

*focus on  
community*



**caracole**

**2023 Annual Report**

# *Our* **Vision**

To be a relentless force for health equity

# *Our* **Mission**

Caracole is Greater Cincinnati's nonprofit devoted to positively changing lives in the fight against HIV/AIDS through prevention, housing and care.



# Dear friends,

As a community-based HIV/AIDS service organization, Caracole envisions a future without fear and shame, without barriers to care and, eventually, without HIV. We follow the science and, in many cases, we lead best practices as new treatment modalities evolve. We are proud of our history, accomplishments and leadership in the field of HIV and, most importantly, we are proud of the care we provide.

Our community is facing a backlash of new laws and policies demonstrating hostility towards medicine, science, sexual and reproductive health, and towards LGBTQIA + people. Yet Caracole has hope for the future because we are working together in a resourceful, interconnected and resilient community.

Ending the HIV epidemic requires an ecosystem of partners supporting each other. Every member contributes their expertise to create an integrated network of care. We have always known that we are at our best when we leverage our unique strengths with others'. Whether it's partnering with the Continuum of Care for the Homeless to address homelessness in our community; NeighborHub Health to provide quality medical care for syringe services program participants; Cincy Vogue to promote PrEP; or the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Transgender Health Clinic and the infectious diseases centers at our major regional hospitals to address complex medical needs, a network of organizations, donors, volunteers and friends are working together to ensure our clients live their healthiest lives.

Our collaborations extend beyond service delivery. We rely on our friends—like Hamilton County Public Health, Equitas Health, IV-CHARIS, Community Advisory Board, Ohio Health Modernization Movement, the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library, our legislators and politicians, donors and volunteers, among others—to help educate and raise awareness, fight discrimination and increase knowledge about HIV. We can succeed in this work because we never work alone; the collective efforts and generous contributions of partners, donors, volunteers and friends, like you, propel us forward, ensuring our impact reaches far and wide.

Until there is a cure, we will continue to identify opportunities and strategies for the best possible human-centered HIV care. The science of HIV is constantly changing—and, with our partners and supporters like you, we have hope that we will one day see the first HIV-free generation. Together, we have come a long way. We may be tired, and we get discouraged, but we can see a rainbow ahead. Thank you for being our partner in this journey.

**Lee Ann Conard,**  
**RPh, DO, MPH**  
President, Board of Directors

**Linda Seiter**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Staff and Board Members

## ADMINISTRATION

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Linda Seiter

**Executive Assistant**  
Elane Douglas

### FINANCE

**Chief Financial Officer**  
Adam Fischer

**Grant Funding Administrator**  
Willia Pelini

### OPERATIONS

**Chief Administrative Officer**  
Rina Saperstein, MPA

**Human Resources Manager**  
Christine Mason, SHRM-SCP

**Data Coordinator**  
Chad Evans

**Receptionist/Office Assistant**  
Dean Clevenger

### DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING

**Chief Development Officer**  
Ellie Singleton

**Chief Marketing Officer**  
Tricia Bath, MA

**Development & Events Manager**  
David White

### COMPLIANCE & GRANTS

**Director of Compliance**  
Robin Totsch, CCEP

**Director of Government Grants  
& Special Projects**  
Caroline Daley, LSW

## CLIENT SERVICES

**Chief Program Officer**  
Midge Hines, LISW-S, LICDC

### PREVENTION

**Director of Prevention**  
Suzanne Bachmeyer

**Education, Outreach & Testing  
Manager**  
Adam Reilly

**Prevention Supervisor**  
Leah Majesky, CHES

**Prevention Coordinator**  
Jessica Lauber, CDCA

**Health Educators**  
George Elias, Jr., CDCA  
JeMarr Jackson  
Zoey Peach\*  
Ariel Shaw

**PrEP Health Navigator**  
Brandon Brown

**Harm Reduction Services  
Coordinators**  
Candida Kerr  
Rachel Lamb  
Kelsey Rider  
Taylor Selman

### HOUSING

**Director of Housing**  
Carolyn Yorio, LISW-S, MPH

**Housing Supervisor**  
Shannon Smith

**Housing Financial Specialist**  
De'Vona Smith-Buchannon

**Housing Specialists**  
Maria Burks  
Analisa Chavez  
Taryn Lewis\*  
Mary Sullivan  
Jolice Turner

**Caracole House Manager**  
Phyllis Hayden, LSW

**Permanent Housing Case  
Managers**  
Anne McDonald, CDCA  
Carly Jones

**Housing Quality Coordinator**  
Darral Payton

**Residential Assistant**  
Mae Lyles

### CASE MANAGEMENT

**Directors of Case Management**  
Onika Davis, LSW  
Christy Weber, LISW-S

**Clinical Supervisors**  
Wendi Craddock, LISW-S  
Karen Dengler, LISW-S  
John Guagenti, MEd, LSW  
Allison Hayes, LISW-S  
Molly Simpson, MSW, LSW

**Case Managers**  
Sarah Adams, LISW-S\*  
Morgan Alexander, LSW  
Sheri Carota, MSW, LSW  
Valerie Costello, LSW\*  
Maleika Craig, MSW, LSW  
Tina Davis, MSW, LSW  
Marshall "Muggs" deMayo  
Jessica Genaro, MSW, LSW  
Lindsey Hladky, LSW  
Daulton King, LSW  
Mary Kulakoski-Hoerr, LISW-S  
Chevonne Magnuson  
Rachael Miller, MSW, LSW  
Steve Moore, MA  
Aaron Payne, CDCA  
Cassie Reed, MSW, LSW  
Angie Reichert-Hester, MA\*

Marrieth Sithe, LSW  
Hallie Vernon, LSW  
Michael Volmer, LSW\*

**HIV Care Coordinators**  
Kaycie Gardner\*  
Maggie Herrle  
Wesley Phillips

**Case Aide**  
Jeff Stover, MA

**Peer Navigator**  
Adam Hawthorne

\* Team Leads

**Interns**  
Valeria Alvarez, RN  
Patrick Delaney  
Erin Richter  
Dylan Turner

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023 – 2024

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**Treasurer**  
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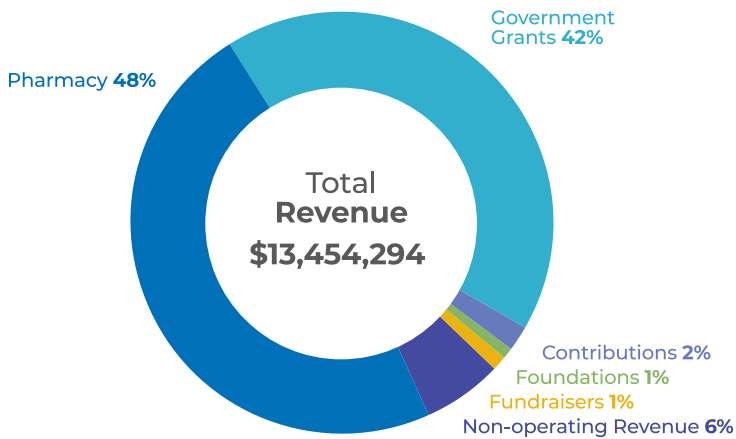
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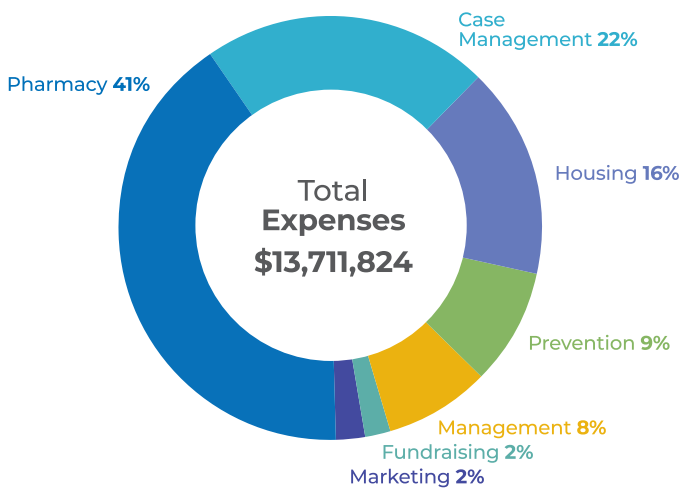


# Financial

2023 *snapshot*



**88%** of expenses go directly to our programs



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

Current assets.....	\$2,054,280
Investments.....	\$2,812,410
Property and equipment, net.....	\$249,276
Other assets.....	\$1,082,010
<b>Total assets.....</b>	<b>\$6,197,976</b>

Total liabilities..... \$1,700,576

Total net assets..... \$4,497,400

**Total liabilities and net assets . . \$6,197,976**

All figures shown represent unaudited data.

# Community *connections*

Ending the HIV epidemic isn't something one organization can do alone. It requires everyone—clients, family, friends, neighbors, volunteers, donors, government and community partners—to work together as an interconnected system. Here are just a few examples of the many ways community connections and collaborations expand our reach, deepen our impact and contribute to a future where health and well-being are accessible to all.



**01** Hamilton County Public Health partnered with Caracole to host the first local fixed-site, evening syringe service program in our region in 2019. What started as a small syringe exchange has since grown to a comprehensive harm reduction program with multiple agencies participating, offering testing, education, safer use supplies, substance use treatment referrals, comprehensive hepatitis treatment, food and medical care.



**02** Northsiders Engaged in Sustainable Transformation, better known as NEST, received funding from the City of Cincinnati's Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program for Northside's REFRESH Program. Seventeen locations, including Caracole's office building on Hamilton Avenue, were selected for exterior improvements to enhance Northside's business district. Artist Lindsay Nehls painted an inspiring, vibrant mural (pictured on our front cover), which transforms our building's southside into a celebration of our Northside community. See more of Lindsay's beautiful artwork on Instagram at @ldnehlsart or visit her website at ldnehls.com



**03** Multiple public libraries partnered with Caracole to honor World AIDS Day 2023 with an awareness campaign highlighting materials about HIV. During the week-long campaign, The Cincinnati Public Library of Hamilton County branches, The Mercantile Library, The Lane Libraries and The University of Cincinnati Health Sciences Library displayed resources and information on HIV past and present—from novels and memoirs to plays, movies and documentaries—to help fight HIV stigma, fear and discrimination in our community.



**04** Our testing van is our mobile community outreach tool promoting HIV testing and awareness in multiple locations throughout the region. In an average year, more than 36% of our HIV tests take place on our van. Thanks to the generous contributions of Duke Energy, The Joint Women's Collaborative of Wyoming Foundation and the Northside Community Council, our plain white van got a stylish makeover in 2023. The new wrap protects the van against weather, road debris and sun damage, and, most importantly, provides a welcoming, visible presence in the community.



**05 NeighborHub Health** (formerly known as Cincinnati Health Network) has had a home at Caracole since 2018. Their Peter T. Frame Primary Care Clinic inside the Caracole office provides a variety of primary care opportunities including multi-panel STI testing, wound care, medically assisted substance use treatment, PrEP prescriptions, mental health medications and more. The clinic's caring and sensitive staff shine during our syringe services program, offering no-barrier care to people who are otherwise reluctant to engage the medical establishment.



**06** Our friends at **St. Columban Church** in Loveland, Ohio organize a giving tree every year to spread holiday cheer to the community. For 20 years, Caracole has been lucky to be a part of this wonderful tradition of donating essential household items—like space heaters, personal care items, bedding, new coats and small appliances—to Caracole clients.



**07** **The Ending the HIV Epidemic Advisory Board** brings together local African American community leaders from churches, businesses and medical organizations to advise Caracole on its marketing, messaging and geographic targeting. The wisdom of these volunteers has helped Caracole improve its relevance and cultural competence in reaching at-risk communities.



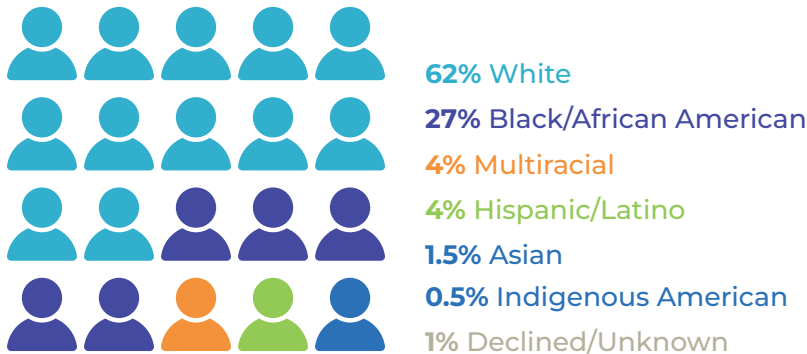
**09** **Santa Maria Community Services** has been Caracole's home away from home in Price Hill, and has been key to efforts to engage the Spanish-speaking community. Their staff provides on-site translating for our HIV health educators, and they've also assisted in honing our Spanish language brochures and educational materials.

**08** **The Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative** serving Butler, Brown, Clermont and Clinton counties has helped expand Caracole's reach outside Hamilton County, especially Butler County, where our concentrated, coordinated efforts have succeeded in reducing a significant cluster of new HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs. They are also helping us obtain Narcan and other supplies at low- or no-cost.

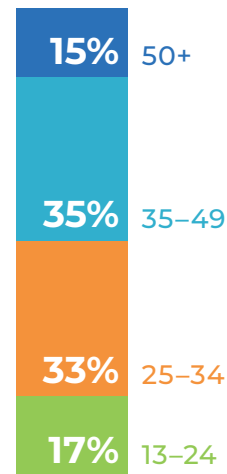
# Prevention

2023 *snapshot*

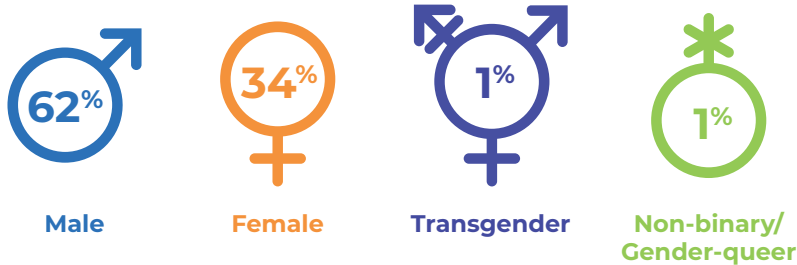
## RACE



## AGE



## GENDER



2% Declined/Unknown

## TESTING & OUTREACH



In 2023, we visited 71 unique community sites in our region to reach populations most at risk for HIV.

### We performed 1,177 in-person HIV tests:

- 11 individuals tested positive for HIV (<1%)

### We distributed:

- 925 HIV self-test kits
- 45,161 condoms
- 2,376 lubricants
- 6,312 safer sex kits
- 1,063 fentanyl test strips

We provided 118 individuals with PrEP assistance and navigation. 18% of these were new participants in the program.

In December 2023, we celebrated World AIDS Day with our PrEP It Up Party, where we engaged 350 people about the benefits of PrEP and how to access it in our community. Attendees also took home hundreds of condoms, safer sex kits, fentanyl test strips and HIV self-test kits.

## SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM<sup>1</sup>



Out of 4,916 visits, we served people from 172 zip codes in our region and distributed:

- 343,245 syringes (and collected 203,636)
- 2,158 doses of naloxone
- 4,755 fentanyl test strips

## HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINE



729 participants accessed 60 HIV self-test kits, 18,493 safer-use and safer sex supplies from the machine, including 781 sharps containers and 19,941 doses of naloxone. Based on participant re-enrollment data, naloxone from the machine was used to reverse an overdose 2,460 times.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In partnership with Hamilton County Public Health

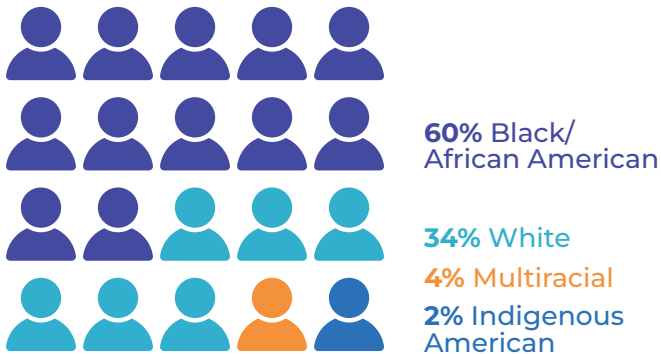
<sup>2</sup>Data obtained through our research partnership with Daniel Arendt, PharmD, at the University of Cincinnati



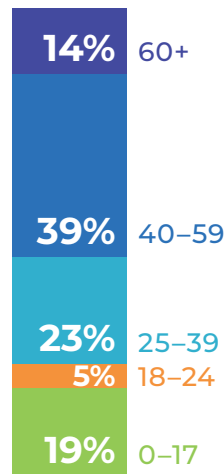
# Housing

2023 snapshot

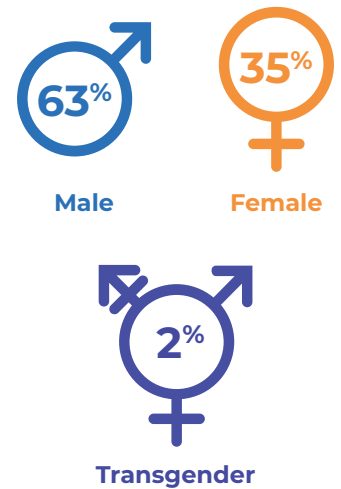
## RACE<sup>1</sup>



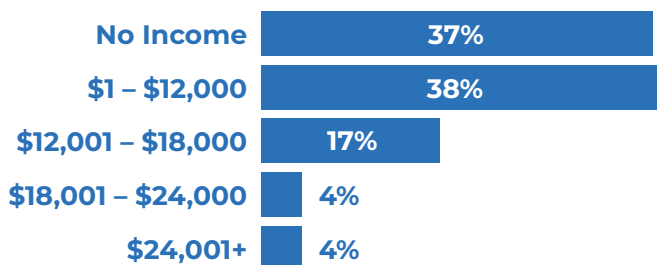
## AGE<sup>1</sup>



## GENDER<sup>1</sup>



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>1,2</sup>



## SPECIAL NEEDS<sup>1,3</sup>



## HOUSING FIRST

Our Greater Cincinnati community benefitted from more than \$1.3 million in direct housing assistance from Caracole in 2023. These funds ensured people living with HIV could stay in their homes and work toward their health and well-being goals, and it also strengthened our local economy.

## LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

We provided safe, affordable homes to 195 people in 147 households. 84% of the people living with HIV in those households<sup>4</sup> were virally suppressed, a key indicator of health and a major accomplishment for those facing multiple barriers that hinder their ability to engage in health care.

## SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE

We prevented homelessness for 22 households by providing \$55,946 in short-term rent and utility assistance. With this temporary support, these clients were able to stabilize their health and finances, after facing challenges due to income loss (68%), illness/hospitalization (23%) or other emergencies.

## CARACOLE HOUSE

A low barrier, site-based, permanent housing program, Caracole House serves individuals living with HIV who are precariously housed or experiencing chronic homelessness. We offer private units for single adults and provide supportive services and case management for each resident. In 2023, a second case manager joined the Caracole House team so that clients' medical and housing stability needs could be more fully addressed. Regular apartment inspections facilitated conversations about how to maintain a home. The housing case managers also work on graduation planning and help clients identify a next home while also setting the client up for success with financial and social support.

<sup>1</sup> Represents permanent supportive housing programs only

<sup>2</sup> Includes other adults in the household

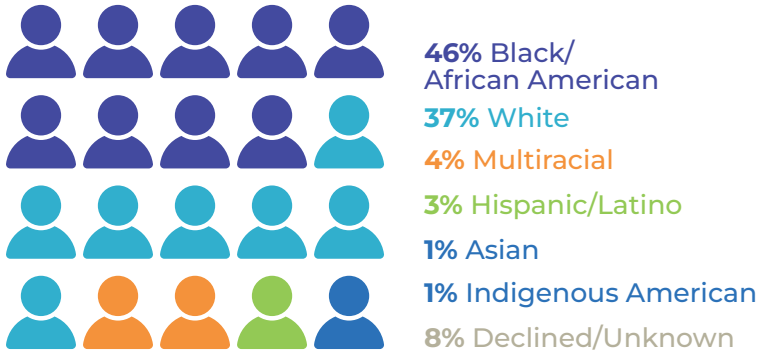
<sup>3</sup> Clients may be reported in more than one category

<sup>4</sup> For whom viral load information was available. A suppressed viral load means there's less HIV in the body and less risk of a person becoming ill.

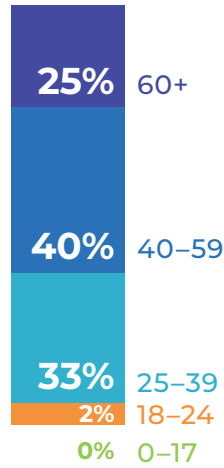
# Care

## 2023 snapshot

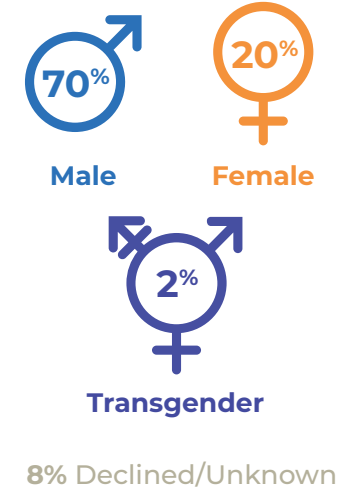
### RACE



### AGE



### GENDER



### CLIENT SERVICES

We served 1,416 clients in case management:<sup>1</sup>

- 88% of our clients<sup>1,2</sup> are virally suppressed
- 96% of our 340B pharmacy program clients<sup>1,2</sup> are virally suppressed

Our pharmacy program filled 6,939 prescriptions and we paid \$464,156 in pharmacy co-pays on behalf of our clients. The cost to clients through this program was \$0.

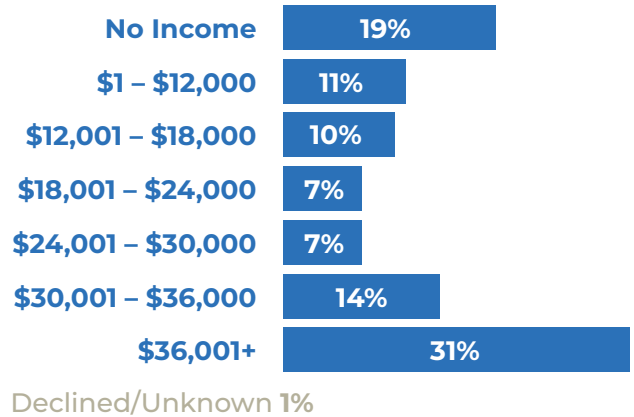
We received 1,411 calls to our intake line, resulting in:

- 359 referrals to Caracole case management
- 229 referrals for housing assistance
- 169 requests for prescription-assistance resources information
- 45 individuals newly diagnosed with HIV being linked to services
- 68 referrals for medical care

### SUPPORT GROUP

Positive Attitudes, an in-person social support group for people living with HIV lead by Caracole and Equitas Health, saw a 40% increase in participation in 2023. The monthly meetings help to decrease social isolation among participants and provide a safe space to candidly share their experience of living with HIV.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>2</sup>



### COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATIONS

Motivational Interviewing is an evidence-based communication approach used by case managers to inspire people to uncover the internal motivation they need to make positive change. In 2023, our case management team completed comprehensive formal training, including advanced instruction in the method. Equipped with these skills, our case managers empower clients to embrace change by drawing out their own meaning, importance and capacity for growth.

<sup>1</sup> Includes all housing clients.

<sup>2</sup> For whom viral load information was available. A suppressed viral load means there's less HIV in the body and less risk of a person becoming ill.

# Donors

Caracole is extremely grateful for all of our donors. This list reflects all donations received between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. If we have inadvertently missed your name, we apologize. Please bring it to our attention and we will correct our error in future publications.

## Government Grants

City of Cincinnati  
Hamilton County  
Public Health  
National Foundation  
for the Centers for  
Disease Control and  
Prevention  
Ohio Department  
of Health  
Ohio Development  
Services Agency  
U.S. Department of  
Housing and Urban  
Development

## Leader Living Circle (\$40,000+)

The Estate of  
Donald Bober  
The Greater Cincinnati  
Foundation  
The Estate of  
Ronald G. Hanks  
United Way of  
Greater Cincinnati

## Platinum Living Circle (\$10,000-\$19,999)

An Anonymous Friend  
William H. Albers Fund  
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Gilead Sciences, Inc  
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The Wohlgemuth  
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## Gold Living Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Stephen Peterson and  
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Kelly and Guy Vanasse  
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## Silver Living Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Nancy Herbert  
Sallie Westheimer  
and Gregory Rhodes

## Bronze Living Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Kai S. Zacharias



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# Honoring *friends*

On May 9, 2023, we gathered for our Annual Meeting to review the past year and honor the award recipients who have uniquely contributed to our mission.

- **Cheryl Hutchins**, a well-known community health educator and lead organizer of the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, and **Tasha Turner-Bicknell**, a professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing and harm reduction advocate, were awarded Caracole's Living Award, which honors outstanding supporters of the organization.
- **Don Clowe and Jean Sepate**, both long-time friends of the agency, were awarded the Sister Grace Murphy Award, which honors outstanding board members for their service.
- The Melissa Lanier Award, which honors outstanding volunteers, was given to **Robert Allen and Annaliese Daniels** for their help in making thousands of harm reduction kits; and **Kay Johnson, MD, Connor Rouan and Mollie Rouan** for their years of service and muscle at our annual Christmas tree sales.
- **Taryn Lewis** was awarded the Michael Ritchey Award, which honors outstanding staff members, for her skill, care and compassion in securing housing stability for our most vulnerable clients.

Thank you to our friends, supporters, Board members and staff who attended and made it such a memorable evening!

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Mark Wert and Mark Johnson

**Gifts were made in honor of the following:**

Chris Bolling  
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Rashaun L. Franklin  
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Dan Guifoile  
John R. Hannan  
John Keller  
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**Gifts were made in memory of the following:**

Dennis Buttlerwerth  
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Until there is a cure, we need friends like you to help us support those living with HIV/AIDS.

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**volunteer** Lend a hand

**advocate** Make your voice heard

**join** Participate in events

**shop** Select us as your charity of choice



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