



We are Allies.

Then. Now. *Always.*



for health + wellbeing

2018-19 Annual Report

Then. Now. Always.

Fiscal year 2018-19 was a year of growth for Allies for Health + Wellbeing. We were able to expand the services offered in our clinic and brought on five new staff members in that department, including Clinical Director Melissa Curry. We have gone from a staff of 34 to 45 employees. We have attended more outreach events than previous years. All of this means we can provide support and services to more people than ever before.

We remain committed to providing integrated care for people living with or at risk of HIV, hepatitis C and STIs as we move forward with our goal of providing care to all those who walk through our doors.

We have come a long way from the small group of dedicated volunteers who met in one another's living rooms at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. As the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, we were there **then**, providing support and encouragement for people with AIDS, and many of you were at our side.

Now, we provide even more services, such as primary medical care, routine gynecological care and transgender care. Your support makes it possible for us to address the needs of every patient and every client who comes through our doors.

It is our goal to **always** be here for the people who need us, and it's your continued generosity that allows us to do so.

Thank you so much for being our Ally – **Then. Now. Always.**

Sincerely,

Sean DeYoung, MSW, LCSW



CEO, Allies for Health + Wellbeing



Sean DeYoung, MSW, LCSW
Allies for Health + Wellbeing
Chief Executive Officer

Then. Now. Always.

Matt Ometz came to AIDS activism the way most of his generation did – his friends were getting sick and dying. By 1994, Ometz had lost 42 friends as well as his cousin to AIDS, and he himself was diagnosed with HIV in 1987.

"I told a lot of my friends then that I was not going to let their voices be silenced," he said. "So that's kind of my motivating factor. I'm trying to keep my promise to my friends to make sure that people with HIV have a voice."

Ometz, who had been living in Philadelphia at the start of the AIDS epidemic, moved back to his family in Pittsburgh after a serious car accident.

"As I began to recover from that, I started to get sick from HIV," he said. While he was hospitalized for his illness, he reconnected with an old friend, Alan Jones, who was working with the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force.

"Alan said I might need some of the services PATF was offering, and one of the case managers came to talk to me," Ometz said. "I didn't really use any of the services, but I was kind of reminded of all that PATF did."

Ometz, who is a paralegal, eventually recovered enough that he felt able to give back, and he joined PATF's legal committee. This group of local attorneys would meet once a month and go over cases brought to them by PATF's client services department. In the early days, the legal team dealt with discrimination issues as well as preparing wills and power of attorney documents. As improved treatments were developed and people began living longer with HIV, new legal concerns emerged, such as bankruptcy and consumer debt, as well as landlord-tenant disputes.



Matt Ometz
Pro Bono Legal Network
Coordinator

Today, Ometz is a contracted employee of Allies for Health + Wellbeing and oversees a network of local professionals who assist Allies' clients with legal concerns.

"I was able to grow the program so we're not limited to just one or two issues, but we can handle whatever issues clients have," Ometz said.

During fiscal year 2018-19, the Pro Bono Legal Network, coordinated by Ometz, assisted 277 individual clients with legal concerns ranging from estate planning to landlord-tenant disputes to criminal concerns.

After 22 years with the agency, Ometz says he has never been bored. "I'm always learning. And I think I connect with people ... I have a rapport with a lot of our clients."

"I really enjoy what I do, and I know that I'm able to help people," he said. "I'm right there helping them."

Then. Now. Always.

In 2017, when Allies' clinic was launched, the clinic staff of three served about 360 patients. In the last fiscal year, Allies' clinic saw 923 patients over 2,718 visits. More patients and more visits meant that Allies needed more staff to handle the load.

Allies hired an additional medical assistant, a physician's assistant, and in May, Melissa Curry joined the team as its first clinic director.

Curry, who received her RN license from Community College of Allegheny County and her bachelor of science degree from California University of Pennsylvania, has long had a passion for underserved communities.

"As far as helping people that are broken, people that just need a second chance on life – Allies does that," Curry said. "Just seeing all the work that Allies has done, it made me want to be a part of that."

Curry said that earlier in her career, she thought that she could make the biggest difference in her patients' lives by providing one-on-one care, but now she sees otherwise.

"I realized you have a wider stretch as you climb in your career," she said. "You're able to touch more lives and help more people."

In her role as clinic director, she's able to reach each patient that walks into Allies' clinic through the management decisions she makes every day – like overseeing the expansion of clinic services.

"We've branched out to basically everything," Curry said. "We branched out to further assist patients with other infectious diseases, like Hep C,



**Melissa Curry, RN, BSN, CCP,
FNP-S
Clinic Director**

and then with STD treatment. We've branched out into preventative care – PrEP, primary care, gynecological care, family planning services. We're now doing transgender healthcare.

As services have expanded, so has inclusivity.

"We're not just treating a disease, we're treating a whole person," Curry said. "It allows you to be inclusive. It reduces stigma. It promotes equality."

"We're people first," says Curry.

As Allies continues to see patients with a variety of issues and conditions, we continue to expand our array of services to address their needs under one umbrella. Allies expects to provide medication assisted therapy, such as Suboxone and Vivitrol for patients struggling with opioid addiction, in the coming year.

Then. Now. Always.

"In the beginning, it was 'Kick the doors in – men are dying,'" said Allies' board member Linda Bucci, who has worked with the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and Allies for 30 years.

Linda's husband, Tony, became a part of PATF first, meeting in Kerry Stoner's – one of the agency's founders – living room to talk about ways to spread the word about safe sex. As an advertising professional, Tony Bucci's expertise was needed in the early days of PATF, but Linda came aboard quickly as well. The couple have both served on PATF and later Allies' board and have contributed to the organization in many different ways.

The fight against AIDS was also very personal for Linda.

"My best friend in the world was a nurse at Children's Hospital," Linda explained. "She was taking care of this little girl who was in the end stage of AIDS. She was taking blood, and a glass vial broke."

Bridget Murtagh, RN, contracted the virus from that incident and died of AIDS-related causes in 2004. In the years before Bridget died, she and Linda would do AIDS education for PATF.

"She and I would go around and talk to different groups and talk about how to use condoms," Linda said, noting that she also took part in PATF's Buddy Program.

Thirty years later, Linda is still committed to Allies and its mission.

"It was just something I couldn't let go of," she said. "I felt the commitment, and I continue to feel the commitment, as does my husband. You have to be a champion for change. Not only trying to eradicate HIV and AIDS, of course,



Linda Bucci
Allies Board Member

but changing people's attitudes, and that's always concerned both of us."

Linda said that while the medical changes in the fight against HIV and AIDS have been profound since she became involved with PATF, she doesn't see an end to the work that Allies does.

"This is an organization that deals with a person holistically," she said. "They deal with the entire person, and the entire need that person has."

"I see them as the go-to place for not only HIV / AIDS, but for health education. I think that's vital," she said. "There will always be a need, and the need will change. Allies changes before the need changes – they're a step ahead. That's very difficult to do, and they've been good at that."

"I can't see an end to how far they can go."

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2018-19 AT A GLANCE

"I wouldn't be where I am today without Allies."

"My health wasn't great when I had my first appointment. Today, I am undetectable, and they fight right along side of me every single day. I know with absolute certainty that I couldn't and wouldn't have done it without them."

- Michelle C.



2,718

Patient visits to our clinic

"I can't say enough good things about this place."

"The staff is so enthusiastic and passionate about what they do. Being responsible about your sexual health shouldn't be a hassle, and Allies is the perfect example of that!"

- Cameron L.

\$75,000+

Provided in charity care in our clinic



2,705

HIV tests performed

"So thankful that I was recommended to this center."

"The entire staff was so helpful, attentive, and caring."

- Tommi H.

43

Clients received housing



294

Clients received transportation assistance

2,883

Food pantry visits



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Allies for Health + Wellbeing gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their generous financial support during the last fiscal year. Thank you for being an Ally! The following list represents individuals who gave a total of \$100 or more between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019. If you note any errors or omissions, please contact the development department at 412.345.0591.

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Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2019 and 2018

ASSETS

	2019	2018
Cash and cash equivalents	\$485,352	\$437,652
Accounts and grants receivable	\$1,608,521	\$1,119,780
Unconditional promises to give	\$30,000	\$36,813
Investments	\$1,051,802	\$1,002,887
Prepaid expenses	\$40,469	\$48,764
Other assets	\$87,876	\$50,926
Property and equipment, net	\$839,588	\$948,059
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,143,608	\$3,644,881

LIABILITIES

Demand note payable	\$120,218	\$346,120
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,192,066	\$880,353
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,312,284	\$1,226,473

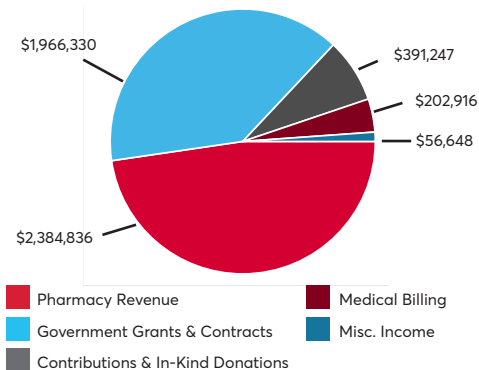
NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$2,734,753	\$2,297,669
With donor restrictions	\$96,571	\$120,739
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$2,831,324	\$2,418,408

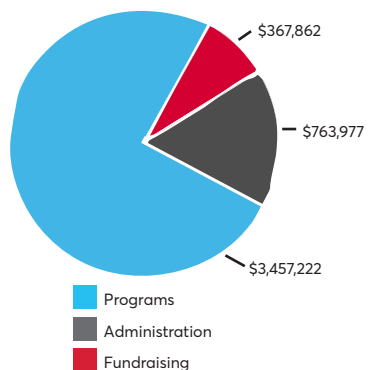
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$4,143,608 **\$3,644,881**

Support and Revenue \$5,001,977



Expenses \$4,589,061



Vision

Allies envisions a healthier community whereby all individuals access integrated medical care and supportive human services in a respectful setting, free of stigma and discrimination.

Mission

To improve health and wellbeing, Allies provides integrated medical care, supportive human services, and community-based education for individuals living with, or at risk of HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections.



Allies for Health + Wellbeing

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412.345.7567

alliespgh.org