We are at a defining moment in the fight against AIDS.

Today, we have nearly all we need to close the gap to the end of the AIDS epidemic here in Wisconsin, across the nation and throughout the world. Scientific advancements have created effective medicines allowing people with HIV to live long, healthy lives while also stopping the transmission of the virus. Condoms, counseling, clean needles and treatment together form almost impenetrable barriers to the spread of HIV. We also know how to overcome the social and economic drivers of the epidemic.

Yet, tens of thousands of people are at great risk for HIV, thousands of people with HIV are either not in care or not succeeding with their treatment and hundreds more are infected with the virus every year in Wisconsin. Even now, one in six gay men are likely to contract HIV in their lifetime. Even more unacceptable, one in two black, gay men will likely become HIV-positive. Thanks to your historic support, every day ARCW forcefully stands up to these challenges.

Because of you, people with HIV live longer in Wisconsin than anywhere else and we have among the lowest rates of new HIV infections in the United States. Our HIV Medical Home is the only one of its kind in the nation, providing access to lifesaving care and achieving the finest clinical outcomes for our patients. Our historic Lifepoint clean needle exchange program and our newly opened PrEP clinics provide the best defense against new HIV infections.

Together we are overcoming significant gaps. This annual report details how we are working tirelessly to close these gaps and move toward the end of AIDS.

With your support, we will extend our services and the best our society has to offer – compassion, support and love – to overcome the issues driving this epidemic, such as opioid and heroin addiction, homophobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, poverty and stigma.

All in the pursuit of a world without AIDS.

Sincerely,

Jerry Janis, Chair
Aurora Health Care

Mike Anderes
Froedtert Health System

Tim Bowers
Global Health Engines

Brett Davis
Aspirus Arise

Ronald Dunn
Luminex Corporation

Nancy Flagg
F3

Eldonna Hazen
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Jackie Joseph-Silverstein
UW-Colleges

Brad Kalcher
Michael Best & Friedrich

Dan Kaplan
Foley & Lardner

George MacKinnon III, PhD
Medical College of Wisconsin Pharmacy School

Victor Miranda, MD
GE Healthcare

Pete Newcomer, MD
UW Health

Tamim Sifri, DDS
Smart Dental, LLC

Lisa Vandenbergh
MillerCoors

Portia Young
Sargento Foods, Inc.

Jerry Janis, Chair
Aurora Health Care

Michael J. Gifford
President & Chief Executive Officer
Our unique HIV Medical Home closes gaps to ensure our patients receive primary and HIV medical care, dental and mental health care, and legal, food, case management and housing services in the same location that they can get their prescriptions filled.

The innovative and nationally-renowned ARCW HIV Medical Home provided integrated health and social services to more than 3,400 people with HIV in Wisconsin last year.

Closing the gap in access to care, the new ARCW HIV Medical Home in Madison opened in 2015. This unique model of care, which is made even stronger through our partnership with UW Health, ensures that our patients receive their primary and HIV medical care, dental and mental health care, and legal, food, case management and housing services in the same location that they can get their prescriptions filled.

Our new Madison clinic is a state-of-the-art health care facility, offering a dedicated team of professionals to help people live healthy and long lives with HIV.

ARCW is further closing gaps to care for people with HIV by launching mental health therapy services in Beloit and expanding pulmonary care and hepatitis C treatment to our patients. Our medical and mental health care together are the foundation for our expansion into telehealth services to better meet the growing need for the treatment of our patients, no matter where they live.

Closing these gaps in care requires deeper collaborations with our strategic partners such as Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Aurora Health Care, and Prevea Health.

With the support of our partners and our dedicated donors, we now provide the highest quality of care available to our patients. Our work with Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee fills our pantries across the state with nutritious food.

Our relationships with the University of Wisconsin System, Marquette University, other private colleges and technical schools throughout the state provide training so the next generation of HIV care providers can close future gaps to care.

Leading the way, ARCW is closing the gaps in access to health care for people with HIV throughout Wisconsin.
Nationally, far too many people with HIV never get connected to the health care and social services they need when they are initially diagnosed. Other patients start and then fall out of care.

Having no or inadequate health insurance, facing serious mental health issues including addiction, not knowing how to navigate the health care system, lacking transportation, experiencing significant language barriers and confronting unrelenting stigma all contribute to people with HIV not remaining in care and not achieving an undetectable viral load, the healthiest they can be with HIV.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services HIV/AIDS Program and ARCW are partnering to create an aggressive linkage to care program using a special initiative of the federal government to overcome these barriers to care that create substantial gaps for people living with HIV. This program reaches patients struggling to stay in care, providing them with intensive support from a team of health care professionals lead by a specialized case manager. Further supporting the work of this partnership is an important Data to Care initiative that makes sure multiple organizations working with HIV patients get enhanced HIV surveillance information to help keep people in care.

To prevent our patients from falling out of care, new ARCW patients receive a thorough orientation that not only introduces them to the health services they can access from us, but also helps them sign up for health insurance, determine eligibility for housing programs, enroll in pharmaceutical assistance programs, tour our facility, meet our teams of providers and set up appointments for medical, dental and mental health care as well. Ongoing support is provided to ensure patients remain in care.

The initial data from this project which includes several different organizations, demonstrates its effectiveness in closing the retention to care gap:

- 80% of patients in the linkage to care program were in regular health care within 90 days, compared to just 63% of patients who are not in the program.
- 70% of linkage to care patients were retained in care after the initial 90 days compared to 30% of patients not in the program.
- 66% of linkage to care patients achieved viral suppression, compared to 37% of patients not in the program.

The hard work of ARCW staff does not stop once a new patient has completed their first health care appointment. Each patient’s care team continually helps them overcome barriers to accessing specialty care such as cardiology or radiation care, provides them medication adherence counselling to ensure they are taking their medications correctly and even arranges transportation.

The linkage to care program reaches patients struggling to stay in care, providing them with intensive support from a team of health care professionals lead by a specialized case manager.
At ARCW, 89% of patients are achieving viral suppression because of the access to health care, social services and medications they receive through our HIV Medical Home. Viral load suppression is the most critical indicator of our success, demonstrating our patients are cared for as well as possible. Our suppression rates have steadily increased since ARCW began tracking them more than eight years ago. In fact, our viral suppression rate is 8% higher than the average for HIV specialty clinics across the United States.

Nationally and here in Wisconsin, however, there are still significant gaps in treatment outcomes. Most notable are gaps in HIV care and treatment outcomes and viral suppression rates between African American, Latinx and Caucasian patients. Across the United States people of color living with HIV are as much as 50% less likely to have an undetectable viral load.

As ARCW intensified its focus on patient outcomes, we found that our disparities were far better than the national average, but that they were still unacceptable. Two years ago there was a 14% difference between the number of Caucasian patients achieving viral suppression (90%) compared to the number of African American patients who were achieving this critical goal (76%).

Using our integrated electronic health record and sophisticated clinical management software, ARCW developed an innovative plan for directly addressing this issue. After identifying the 163 African American patients who were struggling to achieve viral suppression, the integrated care team of ARCW doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, behavioral health therapists and social service professionals are now:

• More closely tracking medication fill rates and notifying providers when patients do not fill medications.
• Creating more flexibility in scheduling to support patients as they face many barriers to care.
• Standardizing screening of patients for mental health and drug addiction issues to identify barriers to successful treatment.
• Initiating an intensive medication management program including more in-depth counseling and directly observed therapy when necessary.

More than a year of analysis, hard work and persistence are paying off, and what was once a gap of 14% is now down to 4% and getting smaller.

Two years ago there was a 14% difference between the number of Caucasian patients achieving viral suppression (90%) compared to the number of African American patients who were achieving this critical goal (76%). What was once a gap of 14% is now down to 4% and getting smaller.
The most stubborn gap in the fight against AIDS is the difference between the number of new infections each year and the goal to get to zero. After making great progress in reducing the number of new annual HIV infections in the 1990s, infection rates have plateaued. Many of these new infections are among young gay men – especially young gay men of color.

Amidst issues of homophobia, stigma, racism and the other socioeconomic barriers that can prevent at-risk individuals from fully taking control of their own health, ARCW opened four new Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) clinics across Wisconsin. Our new PrEP clinics are part of a coordinated, comprehensive approach to sexual health and HIV prevention that includes condom distribution, HIV and STD testing and regular health screenings for other health concerns.

PrEP is the newest and most promising HIV prevention strategy since widespread condom distribution and clean needle exchange. It works by providing medications used to treat HIV disease to HIV-negative people who are at high risk for contracting the virus, and is shown to be more than 90% effective at preventing new infections. When used with condoms and other safer sex practices, the chances for contracting HIV can be even lower. By offering this integrated approach, ARCW is addressing other health care gaps, especially in the area of sexual health.

Unfortunately, the same barriers that have traditionally made HIV treatment difficult – poverty, lack of access to health care and education – make PrEP difficult as well. PrEP is expensive, needs to be taken every day and patients taking it face much of the same stigma as people with HIV do. To overcome these challenging barriers, ARCW makes sure people who are ready for PrEP are prescribed the medication regardless of insurance and that each patient has a treatment program in place that includes clinic visits with blood testing and ongoing care for each PrEP patient quarterly.

The initial growth of the ARCW PrEP Clinic demonstrates the need for this new HIV prevention strategy. Already, more than 160 patients have enrolled and every month more patients come to ARCW for PrEP. The support of partners like Gilead Pharmaceuticals, individual donors like Meg Kasch and guests at ARCW special events like Make A Promise and the Red Ribbon Affair are helping to make the ARCW PrEP Clinic successful.
The deadly effects of the opiate abuse epidemic have reached every community in Wisconsin. Since 2004, the number of deaths attributed to drug overdoses has more than doubled. Overdoses are now responsible for more deaths in Wisconsin than car crashes, suicide, breast or colon cancer, firearms or influenza.

Opioid and heroin addiction also create a risk for an explosion of new HIV infections that ARCW is committed to preventing.

To close the gap and reduce the number of needless overdose deaths, ARCW has developed innovative drug treatment programs, assured widespread naloxone training and distribution, and led successful advocacy efforts to strengthen Wisconsin’s response to opiate abuse.

Since 1994, ARCW has conducted aggressive HIV prevention programs to reach injection drug users with an effective clean needle exchange program and access to HIV and hepatitis C testing. These efforts have reduced new infections attributed to injection drug use by more than two-thirds and have helped further close gaps between individuals seeking drug treatment and the counselors and programs they need. ARCW also further expanded our health care delivery to include hepatitis C treatment that is now curing individuals of their hepatitis infection – further giving people battling addiction a reason to seek substance abuse treatment and achieve sobriety.

When naloxone became available to ARCW in 2005 to be used by people witnessing an opiate overdose as a way to stop it, we closed the gap between availability of this miracle drug and the people who need it.

Traditionally, ARCW has provided naloxone and training on how to use it almost solely to individuals who used our Lifepoint needle exchange program. Today, with awareness of naloxone increasing and demand for it reaching levels that were once unimaginable, ARCW now also provides naloxone and training on how to use it to the friends, family members and loved ones of people who are battling opiate addiction.

To date, ARCW has trained more than 12,000 people on the use of naloxone and now more than 4,500 times individuals experiencing an overdose have been saved by someone trained by ARCW in the use of naloxone.

In addition to offering innovative and successful programs for individuals battling addiction, ARCW also plays a leading role in advocacy efforts to ensure our harm-reduction based approach to HIV, hepatitis C and overdose prevention remain available throughout the state. Recent success in this area, through active advocacy at the local, state and federal levels of government, includes making naloxone available without a prescription and lifting the ban on the use of federal funds for syringe exchange programs.

ARCW has trained more than 12,000 people on the use of naloxone. More than 4,500 overdoses have been stopped by people trained by ARCW in the use of naloxone.
Total Patients and Clients: 3,440

Medical Center
- Medical Care Appointments: 9,130
- Dental Care Appointments: 5,289
- Behavioral Health and Wellness Appointments: 6,665

Pharmacy
- Prescriptions Filled: 85,217

Social Services
- Case Management Contacts: 33,621
- Legal Cases: 1,008
- Food Pantry Meals Provided: 502,200
- Overnights of Safe Housing: 53,787

Prevention Services
- HIV Prevention Contacts: 164,051
- Needles Exchanged: 4,044,536
- Naloxone Doses Distributed: 17,560
- Condoms Distributed: 453,962
- HIV Tests Conducted: 2,352
- HCV Tests Conducted: 1,383

Patient Insurance Status
- Commercial Insurance: 20%
- Medicaid: 41%
- Medicare: 20%
- Other public: 1%
- No insurance: 18%

Race and Ethnicity
- African American: 42%
- White: 39%
- Hispanic: 12%
- Other: 7%

Gender
- Men: 77%
- Women: 22%
- Transgender: 1%

Age
- 24 and younger: 5%
- 25-44: 38%
- 45-54: 53%
- 55 and older: 4%

Source and Use of Funds
For Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015

Revenue
- Federal, State and Local Government: 18%
- Private Donors: 5%
- Reimbursement Revenue: 77%

Expenses
- Care and Treatment: 87%
- Prevention: 6%
- Administrative & Fundraising: 7%

93% of ARCW expenses go directly toward the care, treatment and prevention services we offer to make an impact in Wisconsin.
ARCW HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015

ARCW is grateful to the following donors who made gifts of $100 or more during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2015. We are confident that this recognition is closing gaps in the fight against AIDS. We especially thank our Red Ribbon Patrons, donors who have made cumulative donations of $10,000 or more, and are recognized in honor Roll of Donors. Finally, we thank the thousands of donors of less than $100 as well.
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<td>(920) 733-2068 800-773-2068</td>
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<td>(608) 364-4027 800-486-6276</td>
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<td>(262) 657-6644 800-924-6601</td>
</tr>
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<td>505 King St., Suite 200</td>
<td>(608) 785-9866 800-947-3353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>820 N. Plankinton Ave.</td>
<td>(414) 273-1991 800-359-9272</td>
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<td>Superior</td>
<td>1507 Tower Ave.</td>
<td>(715) 394-4009 877-242-0282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wausau</td>
<td>1105 Grand Ave., Suite 1</td>
<td>(715) 355-6867 800-551-3311</td>
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