteer Coordinator

Board of Directors

Marjorie-Ann Knight	President
Monika Roerig	Vice President
Andrew Moraga	Treasurer
Suhanya Ketheeswaran	Secretary
Geoff Bardwell	Director
Fitsum Areguy	Director
Wolf Dreja	Director
Hellen Taabu	Director

President and Executive Director Report

This year ACCKWA's Board advanced several priorities from our strategic plan. We approved new bylaws compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, completed a Board Manual, and revised recruitment procedures. Successful advocacy with the Ontario Ministry of Health secured new operational funding to support our expanding work. Recruitment for new Board Directors will continue into 2025–2026 to maintain our strong volunteer leadership. The Board also remains committed to organizational success as outlined in our updated Strategic Plan, applied directly to the communities we serve in Guelph-Wellington and Waterloo Region.

Unfortunately, the past year saw the closure of critical overdose prevention services. The loss of safer supply programs and consumption sites in Guelph and Kitchener has led to tragic deaths in our communities. At the same time, limited funding for income supports, healthcare, and housing has deepened inequality, while provincial and municipal policies have further criminalized homelessness.

Despite these challenges, we welcomed new staff, renovated our Guelph site to expand services, and strengthened our role in healthcare leadership through the KW4 and Cambridge North Dumfries Ontario Health Teams. We also continue to advocate for supportive housing through the Region of Waterloo's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

Today, THRIVE operates with 29 staff across three sites, serving Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington. Growth in programming and revenue—including new federal funding from Veterans Canada and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada—has led to another successful year. We have surpassed strategic goals in fund development and partnerships, including new housing collaborations for people living with HIV. This work supports Ontario's HIV Action Plan to 2030, addressing the 11% of people living with HIV who remain undiagnosed and the 13% not linked to care.

Once again, the Board, staff, peers, and volunteers face a busy year ahead. We thank our participants, partners, funders, and supporters for helping bring our vision closer: communities where all can live free of HIV-related stigma, with health, well-being, and full participation.

Marjorie-Ann Knight, President, ACCKWA Board of Directors
Ruth Cameron, Executive Director, ACCKWA

Strategic Planning Update

THRIVE's 2022–2027 Strategic Plan

Mission & Vision

THRIVE's updated mission and vision focus on **HIV**, related stigma, and the drug poisoning crisis.

- *Vision:* A future where new **HIV**, hepatitis C, STBBIs, and drug-related harms are rare in Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington. People affected by **HIV**, stigma, or unjust drug policy can realistically achieve health, well-being, and full community participation.
- *Mission:* Through responsive programs and collaboration, Thrive will:
 - Reduce **HIV**, hepatitis C, STBBIs, and drug poisoning impacts.
 - Address stigma, discrimination, and other social determinants of health.
 - Provide high-quality PrEP, primary care, testing, and **HIV** clinical supports.

Goal 1: Resources, Capacity, and Reach (by March 2027)

- Objectives:
 - a. Increase net revenue by \$350,000.
 - b. Establish permanent, accessible service sites across our communities.
 - c. Maintain the Board as a strong volunteer leadership opportunity.

Progress so far:

- Secured \$550,000 in new operational funding, in addition to \$635,800 from 2021–23 (230% above target).
- Amended funding for Guelph PHAC programs.
- Additional harm reduction project funding.
- Completed Guelph office renovations.
- Grew reserve fund by \$175,000 (now \$700,000).
- Updated bylaws, Board manual, and recruitment procedures.

Goal 2: Partnerships Supporting Priority Populations (by March 2027)

- Objectives:
 - Implement formal organizational partnerships supporting key populations.
 - Implement formal program-level partnerships supporting key populations.

Progress so far:


- Ongoing advocacy for expanded harm reduction and overdose prevention.
- Continued **HIV** self-testing and drug-checking initiatives without funding.
- Advanced partnerships with KW4 and Cambridge-North Dumfries Ontario Health Teams.
- Expanded **HIV** care partnership with Guelph CHC into Kitchener, Cambridge, and Guelph.
- Concluded research with Guelph CHC on **HIV** and gender-affirming care needs.
- Completed LGBTQ service access and sexual health needs assessment with Wilfrid Laurier University.

Goal 3: Affordable Housing for People Living with **HIV (by March 2027)**

- Objectives:
 - Secure access to 120 affordable housing units.
 - Secure access to 15 affordable assisted living units.
 - Secure access to 15 affordable long-term care beds.

Progress so far:

- Advancing housing goals through local partnerships and the Region's Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.
- Exploring new partnerships with housing providers.
- Seeking resources for annual participant needs assessments to guide future care and housing initiatives, including in Guelph-Wellington.



62,427
Interactions
in 2024-25

53,557 Outreach
Interactions

8,870 Meaningful
Engagements



825
Rostered
Participants
Increase of **125** from last year

3780
People
accessed our
Safe Supply
programs

237,963
Safe Supplies
Distributed



92
Active
Volunteers
& Students

Support Program Report

The Support Program is built on compassion, health equity, and person-centered care. We provide holistic, trauma-informed support for people living with and affected by **HIV/AIDS**, addressing barriers such as housing, healthcare access, financial insecurity, and mental health. Our goal is to ensure dignity, safety, and belonging while improving overall health and well-being.

Our Team

- *Greg Mann* – Waterloo Region Support Coordinator
- *Oluwaseun Abe* – Guelph-Wellington Support Coordinator
- *Manuel Murillo / Lerato Mpubane* – Practical Navigator
- *Randy Sorenson* – Social Navigator
- *Eder Gonzalez* – Settlement Navigator

What We Do

- Help with government forms, medication coverage, and health insurance
- Support finding doctors, dentists, and mental health providers
- Provide transportation, emergency financial aid, and food support
- Host groups and retreats, including Survive to Thrive, our three-day annual peer-led event that reduces stigma and builds community

Impact

- Served over 825 individuals in Waterloo Region and Guelph this year
- Recorded 1,696 unique interactions and 133 outreach contacts
- Engagement programs include:
 - THRIVE Kitchen (weekly community meals)
 - Bi-weekly social meets in Kitchener focused on immigration, lived experience, and **HIV** awareness
 - Expanded outreach in Guelph-Wellington
- Supported by seven volunteer peers providing translation and lived-experience guidance

Partnerships

Our work is made possible by partners and funders including the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, Pharmasave (Preston, Courtland, Monarch), Dr. Joanna Thiessen, PrimeCare and Rockway Pharmacy, Food Basics, Guelph CHC **HIV** Clinic, Guelph Food Bank, and The Seed Guelph.

Looking Ahead

In 2025–2026, we will expand efforts to reduce barriers to medication and housing while continuing to normalize **HIV**, reduce stigma, and build inclusive systems of care. With strong community support, the program's future is one of growth and promise.

Volunteer Program Report

Volunteers are central to THRIVE's work, strengthening governance, supporting staff, organizing resources, and engaging the community. Their contributions touch every program area, from leadership and governance to kit-making, reception, and events. The program was led this year by *Lynn Cashubec*, Manager of Volunteers and Peer Engagement, who retired after 22 years of service as both staff and volunteer. Under her leadership, THRIVE's volunteer program embodied the principles of GIPA/MEPA, ensuring our work is guided by the lived expertise of people living with **HIV** and the communities most impacted.

Engagement & Activities

- Harm reduction kit-making events, combining hands-on support with community education on **HIV** prevention and harm reduction.
- Three Day of Caring events with United Way Waterloo Region Communities.
- Two volunteer days with GoogleServe.

Volunteer Impact in 2024–2025

- 92 volunteers in total:
 - 45 local community members
 - 19 United Way participants
 - 12 GoogleServe participants
 - 16 Wilfrid Laurier CSL students

Looking Ahead

In 2025–2026, we will focus on volunteer retention and recruitment by offering more training, skills development, and mentorship opportunities.

Volunteer Recognition

- Dave Grant Memorial Award (Advocacy): *Anthony Faria*
- Colleen Coolin Memorial Award (Support): *Glenn Jamieson*
- Gretchen Sangster Award (Education): *Debra Fry*
- Michael Baskett Memorial Award (Outreach): *Cheryl Higgins*
- Turning to One Another Peer Recognition Award: *Wolf Dreja*

Congratulations to all our award recipients, and heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who makes our work possible.

Peer Program Report

The THRIVE Peer Program is rooted in lived expertise and plays a key role in **HIV** prevention, harm reduction, and stigma reduction. By recruiting, training, and supporting people with personal experience of **HIV**, substance use, or homelessness, the program empowers peers to provide meaningful support to others facing similar challenges.

At its heart, the program fosters compassion, connection, and recovery. Peer volunteers share their stories, offer non-judgmental support, and act as trusted bridges between individuals and services.

Led by: *Alex Gallant*, Peer Program Coordinator

Core Activities

- Drop-In & Harm Reduction at MACS (150 Main Street, Cambridge): The Needle Syringe Program and drop-in services account for 60% of all peer interactions, with half of volunteers based here.
- Street & Community Outreach: Peers provide on-foot outreach to known locations and weekly support at Lot 42 (A Better Tent City) and YW Supportive Housing in Kitchener. These efforts make up 15% of interactions and help reduce isolation by meeting people where they are.

Impact 2024–2025

- 6,397 volunteer hours
- 23,236 interactions with community members, including:
 - 14,500 at MACS
 - 8,736 through outreach

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

- Expand leadership and mentorship opportunities for Peer volunteers
- Build new partnerships for peer placements
- Ensure all volunteers receive CMHA Foundations in Peer Support training
- Continue reducing stigma and strengthening recovery through lived expertise

The Peer Program remains a cornerstone of community-led support, offering hope, trust, and practical help where it's most needed.

Women's Community Development Program Report

The Women's Community Development Program at THRIVE is part of Ontario's Women & HIV/AIDS Initiative (WHAI). It supports cis and trans women, 2-Spirit, and non-binary femme individuals through trauma-informed education, peer-led outreach, support groups, and training for service providers. The program centers the lived experiences of those most affected by gendered and racialized oppression. In 2024–2025, it was led by *Kenique Toppin* and later *Cassandra Odamtten*.

Key Activities (April 2024–March 2025):

- 1:1 consultations on PrEP, PEP, contraception, and holistic care for ACB and trans women
- Outreach at KW Pride, International Overdose Awareness Day, and THRIVE's Annual BBQ
- HIV self-test coaching and stigma-reduction outreach
- Peer-led Mom's Group for mothers and caregivers living with HIV
- Mother's Day Dinner co-planned with ACB women living with HIV
- Truth & Reconciliation "Train-the-Trainer" session with Indigenous women

Impact:

- ~320 outreach interactions
- ~185 unique interactions

Community Partners:

Thanks to WHAI, Healing of the Seven Generations, and the ACB Network for their support in building culturally grounded, community-led engagement.

Looking Ahead (2025–2026):

- Expand MACS Drop-ins with rotating peer-led topics
- Deliver trauma-informed HIV 101 training for WCSWR, SASC, and YWCA staff
- Strengthen partnerships with GVI and PASAN for in-reach education with incarcerated women
- Explore restorative justice collaboration with CJI

Harm Reduction Program Report

The Harm Reduction Program focuses on preventing **HIV**, Hepatitis C, and fatal overdoses by directly supporting people who use drugs. Through trusted relationships and peer expertise, we meet people where they are—physically and emotionally—while fostering dignity, respect, and understanding.

Our Team

The program is led by *Jesse Burt*, Manager of Harm Reduction Programs, with staff members *Alex Rooyakkers* (Coordinator), *Jieun Huh* (Capacity Worker), *Jess Barnard* (Outreach Lead), and *Kristi Samuelson* (Cambridge Lead). Former Manager *Jenn Boyd* transitioned into Site Manager of our new Guelph location. The team is supported by peer volunteers.

Services

- Two fixed Needle Syringe Program (NSP) sites and five satellite sites with partner organizations
- Street outreach and mobile visits to encampments
- Delivery services for those facing barriers
- Educational workshops for community partners
- Naloxone Distribution Program (4,282 doses distributed this year)
- Safer sex supplies (100,000+ distributed)
- Drug testing kits (3,000+ distributed for fentanyl, xylazine, and benzodiazepine detection)
- Emergency Shelter Harm Reduction Integration Initiative (133 training sessions for shelter participants and staff)
- Public awareness events, including Overdose Action Day and a safer supply film screening

Impact 2024–2025

- 10,686 interactions with 3,780 unique individuals
- 115,152 needles and 122,811 stems/bowls distributed (42.7% return rate)
- Over 1,000 lives lost to overdose in Waterloo Region since 2018 underscores the urgency of this work

Gratitude

We thank our funders, community donors, partners, and especially our Peer Team for their dedication, solidarity, and compassion during these challenging times.

Looking Ahead

In 2025–2026, we will continue building inclusive, high-quality programs and safe spaces that honour the dignity and humanity of people who use drugs in Waterloo Region.

HIV Self-Test Program 2024-2025



321

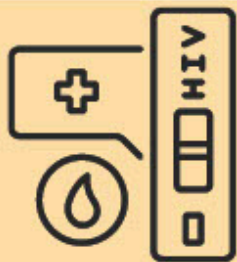
Individuals reached

81

Accessed Safer Sex Supplies



132 cis/trans men, non-binary folks, and other men who have sex with men



36.8% indicated this was their first time testing for HIV

44.2% with a family doctor are not comfortable talking about sexual health



People who use drugs
6.7%

Women
12.5%

MSM
31.8%

ACB
14.7%

Vulnerable Youth
34.2%



52% of participants did not have a family doctor

87.5% of HIV Self-test participants were part of a population most effected by HIV



THRIVE
HIV PREVENTION + SUPPORT

MSM Sexual Health Program Report

The Men and Non-binary Folks Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Sexual Health Program focuses on reducing new **HIV** and STI transmissions while promoting safer sex and healthy sexual practices for cis/trans men, non-binary folks, and other MSM. In 2024–2025, the program was led by *Philip Charbonneau* (Coordinator) and *Paulo Eleria* (Worker), following earlier support from *Benjamin Warren* and *Mike Scott*.

Core Services

- One-on-One Support: Confidential help via phone, text, email, or in-person.
- Motivational Interviewing: Free 4–6 session series to support sexual health changes.
- **HIV** Self-Testing: Free, anonymous tests (take-home or in-office) with pre/post-test counselling, risk assessments, and care referrals.
- PrEP Consultations: Private appointments with direct referral to MyRed's provincial PrEP clinic.
- Workshops & Training: Education on **HIV**/STBBI prevention, stigma, and cultural competency for both community members and service providers.
- Community Outreach: Presence at festivals, on dating apps, and in queer social spaces to meet people where they are.

Got You Covered Campaign

The program runs its own brand, Got You Covered, with distinct materials, events, and a booking system. In partnership with six local 2SLGBTQ+ businesses, “condom cubbies” provide free safer sex packs (condoms, lube, and info) in safe, affirming environments.

Impact 2024–2025

- 3,690 outreach interactions
- 395 unique individuals engaged
- 57 participants referred to PrEP through MyRed
- Ongoing PEP support for individuals needing timely post-exposure care
- Supported by four 2SLGBTQ+ identifying volunteers

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

- New materials and workshops on aging, sex, and safer practices to support older community members and challenge age-related stigma.
- A social media campaign with targeted education and awareness.
- Expansion of community events, building on the success of the August 2024 Pool Party as a fun, stigma-free space for connection and sexual health education.

African & Caribbean Community Development Program Report

The African and Caribbean Community Development Program at THRIVE supports holistic health, equity, and empowerment for African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities in Waterloo Region and Guelph-Wellington. Grounded in cultural safety and community voice, it addresses **HIV** prevention, sexual health, food security, and social inclusion. The program is led by *Priscilla Muzira* (Waterloo Region) and *Ogechika Eze* (Guelph-Wellington).

Provincial Partnership

This program is part of Ontario's **HIV/AIDS** Strategy for ACB Communities, coordinated by the African and Caribbean Council on **HIV/AIDS** in Ontario (ACCHO). Learn more at www.accho.ca.

Key Activities 2024–2025

- Education & Outreach: **HIV** prevention resources delivered in multiple languages at community events such as the K-W Multicultural Festival.
- Community Awareness: Workshops with the Afro Women's Alliance, and "F.U.N. Fridays" at Shelldale Community Centre in Guelph with Food Uniting Neighbours.
- **HIV** Prevention: Distribution of condoms, PrEP/PEP info, and culturally tailored materials through ACB businesses, migrant worker groups, and events. Delivered **HIV** 101 workshops with the Guelph CHC Pregnancy to Parenting Program.
- Partnerships: Ongoing collaboration with the ACB Network and Guelph CHC to strengthen culturally responsive programming.
- Social Supports:
 - Cooking Circle – Shared meals, nutrition discussions, and **HIV** education
 - Women's Social Group – Mental wellness and peer support
 - Community Garden – Food security, cultural connection, and community building for ACB women and migrant workers

Community Engagement Highlights

- Black History Month events, including ACB HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Feb 7)
- Participation in Multicultural and Emancipation Day Festivals
- Engagement in ACCHO's needs assessment, highlighting digital access challenges
- Integration of literacy and stigma-reduction conversations into social groups

Impact 2024–2025

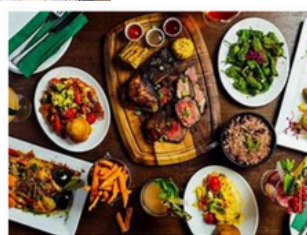
- 1,193 outreach interactions
- ~1,900 participants reached
- 5 volunteers recruited through local ACB networks

Acknowledgements

We thank the African Canadian Association, Afro Women's Alliance, Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region, Immigration Partnership, and Waterloo Region Community Gardens Network for their collaboration.

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

- Expand outreach to reach new immigrants and underrepresented groups
- Train peer leaders to reduce stigma and improve access to services
- Strengthen volunteer capacity with improved onboarding, incentives, and leadership opportunities



**SATURDAY
APRIL 12,
2025**

12:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

**UBUNTU
COMMUNITY
HEALTH FAIR**

THEME: Community Health Services Update

Black Canadians face poorer health outcomes due to varied and complex systemic barriers to well-being. Join local community discussions on services and supports focused on creating a safer healthier future for our African, Caribbean and Black communities in Waterloo Region!

Facilitators include:

Nicole Brown Faulknor
Registered Psychotherapist
Wounds to Wings.

Fadhilah Balogun
African Women's Alliance

Panelists include:

Maritza Yawching Robertson
Neighbourhood Nursing Team

Hellen Taabu
Healthcare Providers against
Racism

Priscilla Muzira
THRIVE (formerly ACCKWA) HIV
Services

Kingsdale Community Centre Room 1
72 Wilson Ave Kitchener, ON N2C 1G5
Free parking and free two-way bus
tickets will be available.

Catered lunch

Please RSVP –
info@acbnetworkwr.com
Text/Call: 519-465-4020



Youth Sexual Health Program Report

THRIVE's Youth Sexual Health Department operates Doin It, an inclusive resource for youth ages 12–29 in Waterloo Region. The program empowers youth to manage their sexual health through education, skills-building, and access to resources. In 2024–2025, staff included Gillian Belcher (Coordinator) and William Reign (Worker).

Program Components

- Workshops & Booths: Free sexual health workshops for youth, parents, educators, and service providers, plus outreach at local events.
- Anonymous Text Line (519-569-9521): Confidential Q&A about sex, relationships, identity, and health.
- Rapid HIV Testing: Free, anonymous tests with step-by-step coaching, counselling, and referrals.
- Youth Sexual Health Action Group (YSHAG): Peer-led group creating safer spaces and open dialogue, especially for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.
- One-on-One Support: Virtual and in-person risk reduction counselling for youth and capacity-building for service providers.

Why It Matters

Standard sexual health education often overlooks 2SLGBTQIA+, racialized, newcomer, and disabled youth. This program fills gaps by tailoring education and resources to marginalized youth facing barriers.

Impact 2024–2025

- 43 workshops reaching 377 youth
- 88% reported improved capacity to prevent STBBIs
- 86% intend to adopt evidence-based prevention practices
- 3,046 youth and 313 service providers engaged through outreach
- 24 community events attended, including Tri-Pride, KW Multicultural Festival, OK2BME GSA Conference, and campus events
- Supported by 22 Peer Mentors/Navigators engaged in program design, delivery, and evaluation

DOIN' it.

Community Feedback

Service providers praised the program as “absolutely amazing” and “invaluable to the community,” highlighting its impact on youth decision-making and empowerment.

Partnerships

- Collaborated with 60 local organizations
- Ongoing partnership with One Big Gay Disco (OBGD), which raised funds for Rapid HIV Testing and provided outreach opportunities celebrating queer joy and history.

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

- Expand rapid HIV testing with more staff to serve Guelph-Wellington
- Continue building inclusive, youth-led spaces that normalize sexual health and reduce stigma



Cambridge Site - Multi Agency Community Space (MACS)

THRIVE's Cambridge Site is a community hub in partnership with 15+ local agencies. It lowers barriers for unhoused and vulnerable individuals by offering coordinated access to primary care, counselling, housing support, harm reduction, ID clinics, and street outreach. The site is led by *Jose de Lima* (Manager), *Aaron Fisher* (Coordinator), and *Lisa Badrov* (Worker).

Services & Supports

MACS provides a stigma-free drop-in space with coffee, snacks, and resources. Participants access care tailored to their goals, including health, housing, and system navigation.

Impact 2024–2025

- 6,366 outreach interactions
- 14,312 unique interactions
- Over 650 community members supported since opening

Community Engagement

- Annual Partners Brunch and Summer BBQ to strengthen connections and foster community
- Collaborations with Sanguen for National Hepatitis Day and Laurier University for a community film screening
- 12 volunteers supporting weekly kit-making with Peer Support and Harm Reduction teams
- Welcomed 5 placement students from 2 colleges

Acknowledgements

Thanks to United Way Waterloo Region Communities for their support and podcast feature, and to the Cambridge Food Bank for addressing food insecurity with us.

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

As MACS celebrates its 5th anniversary, we plan to expand service hours and increase access to primary care, counselling, and system navigation in collaboration with community partners.

Cambridge and Veteran's Street Outreach

The Street Outreach team supports people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by reducing barriers to housing, documentation, and other urgent needs. Working within the Housing Stability System and in partnership with Sanguen Health Centre, the team provides referrals, facilitates move-ins, and guides individuals through housing applications and supports.

Team

Supervised by *Jose de Lima* (Cambridge Site Manager), the team includes:

- *Brigette Medeiros* – Street Outreach Worker
- *Mikaela Faustini* – Street Outreach Worker
- *Jake Mahood Noonan* – Ending Veterans Homelessness Initiative Worker (Waterloo Region)

They provide encampment and community outreach, relationship-building, and service connections at the Multi Agency Community Space (MACS), soup kitchens, and other community sites.

Impact 2024–2025

- 4,000+ outreach interactions
- 118 unique individuals supported

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to partners Emily and Laura (Sanguen Health Centre), Unsheltered Support Workers, and Kate Saunders (Starling's PATHS Navigator) for their collaboration.

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

We will continue developing the Ending Veterans Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) with Porchlight Counselling to support veterans experiencing homelessness.



Guelph Site Manager Report

The Guelph-Wellington site marks a new chapter in THRIVE's expansion of harm reduction, **HIV** prevention, and community health supports. Since opening in March, the team has focused on building relationships, recruiting staff, and preparing the space—while already delivering remote support and prevention services during renovations.

Team

- *Jenn Boyd* – Site Manager
- *Karen Lomax* – Admin & Volunteer Coordinator
- *Ogechika Eze* – ACB Coordinator
- *Oluwaseun Abe* – Support Coordinator



Partnerships

The site is aligned with provincial and national health priorities and will collaborate with WHAI, ACCHO, the GMSH Alliance, Ontario's **HIV**/Hepatitis C Programs, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure evidence-based, community-driven programming.

Highlights so far:

- Onboarding staff and integrating them into THRIVE's culture
- Building early community partnerships
- Preparing the site for in-person services while providing remote supports

Looking Ahead 2025–2026

With renovations nearing completion, the focus will shift to fully activating the space with programs, services, and events shaped by community needs. The site will serve as a hub for connection, education, and healing—grounded in harm reduction and health equity.

Gratitude

Special thanks to the Hive Clinic at Guelph CHC for their vital support during the setup phase.

The Guelph-Wellington site is just beginning, but its potential is already clear. With strong partnerships and community support, it is poised to become a trusted and transformative presence in the region.

THRIVE 2024-25 Donation Report

\$23,040

From April 1st, 2024 to
March 31st, 2025 through
online donations, at events,
and in-kind donations.

Events:

One Big Gay Disco: \$1,097.25
Red Scarf Gala: \$1992.30
In office & at Booths: \$730



Canada Helps.org:

General: \$5017.27
Harm Reduction: \$833.07
Support: \$707.53
Red Scarf Gala: \$96.25
MACS: \$19.25



Total Breakdown:

CanadaHelps.org: \$6,673.37
Benevity: \$6,166.35
In-Kind: \$5,746.96
Red Scarf Gala: 1,992.30
TipTapPay: \$730.00
Miscellaneous: \$1,823.00



In- Kind:

Through our Vitamin Villa
program, we recieved
\$5,747 worth of vitamins
and suppliments from
local pharmacies.





Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Region of Waterloo



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



United Way
Waterloo Region
Communities



**KITCHENER
WATERLOO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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