AID Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New West Chicago Apartment Building

AID, in collaboration with North Arrow Partners, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 487 Main Street in West Chicago to celebrate the development of Main Street Lofts apartment building.

Illinois State Senator Karina Villa, West Chicago Mayor Ruben Pineda, IHDA Development Officer Lilian Yool, AID Board Treasurer Chuck Miles and AID President & CEO Lore Baker offered comments on the history of the project and the positive impact Main Street Lofts will have on the community.

Main Street Lofts will offer permanent supportive housing apartments designed for individuals with disabilities (intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses, and physical disabilities), people experiencing homelessness and veterans who need ongoing services and supports. AID will provide services on-site.
Dear Friends,

As we move toward a return to a more regular world, we are excited about the things happening at AID!

- We have officially kicked off our five-year strategic plan with an emphasis on upgrading facilities and technology; quality improvement; person-centered processes; inclusion and diversity and positive culture improvements.

- We broke ground on a 24-unit permanent supportive housing project in West Chicago.

- With leadership from board member Jim Gould, we started a Family Council focusing on four functions: Advocacy, Advisory, Education and Support. (Email info@aidcares.org if you want to join the monthly Family Council meetings)

- We celebrated SIXTY fabulous years of service to our communities!

- And so much more! I could go on and on. It’s really amazing what we’ve been able to accomplish during a pandemic, thanks to the staff and leadership at AID!

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to the backbone of AID, Wanda Thomas, after 47 years of outstanding, professional, stellar, amazing, dedicated work. She has not only positively impacted thousands of AID clients, families, guardians and staff members but she has given to the population of Kane and Kendall Counties by serving on committees and boards of a variety of organizations. We will be sending Wanda off in style with a shindig to celebrate her accomplishments scheduled for August 14, 2021. (Visit AIDcares.org to R.S.V.P. online.)

As Wanda prepares to leave us, we are thrilled to announce that Stephanie Norwood has accepted the VP of I/DD Services position at AID. Stephanie has been with AID for ten years and served in a variety of positions across the organization. We have also created two new Executive Leadership positions: VP of Equity and Inclusion and Chief Innovation Officer. Courtney Littlejohn has been with AID for several years running our Employment First programming and chairing the Cultural Competency and Diversity Committee. She will be our first VP of Equity and Inclusion (and for us, inclusion and equity are about gender, race AND ability both within the organization and in the communities that we serve). The Chief Innovation Officer will work across the organization to develop innovative services and implement best practice changes that are coming down the pike. Casey Burke began his career as a DSP and has great I/DD services experience, he most recently worked at Little City and for the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities. Stephanie and Courtney began on June 27, 2021 and Casey will join us on August 9, 2021.

AID is stronger than ever and poised to support people with disabilities living and working in their communities for the next sixty years and beyond! Thank you for assisting us in meeting our mission!
JOIN THE AID TEAM!

APPLY ONLINE: AIDCARES.ORG

CONTACT: KEVIN HARRIS
KHarris@AIDcares.org • (630) 966-4028

QUALIFICATIONS
Minimum 18 Years of Age, High School Diploma or Equivalent, Valid Illinois Driver’s License

OPEN FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME POSITIONS:
• Case Manager (QMHP, Victim Services & more)
• Direct Support Person (Residential, Day Services & more)
• Crisis Line Worker (MHP)
• Registered Nurse

BENEFITS:
Paid Time Off, Paid Training, Tuition Reimbursement, 401k, Medical/Dental Plans, Life Insurance and Disability

…and many more!

2021 / 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FRONT ROW: Inez Toledo (Retired Director), Diana Law, AID President Lore Baker, Toni Vaughan, Dr. Melinda Tejada (Chairwoman)

NOT PICTURED: Dr. Timothy Brown, Dr. Greg Long, Merritt Walker, Wendy Swims

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DIRECTORS
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…and many more!
June 19, 2021 marked the 60th anniversary of AID providing essential services to address developmental, behavioral and crisis needs for individuals throughout Northern Illinois.

AID is grateful that our partners and supporters continue to champion our mission of helping friends, family members, and neighbors live the lives they choose.

Throughout the month of June, a virtual “60 for Sixty” fundraiser was held with the hopes of reaching a $6,000 goal. Thanks to the many supporters who donated on the AID facebook page (Facebook.com/AIDcares), contributed on the AID website (AIDcares.org/donate) or mailed a check; a grand total of $8,000 was raised! AID could not have had 60 successful years of serving individuals in need without the generosity of donors across our community services area.

Aurora Mayor Proclaims June 19 as “Association for Individual Development” Day

During the City of Aurora Council Meeting on June 22, 2021, Aurora Mayor Richard C. Irvin proclaimed June 19th - the founding day of AID - as Association for Individual Development Day in the City of Aurora.

Thank you to the countless employees, volunteers, fellow non-profits, generous donors and community supporters throughout the years for making this celebration possible. We look forward to another 60 years of providing important programs and services to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health and crisis needs across Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, DuPage, Will, McHenry and suburban Cook County communities. The livestream of the proclamation can be viewed online: Facebook.com/watch/CityofAuroral.
AID Hosts First Virtual Run, Walk & Roll 5K

AID hosted a “Virtual Run, Walk & Roll 5K” throughout the month of May 2021 to raise funds for programs and services benefiting 5,600 children and adults with developmental, behavioral and crisis needs.

Over 100 participants joined in on this unique way of practicing social distancing, staying active and supporting 60 years of AID programs and services.

Congratulations to the winners of the AID 5K!

• Gregory King: 19min 42sec
• Bonita Blyth: 24min 16sec
• Karla Castillo: 26min 59sec
• Sarah Kibler: 27min 9sec
• Rick Poulton: 28min 16sec
• Bob Sejnoha: 37min 58sec

Gift card prizes were awarded to the top 3 men and top 3 women who finished the 5K in the fastest time. Thank you to all AID 5K registrants, generous donors and incredible sponsors for raising important funds for AID programs and services. We are optimistic that an in-person AID 5K will return in 2022!

Major Virtual 5K Sponsors:

THE KLOTZ FAMILY • WALT & JANET DWYER
THE SIMPSON FAMILY • JOE AND DEB WINKLE
LINDA AND BRUCE ROHR • SUZANNE BESSETTE-SMITH
AND DAVID SMITH • OWEN AND SUSAN LOWREY
TOM AND LYNN O’SHEA • JOHN AND SUE POTTER
ABRAHAM STEINBERG AND CANDICE GOLDSTEIN
AID Partners with Advocates for Kane County Mental Health for Rally in Elgin

On March 17, 2020, voters in Dundee Township and Elgin Township approved a referendum to create and fund a 708 mental health board in order to provide mental health, developmental disabilities and substance use services in their townships. In April 2021, the Kane County Clerk decided not to collect the taxes that were approved for those services.

AID, along with fellow non-profits and community leaders, held a rally on May 1, 2021 at the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren (Elgin) to communicate the current situation and explain what action steps are underway. A large crowd of community members attended the rally to show their support for the establishment of both an Elgin Township and a Dundee Township 708 mental health board.

New AID Community Health Worker Program Launched

A new Community Health Worker (CHW) program was launched in March 2021 due to the overwhelming need for COVID-19 support in communities served by AID. CHWs are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of the communities they serve. This trusting relationship enables CHWs to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to assist in ease of access to services and improve the quality of service delivery.

Since launching, AID CHWs have hosted several COVID-19 vaccination clinics, coordinated informational zoom meetings and provided 1-on-1 consultations to community members in need. The AID CHW program is made possible by a grant from the Illinois Public Health Association.

Get Connected!

Sign up to receive exciting AID news and updates directly to your inbox!

Enter your e-mail in the pop-up window at AIDcares.org or scan this QR code:

Receive the following directly to your inbox!

- **FRIDAY FOCUS:** Each Friday, a specific AID program or service is highlighted with a client success story and detailed program information.

- **ADVOCACY ALERTS:** Receive important legislative alerts that affect AID and our community. Includes direct calls to action.

...and more!
Happy retirement to two of our incredible longtime employees: QIDP Molly and Director Tesfa! Your positive attitudes and smiling faces will be dearly missed by staff and clients.

Thank you to the Elgin Police Department and The Autism Hero Project for inviting AID to participate in the Elgin Community Autism Awareness event in April! It was a great opportunity to inform the community about AID programs.

Thanks to a coordinated effort between AID staff, VNA Health Care and the Kane County Health Department, most clients have received both vaccinations as part of the phase 1A and 1B dispersion plan.

AID clients had perfect weather in July to cheer on the Kane County Cougars to a victory! Thank you to Kiwanis Club of Elgin, Rick Poulton, Michael Polchopok and the entire Cougars staff for making this outing possible! We look forward to this event every summer!

Several students and a teacher chaperone from Rosary High School helped us celebrate National Volunteer Week 2021 (April 18 - April 24) by lending a helping hand in cleaning flower and garden beds at our Community Day Services location in Aurora.

Greg and Gary recently stopped by our Elgin Community Day Services to deliver a very generous donation on behalf of the St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council #12497. Thank you for your efforts to raise funds for AID with Tootsie Roll drives!

We were honored to represent AID in the McHenry County 4th of July parade on Independence Day weekend. Staff decorated a van with AID and America designs and interacted with attendees along the parade route.

Several students and a teacher chaperone from Rosary High School helped us celebrate National Volunteer Week 2021 (April 18 - April 24) by lending a helping hand in cleaning flower and garden beds at our Community Day Services location in Aurora.

Thank you to John Steffan and all Kiwanis Club of Elgin club members for a truly generous $1,000 grant to support AID children’s mental health services. Elgin Kiwanis has been a tremendous supporter of AID programs and services for many years.

Thank you to the Elgin Police Department and The Autism Hero Project for inviting AID to participate in the Elgin Community Autism Awareness event in April! It was a great opportunity to inform the community about AID programs.

There was a great turnout at the 2021 Local Showcase & Spring Fest in May! Thank you to the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce for this opportunity to create awareness of our Behavioral Health services in DeKalb.

Thank you to John Steffan and all Kiwanis Club of Elgin club members for a truly generous $1,000 grant to support AID children’s mental health services. Elgin Kiwanis has been a tremendous supporter of AID programs and services for many years.
MEMORIALS
7/1/20 - 12/31/20

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Caryl Phillips

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Cosette Clegg
Jim and Wyonne Hegland

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Donate online at AIDcares.org/Donate

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7/1/20 - 12/31/20

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<td>Thomas and Cheryl Starrett</td>
<td>Lisa Vlach</td>
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<td>Abraham Steinberg and Candace Goldstein</td>
<td>Anna Vogttridge</td>
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WANDA RETIREMENT CELEBRATION - AUGUST 14 - MAIN OFFICE
Join us as we celebrate Wanda Thomas, her 47 years of dedicated service to AID and her impending retirement! The celebration will take place from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Saturday August 14 at the AID Aurora Administration Office (309 New Indian Trail Ct., Aurora, IL 60506). A brief program will take place at 5:00 P.M.. Food and refreshments will be provided. Visit AIDcares.org to R.S.V.P. online.

AID BENEFIT AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 30 - FISHERMEN’S INN (ELBURN)
AID will host a 60th Anniversary - “Shine Bright Like a Diamond” Benefit Auction on Thursday, September 30 at the scenic Fishermen’s Inn in Elburn, IL. Support the auction by donating new items such as gift cards, wine/liquors, sports/concert tickets or consider sharing your timeshare or get a group together and create a Get-Away themed basket! Contact Angela Cudmore, Events Coordinator at (847) 931-2294 or ACudmore@AIDcares.org.

#ILGIVE GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 30 - ONLINE EVENT
#ILGIVE is a statewide, non-partisan movement to support non-profit communities in Illinois by increasing individual giving. #ILGIVE is a compliment to the nationwide #GivingTuesday campaign. Mark your calendar for this year’s event: Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Help us reach our fundraising goal and make a larger impact with your online donation on this special day!