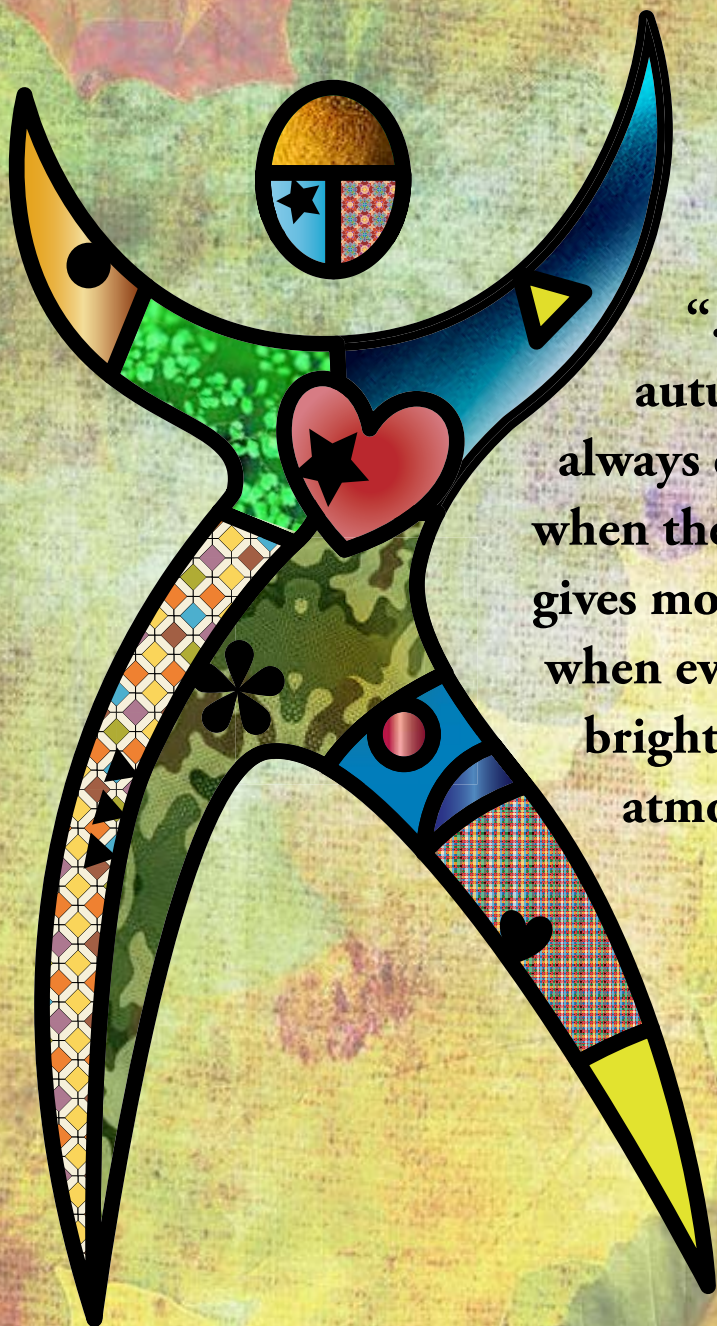




AMIDA CARE

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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“... the extraordinary autumn weather that always comes as a surprise, when the sun hangs low and gives more heat than in spring, when everything shines so brightly in the rare clear atmosphere ...”

- Leo Tolstoy

In this issue

- *Back to School & Work*
- *Sex 2.0 Magazine*
- *PRIDE March 2019*
- *Our 2020 Calendar Contest*
- *Hep C Prevention*
- *Amida Care News*

Note from Doug

Autumn is a great time to join your fellow Amida Care members who are continuing their education or seeking employment. More than 120 participants have graduated from our **WIN** (Workforce Initiative Network) Program, and nearly half have already gotten jobs. Our **Consumer Workforce Innovator Project**, with funding from the New York City Council in partnership with NYC health organizations, helps consumers to get livable wage jobs. The work they do leads people living with HIV and other complex conditions to get regular care. Whether you'd like to finish your GED, continue your education, or get into the workforce, turn to **"Back to School & Back to Work"** on page 4 of this newsletter for suggestions on getting your plans on track. Go for it!

Sex is a subject that appeals to nearly everybody, so copies of our latest special publication,

Sex 2.0: On Sexual Health and Pleasure, are going fast. You can read this new community magazine at www.amidacareny.org or pick up a print copy – with gorgeous photos – at your next provider appointment or at our Manhattan member walk-in center on West 35th Street. Our newest publication features sex-positive articles that cover a wide range of experiences across our diverse communities. **Sex 2.0** magazine also includes information on getting sexual health screenings and other helpful resources.

Speaking of health screenings, Hep C is on the rise in NYC. Your health and well-being are our top priorities, so please turn to page 5 for an update on getting tested for Hep C, which can now be treated and cured. And, to help inform New Yorkers about HIV prevention, Amida Care is supporting **PrEP Awareness Week: October 20-26**. This campaign by

the AIDS Institute and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to raise awareness of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is part of our shared commitment to End the Epidemic in New York by 2020.

We look forward to seeing you at our Artist in You events, Town Hall meetings, and other Amida Care community gatherings this fall. With Thanksgiving and the holiday season just around the corner, we are thankful for you and all of our members. Be well!

Abrazos,

Doug Wirth

Doug Wirth
President and CEO



LGBTQ PRIDE MARCH 2019 – We take great pride that Amida Care's parade float, along with our members, staff, friends, and supporters took part in this year's historic **LGBTQ PRIDE MARCH** on June 30th in Manhattan. Our diverse communities joined the whole world in saluting LGBTQ rights and marking the incredibly meaningful milestone of **Stonewall 50**.





OUR LATEST SPECIAL MAGAZINE:

SEX 2.0

ON SEXUAL HEALTH
AND PLEASURE

Amida Care's newest publication, on a topic that interests almost everyone, is called **Sex 2.0: On Sexual Health and Pleasure**. Now available as a print magazine that you can pick up free at our member walk-in center in Manhattan or on your next visit to a health care provider, this bilingual publication is also posted on our website at www.amidacareny.org.

Our latest community magazine is a sequel to Amida Care's highly popular publication called **Let's Start a Conversation: Sexual Health and Pleasure**, published two years ago. This new issue continues the dialogue, presenting sex-positive messages, cutting-edge information, and kink-friendly feature stories that affirm a wide range of experiences across the diverse communities we serve. Topics include sexual fluidity, safety tips for sex workers, and consent in BDSM (bondage, discipline and dominance, submission, and sadomasochism) culture. A transgender Latina activist shares her selected Facebook posts about undergoing gender-affirming surgery. In "Baby Talk," a mixed-status transgender couple faces the challenges of trying to get pregnant. To find out more about sexual health screenings, where and how to obtain PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), and other helpful resources, read your copy today!



Our 2020 Amida Care Calendar Contest

Be sure to showcase your inner artist by participating in our 2020 Calendar competition this Fall. For guidelines on how to enter your painting or drawing in this annual contest, watch our website at www.amidacareny.org and sign up for our related Artist In You events. More than 20 art works will be chosen as winners and featured in our colorful 2020 calendar. Let your creative juices flow and remember that you have to be in it to win it!



Back to School & Back to Work



In autumn, our thoughts naturally turn to going back to school or work. Would you like to join fellow Amida Care members who are finishing GEDs, continuing their educations, or getting workforce training? Here are some suggestions to get your plans on track.

Amida Care has led the development of two workforce training and job-placement programs for our members, working in partnership with dynamic providers in our network.

Workforce Initiative Network (WIN), a collaboration with the Alliance for Positive Change and Housing Works, gives training in HIV health education, treatment adherence, job readiness, and more.

WIN graduates are employed as health navigators, administrative assistants, and outreach workers. Work in some of these roles can lead to certification through New York State's AIDS Institute and elsewhere. So far in 2019, at least 129 participants have completed the WIN program, leading to 55 job placements.

The **Consumer Workforce Innovator Project**, funded by NYC City Council in partnership with local health organizations, offers livable wage jobs for people living with HIV and other complex conditions. Workers draw on lived experience to improve clients' health and engage and retain clients into care. Workers receive vocational training,

hours toward state certification, and employment. On completion of this two-year program, more than half of all participants have obtained permanent work.

You can learn more about these programs and explore a wealth of career resources at the free, daylong **Career Power Source 2019 Conference**, sponsored by Working Positive Coalition and Amida Care. Scheduled on Wednesday, September 18 at Baruch College Conference Center in Manhattan, the conference provides attendees help with computer skills, resume preparation and interviewing, job coaching, and more. To register or get more information, email careerpowersource@gmail.com.

Go to our website at www.amidacareny.org for a fresh look at Amida Care's **Hire Me!** community magazine, published last year. It features personal stories and listings telling how to contact city and state organizations that offer financial and other supports for continuing education and job training/employment.

For more information on our WIN program, please email WIN@amidacareny.org or call **646-757-7606**. To find out about the Consumer Workforce Innovator Project, email jcabezas@amidacareny.org or call **646-757-7680**. Go for it – with best wishes to each of you in pursuing your dreams!



"The WIN program gave me the confidence and the skills to re-enter the workforce."

Joann, Community Health Outreach Worker



HEP C Prevention

A Message from Amida Care's Health Services & Pharmacy Departments

Do you know someone who has Hepatitis C? (They may call it Hep C for short.) Do you know someone who has been cured of Hep C? Thanks to new medications, more people are cured every year.

Most importantly, have you been tested for Hep C? Even at the time of infection, it often does not show symptoms. In fact, people can live for decades with a Hep C infection and not even know it. Thankfully, Hep C can be detected by blood tests. Ask your Primary Care Provider (PCP) if it is time for your test.

Checking for Hep C is especially important in NYC. A recent report showed that infections are on the rise here. Even people who have been told that they were cured of Hep C can benefit from getting rechecked.

It is recommended that you get tested for Hep C at least once, and in some cases, every year if you

- Are living with HIV;
- Have used a non-sterile needle, straw, or other equipment with recreational drugs;

- Were born between 1945 and 1965;
- Got tattoos or body piercings with tools that may not have been sterile;
- Are a Vietnam-era veteran;
- Received a blood transfusion or an organ transplant before 1992; or
- Were born to a mother with Hep C.

Whether you identify with any of these descriptions or not, it's a good idea to ask your PCP about your testing history – and whether you are due for a Hep C test.



Hep C is NOT spread by casual contact, such as hugging, kissing, holding hands, sneezing, or sharing spoons, forks, or knives.





The Transgender Legal Defense and Educational Fund honors Amida Care

Our organization was honored in June with the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund's Corporate Partner of the Year Award. At the 2019 Trans Advocacy Awards ceremony, President and CEO Doug Wirth singled out the contributions of Amida Care's Transgender Health Services Team for outstanding service to the community. Doug noted that New Yorkers are "lucky to live in a state that stands up for transgender rights," citing the efforts of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the NYS AIDS Institute, and others.

He pointed out that in 2006, Amida Care was one of the first Medicaid plans to

make hormone therapy widely available. Today, nearly 1 in 7 of Amida Care's 7,500 members are transgender (regardless of HIV status), and 65% of them have accessed gender-affirming surgeries and services.

Among our transgender members living with HIV, 80% are virally suppressed or undetectable (U=U), which means they live healthier lives and cannot sexually transmit HIV. Amida Care is in the process of screening our HIV-negative members for PrEP, and up to 25 percent of them are accessing PrEP to remain HIV-negative.

Doug Wirth Named a 2019 City & State PRIDE Power 100

Our President and CEO Doug Wirth was included in City & State's latest list of the 100 most influential people in the LGBTQ community. At a special event on June 27, Amida Care's founder and leader was recognized among top influencers in the fields of government, business, health care, journalism, nonprofits, and other areas. Others who received this honor include NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson, NYS Senator Tom Duane, and Alphonso David, former Counsel to NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo and new President of the Human Rights Campaign. Congratulations, Doug!



www.AMIDACARENY.org

