

AID Developments

WINTER 2025 / SPRING 2026

Groundbreaking for Las Rosas: A New Chapter in Supportive Housing

On November 12, 2025, AID, Hased House, and The Neighbor Project celebrated the ground-breaking of Las Rosas, a new Permanent Supportive Housing development in Aurora. This collaborative effort will transform a vacant school building into a hub for community support and affordable housing designed for individuals and families transitioning from homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or living with disabilities.

With the support of Congressman Bill Foster, the partners secured \$3 million in federal community project funding to help acquire and renovate the property. The development will provide 20 independent one- and two-bedroom apartments, 10 within the renovated school and 10 newly constructed, paired with comprehensive wraparound services.

Each partner brings unique expertise, from behavioral health and crisis care to housing placement and financial empowerment. Together, we are creating stability, dignity, and opportunity, building not just housing, but hope for our community.



IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

Letter from AID President	1
Senior Staff and Board of Directors	2
Get Connected / AID SWAG	3
AID Food Truck Ribbon Cutting	4
Passport to Change Benefit Auction	5
Snapshots: Photos Around the Agency	6
Giving Tuesday Success	7
Memorials and Honorariums	8
Donations	9, 10



COMMUNITY * ADVOCACY * RESOURCES * ENGAGEMENT * SUPPORT

AIDCARES.ORG



LETTER FROM AID PRESIDENT



OUR MISSION:

To empower people with physical, developmental, intellectual and mental health challenges to enjoy lives of dignity and purpose.

ABOUT AID:

AID is a nonprofit, community-based organization that serves 4,800 individuals throughout DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, McHenry, suburban Cook and Will counties. Programs are available for individuals with developmental, behavioral and crisis needs. AID is a United Way partner agency and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit our website:

AIDcares.org

or call:

AID Services: 877-AID-0001
(877-243-0001)

Crisis Line: 630-966-9393



Dear Friends,

AID is celebrating our 65th Anniversary as an organization in 2026! We look much different than we did in 1961, as we have continually grown in our mission to serve people with intellectual, developmental, physical, and mental health needs, as well as those facing immediate or chronic crises. Our goal is to help individuals fulfill their needs, build skills, live and work in their communities, and contribute to the fabric of society.

We talk about these services often, but we don't always talk about what it takes to make them possible. This year, I would like to share some of the "things" that help make AID, and the work we do, a reality. In this newsletter, I'll start with physical structures.

AID owns and operates more than 70 physical structures, from single-family homes that house Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILAs), to apartment buildings, to office spaces both large and small. These spaces provide places to call home, locations where people can receive services like therapy, counseling, and case management, and safe environments where individuals can decompress, plan, and regroup.

We currently have no mortgage debt on any of our properties, thanks in no small part to you! With that comes the responsibility to be good stewards of AID's resources. This means not only maintaining and upkeeping our buildings, but also committing funding to rehabilitate properties that are 40, 50, or even 60 years old.

Last year, the air conditioner at the Thompson Center stopped working and needs to be replaced. We have also grown significantly and have plans to better utilize space at the Thompson Center, which will require construction. In Yorkville, one of our buildings needs updates to better serve people with IDD. Additionally, many of our properties still use older lighting systems that consume more energy and are costly to maintain.

As you plan your giving this year, would you consider adding an additional amount to your support of AID to help meet these capital needs? We want AID to continue thriving and serving people in our communities for the next 65 years. Thank you for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lore Baker".

Lore Baker
AID President & CEO



SENIOR STAFF



LORE BAKER
President and CEO



RAJNISH J. MANDRELLE
Chief Operating Officer



COURTNEY LITTLEJOHN
*Vice President of
CDS and Employment First*



STEPHANIE NORWOOD
*Vice President of
IDD Services*



JOANNE FURNAS
*Vice President of
Behavioral Health*



KIMBERLY BUCKHEISTER
*Vice President of
Crisis and Outreach Services*

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENTS

Andrea Consolatti, AVP of Community Day and Employment Services

Wendy Gorog, AVP of Finance

Jennifer Hanson, AVP of Behavioral Health Services

Ashley Heinekamp, AVP of Crisis and Outreach Services

Danielle La Ha, AVP of Behavioral Health Services

Kimberly Lynch, AVP of Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services

Hans Mach, AVP of Asset Management

Samantha Moylan, AVP of Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services

Dave Peterson, AVP of Information Technologies and Billing

Christie Plotzke, AVP of Resource Development

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HUD

Walt Dwyer, *Chairman*

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Chuck Miles

Bruce Simpson

Rick Poulton

Get Connected!



Be the first to know what's happening at AID! Sign up to receive inspiring stories, upcoming events, program updates, and exclusive news—delivered straight to your inbox.

Stay connected and see how your support makes a difference!

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!

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



NEW!

AID SWAG IS HERE!

RB

I am **UNIQUE** and **CAPABLE.**
AID

I am **ENOUGH.**
AID

I can achieve **ANYTHING.**
AID

Breathe. Believe.
AID HEAL.

SAME STRUGGLE
AID

YES IN MY BACK-YARD.
AID

Mental Health

Y I M B Y

Trusting Yourself

PURCHASE UNIQUE AID DESIGNED SWAG AND LIMITED EDITION AID HOLIDAY-THEMED MERCH AT THE AID REDBUBBLE STORE:

TINYURL.COM/AIDREDBUBBLE



The Flavor Lab Ribbon Cutting Expands Inclusive Employment Opportunities

On December 10, 2025, AID celebrated the official ribbon cutting of The Flavor Lab alongside partners from the Aurora Regional Economic Alliance and community supporters. The event marked an exciting step forward in expanding employment opportunities and inclusive programming for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Flavor Lab is a mobile culinary experience that provides hands-on training and meaningful employment, made possible through a generous grant from the Kane County Riverboat Fund. Featuring bold, mix-and-match dips and delicious dippers, the food truck showcases the creativity and skills of AID clients while helping them build confidence and career pathways.

Remarks were shared by leaders including Casildo “Casey” Cuevas of the City of Aurora along with AID leadership. AID thanks all staff, clients, partners, and advocates who joined the celebration and continue to support inclusive employment as the Flavor Lab prepares to serve communities across the region.



James H., an AID Community Day Services client, takes one of the first food orders for “The Flavor Lab.”



Passport to Change



AID Benefit Auction
September 18, 2025



AID Hosts “Passport to Change” Benefit Auction

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, AID welcomed supporters to its “Passport to Change” Benefit Auction at The Lincoln Inn in Batavia for an unforgettable evening of celebration and impact. The event was a tremendous success, bringing together clients, families, staff, and community partners for a night filled with fellowship, generosity, and excitement.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, sponsors, and donors, the event raised critical funds to support meaningful programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities and those facing mental health and crisis needs across Kane, Kendall, DeKalb, DuPage, Will, McHenry, and suburban Cook County communities.

During the “Fund-A-Need” portion of the night, generous supporters contributed much needed financial support.

These needs included:

- **Making a House a Home:** As clients move into their own apartments, many are starting from scratch, while others need to replace worn furniture. “Making a House a Home” funds provide essential items for new or existing homes, along with gift cards to help clients personalize their space.
- **Self-Care Essentials:** Everyday necessities like soap, shampoo, and deodorant are often out of reach for the clients we serve. “Self-Care Essentials” funds ensure consistent access to hygiene kits, haircuts, and personal care items that support health, dignity, and confidence.
- **Client Transportation:** Reliable transportation is key to independence and inclusion. This category provides bus passes, rideshare vouchers, and other support so clients can attend job interviews, access healthcare, get to work, and participate in community life.
- **Health and Wellness Support:** Many individuals we serve face gaps in coverage for critical health needs. These funds provide everyday medical necessities not covered by Medicaid, such as incontinence supplies, diabetic test strips, and over-the-counter medications, along with essential equipment that supports safety, comfort, and mobility.

With this incredible support, AID continues to expand opportunities, strengthen services, and empower the individuals and families it serves. The success of “Passport to Change” was a powerful reminder that when our community comes together, we truly help our mission take flight.



Snapshots! PHOTOS AROUND AID



In August, AID clients took part in Yorkville Public Library's Art for Everyone program — a creative and inclusive event led by instructor Carolyn Kyle. Participants used adaptive techniques and imagination to create beautiful paintings while connecting through art and self-expression.



Lore Baker, AID President & CEO was honored at the Three Fires Council Scouting America Northern Kane County Good Scout Breakfast. Lore and AID were recognized for their leadership and commitment to supporting individuals facing disabilities, mental health challenges, trauma, and housing instability across our communities.



In August, AID Behavioral Health Supported Living clients enjoyed a doubleheader with the Kane County Cougars! It was a hot summer day, but cheering on our home team and celebrating a win made it a memorable and fun outing for everyone.



Recently, AID clients and staff hosted their first Parentine's Day Movie Night, voting unanimously to watch KPop Demon Hunters. Guests enjoyed classic theater snacks, a popcorn bar with fun flavors, and goodie bags featuring treats from South Korea and other Asian countries, making it a fun and memorable evening.



Congratulations to Jan-Aid Manager Diane Pillar on her well-deserved retirement! After years of dedication and leadership, Diane has made a lasting impact on AID clients and staff. Thank you for everything, and best wishes for a joyful and relaxing retirement!



Recently, members of AID Leadership attended the City of Elgin State of the City Address. Kim Lynch, Kim Buckheister, Lore Baker, Rajnish Mandrelle, and Courtney Littlejohn gathered updates to help strengthen AID's Elgin-area services and better support the community.



AID Behavioral Health management and staff attended the Annual PIN (People in Need) Forum in McHenry County with local partners. Events like these help build connections and provide resources in the community. Thank you to our dedicated staff for their participation!



Sonia Richardson, Director of Behavioral Health Services, and several AID clients ventured to Yatee Station Arcade to enjoy an afternoon of unlimited arcade action!



For his birthday, Direct Support Professional Gavin Shearer (middle) celebrated by bringing clients and coworkers to Elgin Lanes. They enjoyed arcade games, an 8-player bowling match, and snacks, with a plush pickle from the claw machine making the day extra special.

Donors make AID Giving Tuesday 2025 a Success!

Thank you to all of our AID champions for the incredible outpouring of support during Giving Tuesday 2025! Since its launch in 2012 as a simple idea to inspire people to do good, Giving Tuesday has grown into a global movement that encourages millions to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity each year.

This past Giving Tuesday, we highlighted a few inspiring individuals participating in AID programs. Their progress reflects their hard work, the dedication of our staff, and the generosity of supporters



When Susan and her husband called the police — again — they didn't know where else to turn. Their adult son, Taylor, had been struggling with alcoholism, anxiety, and night terrors despite multiple rehab stays. One night, officers suggested they contact AID — and that call changed everything. The crisis team listened, shared their own experiences, and brought calm to the chaos.

"They were there every time we called — day or night," Susan recalls. "They helped Taylor see he needed help and saved our family." Today, Taylor is doing well in recovery, and the family still reaches out for reassurance and support. "I can't imagine where we'd be without them," she says. "You truly saved us."

Since moving into AID permanent supportive housing at The Wildwoods, Bill has completely transformed his life. He now cooks his own meals, works at keeping his home tidy, and takes pride in his independence. His progress in such a short time has been remarkable, and his support staff couldn't be prouder of how far he's come. Today, Bill's life is defined by stability, confidence, and a true sense of home. With continued support, there's no limit to how far he can go.



Sandra came to AID seeking support for her mental health and help finding a job. Living with inattentive ADHD made it hard to stay focused and confident, but through therapy and job coaching, she gained new tools — and hope. "Before AID, I was really struggling to find work," she says. "They helped with interviews, resume writing, and gave me the push I needed." Within months, Sandra found a well-paying part-time job, and AID continues to check in and offer support.

"Mental health struggles and job challenges are often invisible, but AID understands," she says. "They genuinely care. I'm so grateful — it's made all the difference."



MEMORIALS

8/13/25 - 2/17/26

Ben Alexander

Greg and Patrice
Alexander

Patrice Auer

Carol Engstrom
Nada Engstrom
Linda Gruber
Rosmari Engstrom
Wayne and Janet Karp
John and Karen Mich
Kathe Pava
Paul and Charlyn
Rauch
Vicki Shilling
John and Shirley
Whitmer
Michael Star

Sylvia Budinger

Janis and Mark Potter

Robert DeDobbelaere

The Bingham Family
Bridget Koefeld

Daniel Gaudio

John and Therese
Gaudio

Lori Guddendorf

John and Donna
Guddendorf

Ron Houchin

Elyssa Springer

Terri Knapp

Elyssa Springer

Benjamin Mejia

Linda Bailey
David and Lora Bird
Allen and Debra Bonini
Rose Mayer
Bruce and Margaret Rady
Pamela Smith

Caryl Phillips

Wayne and Janet Karp

James

and Joann Torrence

Gregory and Andrea
Torrence

Joseph Vaughan

Cynthia Crandall

HONORARIUMS

8/13/25 - 2/17/26

Andrea Consolatti

Nina Consolatti

Drew Garland

Greg Garland

Lois Kelly

Willie and Autumn
Jackson

Katherine Minard

Heather Zimmerman

Beth McTavish

John and Verona Duchaj
Susan Kuen Gregory

Ben Steinberg

Scott and Taryn
Goldstein

Danny Trippon

Norman Berthusen



Honor that special
someone today!

1. Visit AIDcares.org
2. Click "Donate" in the menu bar
3. Click "Dedicate my Donation"
4. Select "In Memory" or "In Honor"
5. Enter the Name of the honoree
6. Complete donation

New Feature!

Once you've made your dedicated donation, you can create and send a personalized e-card to the individual—or their family—in whose honor your gift was made.

CONNECT WITH
AID ONLINE



AID SUPPORTERS

8/13/25 - 2/17/26

Dustin and Stacy Ackman	Christopher and Rachel Clausen	Donald Frye	Robert Jr. and Ann Decker
Leo and Barb Ahasic	Colleen Clifford	Tim and Joanne Furnas	Kane County Sheriff's Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #14
Steve and Karen Aleck	Coffman Trucking Sales, Inc.	G.E. Riddiford Co., Inc.	Sonya Kaupp
Kayleigh Aleck	Andrea Consolatti	Sylvia Garcia	Michael and Deborah Kilberry
Greg and Patrice Alexander	Lauren Corbett	Geneva 708 Mental Health Commission	Kiwanis Club of Batavia / Geneva Area
Jerry and Barbara Allison	Core Solutions, Inc.	Genoa Healthcare	Kiwanis Club of Elgin
Barbara Anderson	Don and Wendy Cote	David and Lori Georgeson	Alyson Kline
Leah Anderson	Mike Cozzi	Jerry and Valerie Giolitto	Cliff and Marilyn Klotz
Aurora Township Senior Services Fund	Cynthia Crandall	Rosemarie Gismondo	Curtis and Angela Klotz
Joy Baez	Dennis and Jan Culpepper	Andrew and Ronda Glowaty	Knights of Columbus Council #14929
Lore Baker	Lee and Terry Cunningham	James and Ann Gosselin	Knights of Columbus Council #4849
Stewart and Claire Beach	Randy and Debby Dalton	Jim Gould and Jenna Korenstra	Knights of Columbus Council #14825
Eugene Bennett	John Davine	Don and Jane Grimaldi	KodoCare Pharmacy
Margaret Bennett	Paul Davis	Rick and Desiree Guzman	Jeff and Janet Krahn
Peggy Benzschawel	Anita Dekayie	Patricia Haban	Tom and Pat Krave
David Bixby	John and Elizabeth Del Genio	Gary and Alice Hallmann	Carla Kroll
Peter and Mary Bochnovic	Angie DeLeon	Hampshire Lions Club	Susan Kuen Gregory
Tom and Patricia Bonifas	Rosalie DeYoung	Kristen Hatton	Danielle La Ha
Brian and Tami Bowman	Dan and Carolyn Dial	Karen Heifetz	Tara Latto
John and Kimberly Branstad	Mike and Karen Drancik	Wayne and Karen Heinmiller	Lauderdale Electric
Elijah Braun	Mary Anne DuRay	James and Ina Heup	Mark and Susannah Lesswing
Matt and Brittany Bretz	Ingrid Edwards	Phred and Bonnie Hollister	Judy Levan
Tim and Sue Brown	Janice Einhorn	Curtis and Andrea Holloway	Lou Malnati's
The Bryant Family	Marlene Eisler	James and Gwendolyn Hull	Owen and Sue Lowrey
Caleb Bryant	Elgin Lions Club Foundation	Frances Hung	John and Kathy Mahony
Andrew and Pat Buck	John and Carolyn Emanuel	Nancy Huston	Maureen Manning
Alex Buckett	Gene and Eileen Faut	Keith and Carol Iden	Cherie and Dan Martin
Arthur and Marcia Burkett	William and Carol Ferrigan	IHC Construction Company LLC.	Gary and Joan Mather
Ray Burman	Pat and Kate Fish	Dieter and Elvira Illig	Corbin Maxson
Jeffrey and Patricia Butler	Pat and Judy Flaherty	Lisa Ippolito	Claude and Sue Mayo
Andrew Caddis	Daniel and Judith Flaherty		Becky McBoom
Shannon Cameron	William Flaherty Jr.		
Tracey Carragher	Marilyn Franck		
Amy Clark			

Mark and Carolyn McDonald	Jeff and Mary Phillips Corinne Pierog	James and Julie Sippel David Smith and Suzanne Bessette-Smith	Brenda Walker Carol Walter Walter J. and Edith E. Best Foundation
Joe McMahon	Christie Plotzke and Jeremy LaDue	Caroline Smith	Betty Walters
Ken and Kathy McNeil	Rebecca Plotzke	Terri Bolkema	John and Lisa Waters
Mark and Beth Mehaffey	George and Linda Plotzke	Nancy Sohn	Waubensee Community College
Mary Meierkort	Tim Poore	Kevin Spahn	Richard Weiland
Chuck and Sheri Miles	Laura and Steven Poss	Elyssa Springer	Linda Weiss
Michael and Teresa Milewski	John and Sue Potter	St. Charles Kiwanis Noon Club	Kyle and Kirsten Wehrli
Doug Milewski	Janis Potter	Abe Steinberg and Candice Goldstein	Stu and Becky Whitt
Marvin Miller	Richard and Bonnie Poulton	Lea and Eddie Nabrinsky	Steven and Karen Williams
Mike and Mary Beth Mitchell	Sandy Quintanilla	Tom and Jeri Steinmetz	Wendy Wilson
Mary Mitchell	Jennifer Rakow	Herb and Mary Stith	David Winkle
Benjamin and Regina Moe	Al and Penny Ramirez Dave and Aleta Rasmussen	James and Debra Stob	Luke and Tess Winkle
Peter and Heidi Molenhouse	Steven and Betty Rauschenberger	Elizabeth Sturm	Joe and Debra Winkle
Michael and Vicki Morcos	Cindy Ray	Randal and Deborah Styka	Tony and Christina Winter
Margaret Mortenson	David and Jennifer Reuland	Sugar Grove Township	Wintrust Financial Corporation
Barbara Morton	Star Rice	David and Lynne Sullivan	Lisa and Brian Wissert
Dale and Pam Nass	Jeff and Jennifer Risch	Melinda and Marcos Tejada	Matthew Wissert
Navigate Forward	Michael and Linda Roche	Nancy Temple	Woman's Club of Aurora (GFWC)
Robert and Janet Nelson	Matt and Caitlin Rock	Lora Thomas	Joan Wood
Yuliya Nikorich	Bruce and Linda Rohr	Tommy and Leah Thompson	Tom and Christine Wood
Stephanie Norwood	Sarene Rosen	James and Clarice Toynton	Frank and Joan Wooley
Kathryn Norwood	Peter and Karen Sauter	Peter and Wendy Trainor	James and Cheryl Wormley
Robert Novack	Charles Schleining	Mary Trippon	Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architects, P.C.
Daniel and Kristen O'Brien	Seigle Family Foundation	Donna Trowbridge	Rachel Yackley
Jenna O'Connell	Barb and Don Sared-Zabelin	Trust Company of Illinois	Marvin and Linda Yoakam
Old Second National Bank (Aurora)	Alan and Donna Shackleton	Norm Turner	Yorkville Congregational Church
Neal and Mary Ormond	Allison Short	Robert Unger	Steven and Peggy Youngren
Tom and Lynn O'Shea	Siegfried and Marjorie Claussner Foundation	United Way (Fox Valley)	Robert and Nancy Zancig
Sarah and Luke Otto	Kathleen Sikora	James Unnerstall	Anthony and Terry Zanker
Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete	Becky Simmons	Mark and Cindy Urbauer	Joe Zieske
John and Sharon Pagel	Cheryl and Craig Simoncelli	Bob and Toni Vaughan	John Zweibohmer
Bob and Susan Panozzo	Bruce and Kathy Simpson	Frank and Lisa Vignieri	
Wieslaw and Elizabeth Paradowski	Max and Kelli Sinclair	Tamra Wagenknecht	
Frank and Brenda Paull Perfection and Grace Inc.		Merritt and Ruth Ann Walker	

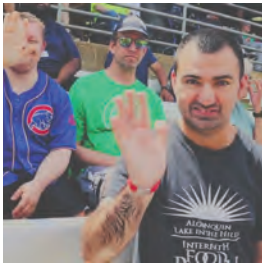


AID is celebrating 65 YEARS in 2026 —
our **Sapphire Anniversary**
The official anniversary is June 19,
but we'll be celebrating all year long!



AID CARES AWARDS
THURSDAY, MAY 7 @ THE LINCOLN INN (BATAVIA)

Join us for the AID CARES Awards as we celebrate and recognize client achievement, honor the generosity and dedication of volunteers, donors, community supporters, and employees who helped make 2025 a success, and celebrate our 65th “birthday” as an organization. The AID CARES Awards event is open to the public, and a complimentary light dinner will be provided.



GIVE DEKALB COUNTY / GIVING TUESDAY
THURSDAY, MAY 7 / TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Give DeKalb County and Giving Tuesday were created as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. This concept inspires people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. Help us reach our Give DeKalb County and Giving Tuesday fundraising goals by visiting www.AIDcares.org on Thursday, May 7 and Tuesday, December 1 to make an online donation.



SUMMER STROLL & ROLL:
SUNDAY, JUNE 14 @ PECK FARM PARK (GENEVA)

Enjoy a relaxed stroll or roll around idyllic Peck Farm (Geneva) with a slightly later start time (10am) in 2026, and enjoy tasty refreshments — including hot dogs, snacks, and snow cones! Keep an eye out for games where you can win fun mystery prizes. Have fun while helping raise funds to support services for individuals with developmental, behavioral, and crisis needs across northern Illinois communities.



DONOR DAYS OF SUMMER
JULY 1 - JULY 31

Celebrate the hottest time of the year with a month-long giving campaign in honor of our 65th Anniversary! This month-long giving campaign invites supporters to make a difference in ways that feel meaningful to them — by joining the AID Legacy Circle, becoming part of the new GEM Circle (Giving Every Month), an anniversary-edition spirit wear fundraiser, or participating in the Christmas in July Gift Card Drive. With fun opportunities all month long, every gift helps change lives and keeps the mission of AID going strong.



AID BENEFIT AUCTION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ THE LINCOLN INN (BATAVIA)

Save the date for Thursday, September 17, 2026 and join us for the Sapphire Soirée Benefit Auction at The Lincoln Inn (Batavia). Enjoy an elegant evening of celebration, connection, and impact as we honor the people who make our mission shine — our clients, supporters, family, friends, and the true gems of our work... you. Contact Kayleigh Aleck, AID Fundraising Events Specialist at (847) 931-2293 or KAleck@AIDcares.org to learn more.



HOLIDAY HOPES:
BEGINS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

The holidays can be challenging for clients without families. With the help of our generous donors, AID brings holiday cheer by providing small Christmas gifts. Individuals, groups, or businesses can display itemized “gift tags” with gift ideas at their workplace, place of worship, or other social settings. Bring holiday joy to our clients by contacting Kayleigh Aleck, Fundraising Events Specialist, at (847) 931-2293 or KAleck@AIDcares.org.