

VOICES OF PRIDE



Voices of Pride: Advocating for Equality and Inclusion

Dear Open Door community,

As we step into the vibrant and empowering month of June, Open Door Health Center is proud to unveil our latest quarterly newsletter, themed "Voices of Pride: Advocating for Equality and Inclusion." This theme resonates deeply with our core values of embracing diversity and fostering a community where everyone feels welcome and supported.

Pride Month is not only a celebration of identity and love but also a powerful reminder of the ongoing journey towards equality and inclusivity. At Open Door, we continue to stand as a beacon of support and affirmation for all individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community. Our doors are not just open; they are wide open, welcoming everyone with open arms and hearts.

This quarter, we invite you to delve into stories that amplify the voices of pride, stories of resilience, courage, and progress. From highlighting the achievements of LGBTQIA+ individuals to advocating for inclusive policies and practices, this newsletter is a testament to our unwavering commitment to creating a world where everyone can live authentically and thrive.

Join us as we celebrate Pride Month and reaffirm our dedication to advocacy, equality, and inclusion. Together, let's continue to raise our voices, stand tall, and march forward towards a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

With pride and gratitude,
Open Door Health Center of IL

Upcoming Events

Dine to Donate Fundraiser
April 23rd from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Vasco's Peri Peri 927 South Roselle Road
Schaumburg, IL

Open Hearts to Open Door Yoga Brunch
May 4th from 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Huddle Up Conference Center-1600 McConner
Parkway, Schaumburg, IL

Elgin Pride
June 1st from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM
Downtown Elgin, IL

Status and Heels
June 8th from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Casa Michoacan 900 Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago, IL

Community Market
June 9th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Aurora Water Street Mall 13 Water St, Aurora, IL

Aurora Pride Parade
June 9th; Parade kicks off at 12:00 PM
Downtown Aurora, IL

Juneteenth
June 15th from 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Festival Park, Elgin IL

National HIV Testing Day
June 27th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Walgreens 1221 N Lake St, Aurora, IL
Walgreens 100 W Lincoln Hwy, Dekalb IL
Walgreens 30 W Church St, Sandwich

For the events in bold, registration is required. To register, [please click HERE.](#)

From the Executive Director



Perry Maier
Executive Director

Happy spring. Looking out my office window always, it's nice to see sunny skies, green grass, daffodils, and tulips. As the seasons change so do operations at Open Door. Oh, I would like to introduce you to new and old friends.

Almost three months ago we hired Denika McMillen to direct our behavioral health services. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Her role is to work alongside the medical and social services teams to offer supportive services. She comes with years of service to the adult population. If you need someone to talk to or just bounce ideas off, please call her and set up an appointment. She is mostly in Aurora but is willing to come to Elgin as needed.

The next new staff person is Amy Fogel. She is our newest bilingual Medical Case Manager who is housed in Elgin. Her role is to assist persons needing help with insurance, referrals to other services, and accessing medical and prescription services. She has jumped right in and has been meeting clients. Some of you may remember the next person, Anton Carroll. In the past he has worked in

the outreach and prevention program. I am so glad to say he is back. He brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the Outreach team. He is already out in the field testing those at risk for HIV. He's making sure people have access to PrEP, as well as other prevention services. He is difficult to keep up with as he is always moving. So, if by chance you do catch him, say hello and welcome back.

Our newest new staff member started on April 15. Carmen Earsery is there to assist in engaging people into behavioral health care services. I am sure we will utilize her skills and expertise to provide prevention activities and eliminate barriers to care.

The theme of this newsletter is Pride. The Core Values of Open Door Health Center spell out the word, PRIDE. The acronym breaks down to: Professional, Respect, Integrity, Diversity/Inclusion, and Excellence. I hold all of us at Open Door accountable to PRIDE. If you see someone not acting in this manner, please let me know. I could provide you with pages and pages on what PRIDE means to me. I would like to highlight just a couple of the items. Diversity /Inclusion is rooted in our Mission, patient centered and access to education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. We honor the diverse backgrounds of our staff and those who come through our doors. We respect the person and everything they bring in with them. We continue to look for additional

opportunities to learn more about other people and be mindful of how our own biases can get in the way. We strive to make sure everyone is welcomed and feel safe while they are here. Diversity /Inclusion is rooted in our Mission, patient centered and access to education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. We honor the diverse backgrounds of our staff and those who come through our doors. We respect the person and everything they bring in with them. We continue to look for additional opportunities to learn more about other people and be mindful of how our own biases can get in the way. We strive to make sure everyone is welcomed and feel safe while they are here. Diversity /Inclusion is rooted in our Mission, patient centered and access to education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. We honor the diverse backgrounds of our staff and those who come through our doors. We respect the person and everything they bring in with them. We continue to look for additional opportunities to learn more about other people and be mindful of how our own biases can get in the way. We strive to make sure everyone is welcomed and feel safe while they are here.

I hope you continue reading and see what activities we have planned for the upcoming months. Make sure to check out the calendar of events on the website. I hope to see you at a parade, at a community event, our Dine to Donate Event at Peri-Peri Restaurant in Schaumburg on April 23, or our Champagne Yoga Benefit Brunch on May 4th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me and let's have a conversation. Take care.



Denika McMillen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Amy Fogel
Bilingual Medical Case Manager



Anton Carroll
Community Health Navigator



Carmen Earsery
Clinical Support Worker

Board Talk

Peter Pinott joined the Board of Directors in June of 2020 and currently serves as the Board's Vice President. He is a remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to caring for others and advocating for his community. As a long-term resident of Bolingbrook, Peter has ingrained himself within the fabric of the town, understanding its needs and working tirelessly to address them.

Peter is a devoted single

parent, grandparent, and a loving husband. He understands the importance of strong family values and embraces his role as a caregiver wholeheartedly. Peter's commitment to his loved ones extends beyond his own family, as he consistently goes above and beyond to support and uplift those around him. Peter's responsible nature shines through in everything he does. Whether it is organizing local charity events, volunteering at community

centers, or spearheading environmental initiatives, he always takes ownership of his commitments. Peter's dedication to making a positive impact on the world around him is truly inspiring.

With his compassionate heart and unwavering determination, Peter Pinott continues to be an exceptional advocate for his community. Open Door is fortunate to have Peter who selflessly works towards creating a better tomorrow for everyone.



*Peter Pinott
Vice President
Board of Directors*

TESTING DAYS

FREE CLINIC

MONDAYS	AURORA OFFICE 8:30 - 3:30 PM
TUESDAYS	ELGIN OFFICE 8:30 - 3:30 PM
THURSDAYS	AURORA OFFICE 8:30 - 3:30 PM

FREE TESTING IS OFFERED ONLY TO CLIENTS WHO ARE UNINSURED. TESTING IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL ONE OF OUR OFFICE LOCATIONS:

AURORA OFFICE 157 S LINCOLN AVE, STE K AURORA, IL 60505 (630) 264-1819	ELGIN OFFICE 1665 LARKIN AVE ELGIN, IL 60123 (847) 695-1093
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Employee Spotlight

Josh began working at Open Door in 2020. Josh manages patient care and works with the patients to optimize their health goals. The best part of his job is working with patients and helping people. Josh describes himself as caring, kind and practical. On a personal note, Josh's hobbies include learning, exercise and travel.

*Josh Lopez
Nurse Practitioner*

PEER LED SUPPORT GROUPS

MONTHLY

2ND & 4TH MONDAYS	CONEXIONES POSITIVAS 5 - 7 PM Support group of people living with HIV & AIDS (Spanish)
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS	POSITIVE CONNECTIONS 4 - 6 PM Support group of people living with HIV & AIDS (English)
EVERY TUESDAY	TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP 5 - 7 PM Support group for individuals who identify as Transgender

Volunteer Month: Making a Difference in April

A tradition officially recognized in the United States since 1974, has evolved into a comprehensive celebration dedicated to appreciating and encouraging volunteerism across the globe. Volunteers play vital roles at Open Door Health Center of IL. As advocates, public speakers, interns, board members and client advisory board members, volunteers enhance the ability of Open Door to meet the needs of persons living with, or at risk of contracting, HIV/AIDS.

2023

Number of volunteers:	4	Volunteer hours:	127
Number of interns:	9	Intern hours:	1689
Total	13		1816
Value in Dollars			\$57,748.80

Celebrating Transgender Voices: Open Door Health Center's Empowering Initiative

At Open Door Health Center of Illinois, inclusivity is more than a buzzword; it's a commitment to uplifting every voice in our diverse community. In a recent endeavor to spotlight and honor the Transgender community, we collaborated with Rick West of the Daily Herald to share inspiring stories that resonate with courage, resilience, and authenticity.

Three remarkable individuals from our Open Door community, Marisol Trevino of West Chicago, Aron Ryan of Elgin (also serving as Elgin's Poet Laureate), and Keri Davis of Aurora (an esteemed

member of Aurora's LGBT advisory board), graciously shared their journeys and experiences. Their narratives not only shed light on the challenges faced by the Transgender community but also illuminate the strength and beauty of living authentically.

We invite you to delve into their stories, each a testament to the power of acceptance, understanding, and solidarity within our Open Door family. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more and celebrate the vibrant voices that enrich our community.

'We have to be visible': Transgender Day of Visibility celebrates lives and contributions of trans people



Image Source: The Daily Herald. Featured individuals in image: Marisol Trevino, Aron Ryan, and Keri Davis (pictured) sharing their stories. Credits: Photographs produced by The Daily Herald.

US Medical Glove Holding Company's Generosity to Open Door Health Center of Illinois

US Medical Glove Holding Company is a leading manufacturer known for its cutting-edge technology and production of top-quality industrial and medical exam nitrile gloves and glove making machines. Open Door Health Center of Illinois deeply appreciates and values their continuous support in donating medical gloves. With a production capacity of 156 million gloves per month and 2 billion gloves annually, US Medical Glove ensures that their gloves are 100% Berry Amendment compliant, supporting American manufacturing and independence in the global market. Their vertically integrated supply chain guarantees high-quality products, competitive rates, and a reliable manufacturer-to-consumer relationship. Open Door Health Center of Illinois is grateful for the commitment of US Medical Glove commitment to provide essential medical supplies and contribute to the health and well-being of our community.



Walk with Open Door in the Pride Parades!

Join us in celebrating diversity and inclusivity at the upcoming Pride Parades in Aurora and Elgin! Open Door invites all members of our community to walk with us and show your support for LGBTQIA+ rights and equality. These parades are fantastic opportunities to come together, raise awareness, and spread love and acceptance.

We encourage all Open Door supporters to join us in this joyous celebration. If you're interested in walking with us, please scan the QR code provided to be added to our parade roster. Let's make our presence felt and stand together for love and equality!

If you have any questions, please email Luis at luisl@opendoorclinic.org

Here are the details for each parade:

Elgin Pride Parade:

- Date: June 1st
- Parade Start Time: 11:00 AM
- Arrival Time: Please arrive between 10:00 AM and 10:30 AM to ensure we're ready for the parade kick-off.

Aurora Pride Parade:

- Date: June 9th
- Parade Start Time: 12:00 PM
- Arrival Time: Participants are requested to arrive between 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM to be ready for the parade kick-off.



Happy Pride Parade participants celebrating in June 2023 🌈



[Can't access the QR CODE? Click here to sign up!](#)

Upcoming Events

VASCO'S **opendoor**
Health Center of Illinois

FUNDRAISING EVENT

IN SUPPORT OF OPEN DOOR!

You're invited to a special fundraising event in collaboration with Vasco's Peri Peri Restaurant to support Open Door Health Center of Illinois. Join us for a special program featuring our staff from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The fundraiser will be ongoing until closing.

20% of proceeds will benefit Open Door Health Center of IL

The proceeds will support programs and medical care for individuals living with or at risk of contracting HIV & AIDS in the Northwest Suburbs. This will ensure access to high-quality education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, free from stigma and discrimination.

APRIL 23RD
927 S Roselle Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60193
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

REGISTER NOW!

odhcil.org @odhcil

SCAN ME

Dine to Donate Fundraiser for Open Door Clinic of Illinois

You're invited to a special fundraising event!

Join us in collaboration with Vasco's Peri Peri Restaurant to support Open Door Health Center of Illinois!

Date: Tuesday, April 23

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM CDT

Location: Vasco's Peri Peri

Address: 927 South Roselle Road Schaumburg, IL 60193

The proceeds will support programs and medical care for individuals living with or at risk of contracting HIV & AIDS in the Northwest Suburbs. This will ensure access to high-quality education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, free from stigma and discrimination.

Come together for a great cause and enjoy delicious food while making a difference in our community! See you there!

[Click here to sign up!](#)



Pop Up Testing Events:

- April 25th from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Elgin Community College Room F121
- May 8th from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 - Elgin Community College Room F121
- May 17th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 - Walgreens 30 W Church St, Sandwich
 - Walgreens 100 W Lincoln Hwy, Dekalb IL

Upcoming Events



Open Hearts to Open Door Yoga Brunch

Join us for "Open Hearts to Open Door Yoga Brunch," a special event hosted by Open Door Health Center of Illinois in collaboration with Yoga Instructor, Mary Licciardi!



Date: Saturday, May 4th
Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Huddle Up Conference Center
1600 McConner PKWY, 1ST Floor Cafe,
Schaumburg IL 60173



Program Outline:

- Welcome Address
- Introduction to Open Door Health Center of Illinois
- Yoga Session
- Brunch with Mimosas

Registration: Please register using the following link: [Click Here](#)

Come relax, connect, and support Open Door Health Center while enjoying yoga and a delicious brunch with mimosas. We look forward to seeing you there!



Estatus y Tacones: Una Celebracion de Orgullo y Drag.

Únete a nosotros para "Estatus y Tacones", un evento especial organizado por Open Door Health Center of Illinois en colaboración con Casa Michoacan en West Chicago.

Fecha: Sabado, 8 de Junio
Horario del Evento: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Dirección: Casa Michoacan
900 Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago, IL

Aspectos destacados del evento:

1. Exposición "Nuevos Rostros del VIH/SIDA": Descubre historias poderosas y crea conciencia sobre el VIH/SIDA.
2. Servicios de Pruebas de VIH: Aprovecha los servicios de pruebas de VIH disponibles durante todo el evento.
3. Conferenciantes Informativos: Escucha a Jose Luis Gutiérrez, Director de Casa Michoacan; Marcos Bostho, Director de Recursos y Desarrollo de Alcance; y Perry Maier, Director Ejecutivo de Open-Door Health Center.
4. Testimonios de Clientes: Inspírate con testimonios de clientes que muestran el impacto del apoyo comunitario.
5. Show de Drag "Divas": Disfruta de una presentación especial de Drag Show con talentosos artistas liderados por Marisol Trevino.
6. Comida y Networking: Relájate con comida deliciosa y conéctate con otros en un ambiente de apoyo e inclusivo.

Este evento del Orgullo es más que una celebración; es un compromiso con la comunidad, la conciencia y la unidad. ¡Únete a nosotros para una tarde de empoderamiento y conexión!

Registro: Por favor, regístrate utilizando el siguiente enlace: [Haz clic aquí](#)

Upcoming Events

OPEN DOOR HEALTH CENTER OF IL PRESENTS:


Status and Heels

A PRIDE AND DRAG CELEBRATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Sat. June 8th at Casa Michoacan
900 Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago, IL
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Event Program:

- Free HIV and STI Testing
- Exhibition: New Faces of HIV and AIDS
- Client Testimonials
- Drag Show Presentation by "The Divas"



THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS EVENTS. HOWEVER, REGISTRATION IS RECOMMENDED. TO REGISTER, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

Status and Heels: A Drag Celebration on the Importance of Health and HIV Testing.

Join us for "Status and Heels," a special event hosted by Open Door Health Center of Illinois in collaboration with Casa Michoacan in West Chicago!

Date: Saturday, June 8th

Time: 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Casa Michoacan

900 Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago, IL

Event Highlights:

1. "New Faces of HIV/AIDS" Exhibit: Discover powerful stories and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.
2. HIV Testing Services: Take advantage of HIV testing services available throughout the event.
3. Insightful Speakers: Hear from Jose Luis Gutierrez, Casa Michoacan Director; Marcos Bostho, Outreach Resource & Development Director; and Perry Maier, Executive Director of Open-Door Health Center.
4. Client Testimonials: Be inspired by client testimonials showcasing the impact of community support.
5. "Divas" Drag Show: Enjoy a special Drag Show presentation featuring talented performers.
6. Food and Networking: Wind down with delicious food and connect with others in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere.

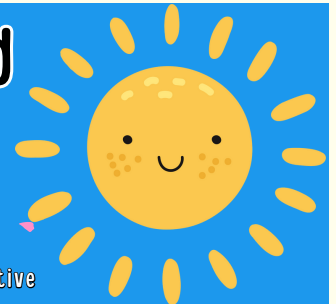
This Pride Event is more than just a celebration; it's a commitment to community, awareness, and unity. Join us for an afternoon of empowerment and connection!

Registration: Please register using the following link: [Click Here](#)



got pride?

Are you PrEP-ed for Spring?



What is PrEP?

PrEP is an antiretroviral medication for HIV-negative individuals to reduce HIV risk

How much does PrEP cost?

Most insurance plans should cover PrEP medicines and PrEP-related tests and services.

If your insurance doesn't cover it give us a call and we'd be happy to assist you.

Have questions about PrEP?

Feel free to contact us for any PrEP-related inquiries: we're here to help you make an informed decision.



CLIENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Client Advisory Board cordially invites clients & staff, friends & family to:

Social Events:

Bowling Party
 Sunday, May 5th, 1:00-3:00 PM
 St. Charles Bowl, 2520 W. Main St., St. Charles IL
 Free Bowling, shoes and food provided by Open Door. Participants are highly encouraged to wear Green. [Click here to register](#)



Mr. Hobson Goes to Washington

by Louis Hobson
 Chair-Client Advisory Board
 Open Door Health Center of IL

The annual AIDSWatch was held in Washington DC March 17th-19th. I was fortunate enough to be selected, along with fellow Client Advisory Board member, David Feguson, to participate this year.

We advocated for the following issues, among others:

- Full funding for the health and social initiatives.
- Bolstering efforts that increase PrEP and PEP.
- Supporting the HELP Copays act. The bipartisan HELP Copays Act would prohibit the use of “copay accumulator” schemes that health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) developed to pocket a patient's copay assistance by excluding the cost-sharing assistance from counting towards a patients' deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.
- Continuing support for the HOPWA program. The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- And urging Congress to pass the Medicare for All Act.

The trip featured a lot of guest speakers, congresspeople, as well as advocates from all over the country. Most of us came there with the same concerns, hopes, and dreams. It was refreshing to see Democracy in action!

YOU CAN'T STOP PRIDE.

We may have different gender identities, but together we will rise stronger



CLIENTS!

WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION

Please complete a Client Participation Form after receiving service. Forms may be obtained at the front desk or through your Case Manager. Completed forms are placed in a monthly lottery. Winners will receive a \$25 gift card. Thank you!