

2006 ANNUAL REPORT:

Living with AIDS Shouldn't Mean Living Alone

When I was diagnosed with HIV, I isolated myself from help and support. I thought I had to deal with this by myself. I wallowed in this self-imposed exile for several years before I realized it was no way to live. And living with HIV is what I had to do.

I founded The Women's Collective to find, support, and organize women with HIV/AIDS. Today we provide support and programs for women living with, and at risk for, HIV/AIDS, and their families in a compassionate, loving environment.

Every day, I'm awed by the spirit and resourcefulness of the vibrant, amazing women we serve. Every time a woman walks through our doors for the first time, I recommit myself to empowering women living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS to live full, productive lives.



Patricia Nalls
Founder / Executive Director

We are...

- compassionate
- positive
- capable
- powerful
- authentic
- supportive
- empowering
- safe
- genuine
- hopeful
- reliable
- dependable
- warm
- cheerful
- gracious
- hospitable
- responsive
- secure
- healthy
- trustworthy
- considerate
- sanctuary
- affirmative
- honest
- true
- optimistic
- confident
- strong
- able
- energetic
- hearty
- vigorous

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Our Mission

Our work began in 1993 and grew out of the life experience of our Founder and Executive Director, Patricia Nalls, a woman living with HIV/AIDS who used her personal lessons learned to create a community-based organization run by and for women living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS in the Washington, DC area.

The mission of The Women's Collective is to meet the self-defined needs of women and their families living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS, reducing barriers to care and strengthening their network of support and services. As a Washington DC-based nonprofit organization led by women with HIV and their allies/advocates, The Women's Collective works to fulfill its mission by:

- Providing services that are peer-led, women-focused, family-centered, and culturally sensitive.
- Providing a safe, non-judgmental environment for all women, regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, income, educational level, marital status, personal appearance, place of residence or business, family responsibilities, school enrollment, political affiliation, or source of income.
- Providing a voice for women who are at risk for or living with HIV and their families through advocacy at the local, national, and international levels.
- Creating partnerships among service providers, governmental, non-governmental and private entities.

Our services are divided between two programs: HIV care management program for women and families living with HIV/AIDS and HIV prevention program for women and families at risk for HIV/AIDS. Our care services begin at the very moment of diagnosis and are available throughout the continuum of this disease to help women and members of their family access care and services—it is a holistic approach designed to empower women, give them hope and dedicated to respecting and honoring the lives of women and their families. HIV prevention program seeks to empower women in learning their status and supporting them to reduce their risk for HIV/AIDS and maintain an HIV negative status through their lifetimes. ■

2006 Program

The Women's Collective rises to the challenge of meeting the needs of the women, children and families that come to us for services and support. While over the last year we have met this challenge—we are reminded that the numbers of women with HIV/AIDS in this community continue to increase and are staggering.

Our Family-Centered Case Management Program continued to strengthen its work with women and families living with HIV/AIDS. The Women's Collective family-centered case management program grew to include more staff, programming and strengthened program infrastructure and protocols all which reflect a rapidly changing service delivery system that is more responsive to the needs of women and families.

Early Intervention Specialists linked 82 newly diagnosed women or women who had been out of a system of care by providing referrals to self-identified services including family-centered case management services, primary medical care, addiction services and other support services over the course of two years. They provided over 350 individual counseling sessions with women on a range of topics including disclosure, treatment adherence, gynecological issues, disability rights, social security, continuing education, sexual violence, and domestic violence among others.

HIV care management team members facilitated 11 monthly **Coffee House** support groups for over 40 unduplicated women. These groups are peer-driven but co-facilitated by an HIV care team member with experience in counseling. Groups include free time to talk about immediate issues as well as structured time that introduces skills building and educational segments to support women's questions and interests.

Care management team members provided a series of **family support activities** that included the distribution of 35 Easter food baskets to family; a Mother's Day celebration for 36 women; a school supply drive that resulted in the distribution of uniforms, school supplies and backpacks to over 65 families; candy basket distribution; a turkey dinner basket drive that provided Thanksgiving dinner baskets to 150 families; and a holiday party for 250 family members that included food, entertainment and over 600 Christmas presents for children and 100 gift cards for moms.

Accomplishments

In response to the increasing need for food for families and the decrease in food bank funding locally, TWC maintained its own **Kitchen Pantry** program that is a responsive emergency food bank for women and families. In three years the kitchen pantry program has served over 250 families.

Our **Mental Health Therapies** program provides therapeutic services based on the clinical practice of meeting the client where she is upon intake. The program served a total of 73 clients with 654 hours of individual counseling provided.

We continued our **Complementary Therapies** program. Twice a week both seated and full-body massage are offered in private offices on-site. Acupuncture is also provided once a week for women in need of pain and stress relief. We continue to see more women become comfortable with these therapies and build sessions into their health care routine.

We successfully completed several interventions of our **Propser! Prevention with Positives** program **GENERATIONS: Strengthening Women and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS** project. Generations is a unique partnership between the National AIDS Fund, Johnson & Johnson and the Washington AIDS Partnership. In response to an alarming increase in rates of HIV/AIDS infection among women in the United States, Generations funding was established to address the unique needs of women and families whose lives have been impacted by the physical, emotional, financial and social tolls of HIV/AIDS. Generations funding enhances the program with technical assistance and capacity building from the **Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS)** at the University of California San Francisco. Our program interventions were aimed at protecting the health of the infected individuals and others in their communities by preventing or delaying adverse health outcomes among individuals already infected with HIV.

We continue to strengthen our woman-focused **HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral Services (CTR)** program and expand our hours of testing to include late nights and weekends. We see the provision of HIV counseling, testing and referral as a critical link and conduit to all of our other services. We are able to

provide this invaluable service to women in our community in a safe and comforting environment.

We completed year two and began year three of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored five-year project designed to provide **woman-focused rapid testing** in the District of Columbia using the OraQuick Advance rapid HIV test where test results would be available in 20 minutes. We are excited by the opportunity of enhancing the options for women to get tested and in conducting outreach and CTRS at hot spots through out the District with our CTRS mobile testing unit.

We provided **Comprehensive Risk Counseling and Services (CRCS)** services with the goal of promoting the adoption of HIV risk reduction behaviors by women at risk for HIV/AIDS with multiple, complex problems and risk reduction needs.

TWC also completed a short-term prevention grant for a **Community Level Intervention** (January to June) that was comprised of several interventions. We implemented a **community-wide survey** of 182 Black women assessing their HIV risk and prevention needs. We completed two CDC **SISTA** groups with 29 participants and one **SISTA booster session** to follow-up on women risk reduction knowledge and practice with 18 women.

We also secured funding from the **Ford Foundation** to support TWC advocacy efforts on a national level and to build a TWC model to benefit communities that are hard hit in the epidemic and need assistance in building women-centered programming.

In addition, we continued to strengthen the **agency infrastructure** through the development of policy and protocol manuals for our HIV care management and prevention programs. In addition, a financial policies manual was also created. Staff continued to engage in **professional development activities** that included attendance at local and national conferences and trainings to build their knowledge, ability and skills. Staff participated in local policy planning meetings for both care and prevention services and leant their voice to the debates.

Until there is a cure we will continue to do everything we can to provide quality services and sharing our stories and saving our lives-one woman at a time. ■

Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statement

We have audited the financial position of The Women's Collective as of December 31, 2006, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Women's Collective as of December 31, 2006, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with general accepted accounting principles.

February 23, 2007

Ribis, Jones, Maresca, P.A., Certified Public Accountants

The Women's Collective, Inc.
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006

Revenue and Support

Grants-Foundation	\$811,675
Grants-Government	\$1,245,827
Contributions	\$32,819
Interest	\$14,164
Other Income	<u>\$4,815</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,109,300

Expenses

<i>Program and Services</i>	
HIV Care Management	\$468,106
HIV Prevention	<u>\$594,528</u>
Total Program Services	\$1,062,634
Grant Development	\$67,379
General and Administrative	<u>\$158,578</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,288,591

Board of Directors 2006

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