

# Stronger Together



## St. Maarten **AIDS** Foundation 2012 Impact Report



Reaching People at Risk

Influencing the Environment

Supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS



Dear Friends,

The St. Maarten AIDS Foundation (SAF) has come a long way since its inception in 1990.

For sustainability, our 5-year Strategic Plan developed in 2011 called for a permanent Secretariat. Opening the office in April 2012 was an intimidating endeavor, especially for an organization that had until then relied solely on volunteers and borrowed time.

I'm happy to report that we have hired two stellar professionals for the roles of Executive Director (Mrs Rae Merlet) and Community Projects Coordinator (Miss Kimberley Meijers), and we are already seeing the benefits of better reporting, more rigorous financial accounting, and consistent delivery of high quality programs. We are more visible in the community and are well poised to further expand efforts in our continuing fight against HIV /AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Our testing, prevention and care/treatment efforts go hand in hand to reach Zero New Infections, Zero Stigma and Discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related Deaths in the years to come. This UNAIDS Vision is attainable with a collaborative effort of all.

In 2012, we conducted more HIV tests than in years past – signaling not only our renewed effort but also the gradual decline of stigma attached to being tested. Compare the 918 tests conducted in 2012 with 11 tests during the 3 years of the existence of our Health Information Center in the 1990s – it is astounding how far along we have come. In 2013 we will start free and confidential HIV testing in our office while seeking out more testing opportunities in the districts.

Our prevention efforts have come a long way. Girl Power is now systemized, resulting in more knowledgeable, more empowered girls than ever before. Real Talk is months away from implementation, allowing boys to be equally empowered and to share common norms with the girls.

Stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS continues to have our attention and we relentlessly advocate on their behalf to improve medical, living, work and social conditions. SAF is committed to provide compassionate care and support to all people affected by HIV/AIDS and in particular, is now caring for 12 uninsured people with medication and associated costs.

Our challenge in the coming year is to keep up the momentum and sustain the precarious gains. Fundraising is proving to be challenging year after year, and we must redouble our efforts to keep HIV/AIDS top of mind amidst competing priorities.

We are off to renewed beginnings. I thank you and count on your continued support as we enter the third decade of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

We ARE stronger together.

Gerard van Osch, MD  
President



# Reaching People at Risk



**HIV Testing** is a key component of our infection prevention strategy – once the HIV status is known, steps can be taken to stay negative or to prevent further transmission.

**5** Full-Day HIV Testing Events

**2** Half-Day HIV Testing Events

# 918

HIV Tests Conducted

**47%** Men

**28%** 1st-time Testers



2013 Plans

Walk-in HIV testing at the office in Cole Bay; more testing events in the districts

**Girl Power** is one of our main prevention education initiatives. This lifestyle education workshop is conducted at all high schools on Sint Maarten, targeting girls 12-13 years of age.

**SCHOOL**

**GIRL POWER**

2012-2013  
School Year

**465** Girls Reached, including Out-of-School Youth

**13** 3-day Workshops Conducted

**22** Trained facilitators



2013 Plans

Expand the program to include Boys (Real Talk) and Girl Power Booster sessions for girls in the 3rd Form

## Reaching People at Risk



**Commercial Sex Worker** outreach initiative targets adult entertainment venues and seeks to instill the practice of safe sex and regular testing. It is funded by Population Services International (PSI).

**8** Adult Entertainment Venues Visited

**190** Women Trained

### 2013 Plans

Expand partnership with PSI to engage men-at-risk and youth-at-risk through education workshops

Two Most-at-Risk populations deserve the continuing focus of the Foundation: **MSMs** (Men Having Sex with Men) and the large **Migrant Communities** on the island.

A focus group with **MSMs** held in late 2012 set the stage for possible strategies to better reach out to this vulnerable population and establish a system of peer educators.

For the **migrant groups**, the effort to improve access to HIV prevention and care services kicked off under the aegis of PANCAP, in collaboration with AIDES on the French side and the government's HIV/AIDS Programme Management Team. Multiple focus groups were conducted to ascertain the status quo and ways to reach the diverse populations that make up this group.

### 2013 Plans

Launch media campaign to engage MSMs and the Migrant Communities and increase access points for free testing and education

## Spotlight on Volunteers

SAF Volunteers come from all walks of life and are the engine that drives most of our prevention efforts.

**2907** Volunteer Hours

**27** Community Events

"Through volunteering I've met dozens of new people who have each given me the opportunity to view a different perspective towards the disease"

– *Krish Budhrani, volunteer since 2008*

"Volunteering with the AIDS Foundation has given me the opportunity to witness complete strangers caring and supporting each other. And for this I am blessed."

– *Sharon Freiburg, volunteer since 2010*

Stigma and discrimination against HIV/AIDS and against people living with HIV/AIDS remain the driving forces behind the difficulty to reach those most at risk, the reluctance to seek out testing, and the fear of those infected to disclose their status. SAF strives to minimize stigma and discrimination via public service announcements, engagement with the media, workshops that seek to differentiate facts from myths, and concerted efforts to promote universal access to care as well as equal and fair treatment for those living with HIV/AIDS.



SAF organized an all-day radiothon on **World AIDS Day**, with three radio stations live-broadcasting of the HIV Testing event and conducting Q&As with influential members of the community. Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams was present to encourage the involvement of the public and took an HIV test in front of the cameras to promote regular testing as part of healthy living.



SAF worked extensively with the Ministry of Labour and the HIV/AIDS Programme Management Team to draft the **National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy**, which outlines the principles and guidelines behind equal opportunities and fair treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Policy will be implemented during the course of 2013.



Part of the effort to secure universal access for people living with HIV/AIDS is to lobby for lower **costs of antiretroviral medication**. Currently, Sint Maarten is unable to import generic HIV medication due to patent laws. SAF continues to work with the Ministry of Public Health, PAHO, PANCAP and other entities in the continuing effort to alleviate the financial burden, especially for the uninsured.

## 2013 Plans

**Promote media campaign tailored to different target groups; Collaborate with the Ministry of Labour to disseminate the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy; Redouble efforts to obtain generic ARVs**

# Supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS



**720**  
People Under Care for  
HIV/AIDS

**80%** Under Treatment

**12** Uninsured Patients under Treatment

**0%** Mother-to-Child Infection

On French St. Martin and Dutch Sint Maarten combined, 720 people are under care for HIV/AIDS. This number is thought to represent approximate 50% of those infected on the island.

The number of uninsured patients under care is steadily increasing; starting the year at 9, it rose to 12 by the end of 2012. For these patients, SAF covers costs for monthly consultations, lab tests, counseling/support sessions and medication.

Sint Maarten has not seen Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV for the last 6 years (and only one case since 2001), a remarkable achievement.

## 2013 Plans

**Implement Diagnose-to-Treat model to get people under care as soon as possible; Maintain Zero Mother-to-Child Infection**

**HOPE (Helping Ourselves in a Positive Environment)** is the only support group for people living with HIV/AIDS on the Dutch side of the island. SAF brings this group together once a month, to ensure that there is a safe platform where people living with HIV/AIDS can support and learn from one another.

Members of HOPE organize the annual **International Candlelight Ceremony** that honors those lost to AIDS and consolidates support for those affected by the virus. The 2012 ceremony was held as a joint event with the Art of Living Foundation and presented the Elton Jones Award for AIDS Awareness to Rajesh Chintaman for his dedication to the cause over the last nine years.



&



Presents

## Biggest Multicultural Peace Event

Celebrating Humanity

Join us in Support of a Stress Free, Violence Free St. Maarten

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial with Presentation of the Elton Jones Memorial Award. Soul Stirring Live Harp & Steel Pan Music, Inspiring Poetry, Breath Taking Multi-Cultural Dance, Theatre & Sign Language Performances, Singing & Instrumentals, Motivational Messages, Guided Peace Meditation and much more...





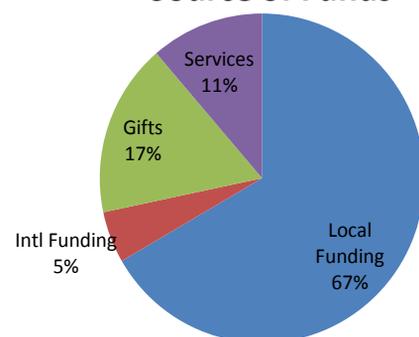
# Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2012

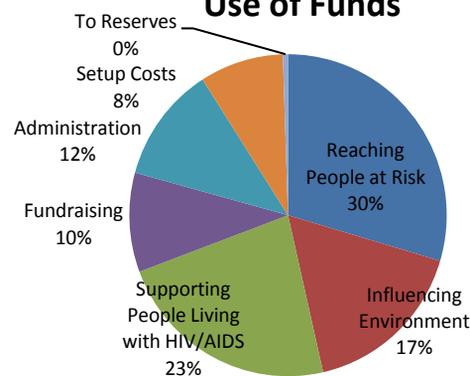
All Figures are in US\$

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Revenues and Support</b>			
Local Funding	100,791	-	100,791
International Funding	6,063	1,550	7,613
Gifts	25,110	-	25,110
Services	16,999	-	16,999
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>148,964</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>150,514</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Program Services</i>			
<b>Reaching People at Risk</b>			
Girl Power	12,616		12,616
HIV Testing	19,305		19,305
Most-at-Risk Populations	11,226	1,550	12,776
<b>Influencing the Environment</b>			
Awareness Programs	15,532		15,532
Advocacy	2,727		2,727
Conferences	6,121		6,121
<b>Supporting People Living with HIV/AIDS</b>			
HOPE	1,240		1,240
Care of Uninsured PLWHA	30,995		30,995
Treatment Update Training	2,155		2,155
<i>Support Services</i>			
Fundraising	15,011		15,011
Office set-up	12,659		12,659
Administration	17,587		17,587
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>147,175</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>148,725</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	1,789	-	1,789
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Beginning of Year	238,616		238,616
<b>End of Year</b>	<b>240,405</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>240,405</b>

## Source of Funds



## Use of Funds



## Key Metrics

### Efficiency

Program Services Costs as % of Total Costs	76%
Administration Costs as % of Total Costs	13%
Fundraising Costs as % Total Costs	11%
Fundraising Costs as % of Funds Raised	10%

### Sustainability

Annual Operating Surplus as % Funds Raised	1%
Ratio of Net Assets to Total Costs	1.8



## Our Governing Board

The Board is responsible for the organization's overall strategy and the delivery of quality programs. It includes representatives with varied and relevant backgrounds (healthcare, education, media, government and legal) to bring well-rounded insight and direction to the running of the organization.



### Board Members:

**Gerard van Osch, MD** – President

**Ria Uiterloo** – Secretary

**Rajesh Chintaman** – Treasurer

**Suzette Moses-Burton**

**Brenda Brooks, LL.M.**

*Also in the picture:*

**Rae Merlet** – Executive Director

**Kimberley Meijers** – Community Projects Coordinator

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## Our Generous Donors of Financial and Material Support

Alpha Healthcare Services · American University of the Caribbean · Artemia Events · Caribbean Gems · Caribbean International Academy · EGJ Real Estate · Eloquent Designs · Etienne Meyers · Federal Express · FW Vlaun · Harvey & Janet Grossman · Island 92 · Learning Unlimited · Liccom · The Maho Group · Media One · Mr. Manek · Nagico · National Institute of Arts · Penny's · PJD2 · The Rotary Club of Sint Maarten · Royal Jewelry · Scotiabank · Sheer Restaurant · St. Dominic High · Sun Insurance · Tax Consulting Agency · TelEm Group · Tony's Air Conditioning · Total Cleaning · UTS

Contributors to the **2012 Stronger Together/ Red Ribbon** Campaign

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## Our Esteemed Partners Joining the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

AIDES · CIDDIST · COC Nederland · HIV/AIDS Programme Management Team · Interreg · Liaisons Dangereuses · Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labour · PAHO · PANCAP · Population Services International (PSI)

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Facebook.com/sxmidsfoundation

