



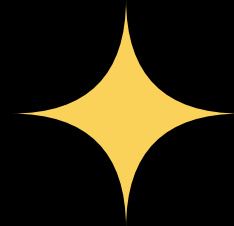
PROJECT  
RESPONSE, INC.



# ANNUAL REPORT

**2025**

# 2025 IN REVIEW



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The past year has seen Project Response lead in HIV health care and prevention for Brevard County and beyond. "Knowing Your Status is Knowing Your Power," and it is a message we take to the streets and into our clinic every single day. We end the virus by ending the stigma that has unfairly shadowed advancements in care and knowledge about how one protects themselves and others.

While our clinic broke records this year with just under 7,000 visits and our Ryan White Program case managed over 500 clients, we see this as a victory in itself: people in care, getting tested, taking charge, and thriving in life with or without HIV. Together, we are turning the tide and making our community more informed and responsive to their own health needs without fear of rejection or judgment. All are welcome here regardless of who or how they love; shame and regret have no place here.

We came out and showed up to educate, comfort, and inform those with questions that needed answers. You saw us at Puerto Rican Festival, Recovery Fest, Rainbow Run, Space Coast Pride & Parade, and numerous health fairs. We took a busload to Fort Walton for the 27th Annual Positive Living Conference while our Seniors Activities Group made outings to McKee Botanical Garden, Brevard Zoo, the Wizard of Oz Museum, and a matinee movie. We celebrated Long-Term Survivors with a lunch sponsored by Gilead, sharing a sit-down gourmet meal for 70 and listening to the stories of those who have thrived while living HIV-positive for decades. Then we gathered together in somber remembrance of those lost on December 1st, World AIDS Day. We fed friends and strangers from the Helen Hopkins Food Pantry and assisted those with housing, transportation, counseling, and health insurance through our premium assistance program. We then wrapped it up with the 2nd annual gala, "A Night at the Moulin Rouge," a sold-out event the likes of which Brevard will not see again until October 17, 2026, for "A Night at Studio 54." Raising funds for our programs, the gala is our signature event that you will not want to miss.



***All are welcome here regardless of who or how they love; shame and regret have no place here.***

We added talent and expertise to our leadership with the addition of Abigail Gavin as our new Program Director and continued to build seamless service for our patients and clients in partnership with Empire Pharmacy, all while being supported every step of the way by our fantastic Board of Directors led by the amazing President of the Board and 2025 Grand Marshal, Michael Pecko. We said goodbye to longtime volunteer and board member Jack Tracy and thank him for his years of service as he stepped down, and we welcomed new board members with passion and a desire to serve.

I close out this year with incredible gratitude to our staff and doctors, Ana Conde Rosa and Dr. Aisha Thomas St. Cyr, and to all the volunteers and supporters who have made this such a fulfilling year. Together, all of us save lives, give hope, and share love with the entire community. For the privilege of serving as Executive Director, I thank you all.

*- E.H.C.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Pecko	President
Andrew Hawke	Vice President
William Broyhill	Treasurer
Richard Gray	Secretary
Brian Allen	Past President
Harry DiSalvio	Director
Migdalia Thompson	Director
Pete Baron-Krieger	Director
Shelley Rodden	Director
Sonya Millard	Director
Stan Pengelly	Director
Brian Patterson	Director
Erik Hendrickson Cruz	Executive Director CEO
Abigail Gavin	Program Director
Kevin Godek	Finance Manager
Evan Cochuyt	Case Management Supervisor
Robin Sipe	Clinic Supervisor



**ERIK HENDRICKSON CRUZ**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# SUPPORTERS

## GRANTORS

Heart of Florida United Way  
Ryan White Act  
United Way of Brevard  
Florida Department of Health  
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS  
Community Foundation of Brevard



## ORGANIZATIONS

Mitchell Wealth Management  
Kilmer Investments  
Space Coast Pride  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
PFLAG  
Florida Dermatology  
Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce

Melbourne Regional Chamber  
Gilead Sciences  
Relentless Real Estate  
WFIT 89.5  
98.5 The Beach WSBH  
Empire Pharmacy  
Second Harvest

HR Office Savers  
TD Bank  
Kilted Mermaid  
Seacoast Bank  
Wire 3  
Tuckaway Shores Resort  
Next Level Digital Marketing

## INDIVIDUALS

Gayle Rathbun  
Patricia Champion  
John Yancey  
Rodney Blount  
George Stephens  
Sara Hamilton  
William Broyhill  
Ryan Troester  
Vernon & Helen Snyder  
William Aiman  
Freda Hendrickson  
Mark Younger Jr.  
Bernice Brown

Andrew Hawkes  
Arlene Gomes  
Anthony Phillios  
Gloria Coats  
Kieshia Coleman  
Nyeisha Clemons  
Tara Price  
Ryan Trandell  
Sandra DeMessa  
Nancy Peltonen  
Angela Dunn  
Diane Bryson  
Constance Dusek

Robin Braswell  
Lisa Coleman  
Marion Ambrose  
Doris Golindano  
Alan Bernstein  
Rebekah Walker  
Jennifer Wynn  
Javiet Arnaez  
Debora Bistarkey  
Fidel Machin  
Kevin Frost  
Brian Westmoreland  
Sara Ash

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ANONYMOUS DONORS  
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT.**



# SUPPORTERS

## INDIVIDUALS (CONTINUED)

Linda Moore  
Carrol Pilgrim  
Dr Aisha Thomas  
David Thomas  
Gilbert Russell  
Joe Kilmer  
Malikarjuna Penumudi  
Lisa Sweeney  
Connie Choate  
David Williams  
Jason Kolleda  
Cameron Mitchel  
Robert Lamb  
Cheryl Rittenhouse  
Richard Gray  
Frank Fischbach  
Douglass Judson  
Janet Jennings  
Lisa Kovary  
Kelsey Richardson  
Helen Voltz

Stephanie LeBlanc  
Charles Osborne  
Leigh McElroy  
Brent Dyk  
Adrian Hodge  
Chris Mondello  
Louis Cordova  
Richard Arce  
Omer Bernardo  
Justin Cercone  
Krystofer Kunkle  
Terry Fletcher  
Robert Pike  
Rodger Hensley  
Christine Hackford  
Joseph Burton  
Clifford Butler  
Michael Bloom  
Luther Andal  
Shelly Rodden  
Brian Allen

Pam Rothenberg  
David Cable  
Rick Norry  
Gary Orzts  
Mary Bowman  
Marcia Scantlebury-Hall  
Larry Holt  
Patricia Strickland  
John Bellies  
Michelle Boyd  
Stan Pengelly  
Jeffery Sterling  
John Greene  
Miguel & Erik Cruz  
Eddie Schutz  
Roland Thompson  
Arthur Sanders  
Michael Forestano  
Bill Aiman  
Douglas Kinney  
Daniel McDow



***I love this place! It is a safe place, resources for the community, great to talk to. I think Project Response needs more funding so they can continue to help the community.***

***– Laurel***



# FINANCIALS

## \$18.116M

### AGENCY OPERATING BUDGET DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

#### REVENUE

\$271k

Federal Grants

\$3.3M

340B Savings Income

\$149k

State of Florida Grants

\$18k

Private Grants

\$40k

Gala Tickets and Sponsorships



#### EXPENSES

Prevention Programs

\$115k

Behavioral Health Programs

\$27k

Administration

\$1.6M

Medical Clinic

\$1.1M

Development

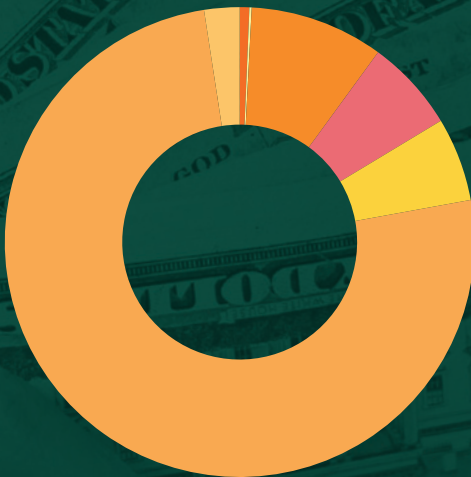
\$1.0M

Medication Cost

\$13.1M

Health Insurance Premium Assistance Program

\$422k



# CARE COORDINATION

Care coordination is client/patient centered. This allows Project Response team members to look at the needs of the whole person. With integrated care we are able to connect medical health, mental health and stabilized living for ultimate results. Care also includes community and that is where Project Response Soars, with activities for our seniors to connect with others and reduce isolation.

**750** PEOPLE THRIVING WITH HIV SERVED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

While some of our clients that have been living and thriving with HIV for decades may need additional services, others are active working members of our community who see us for medical visits only. Here they don't have to repeat their story over and over. Here we understand the first time and tailor care that fits their life.

**1,250**

Meals provided

**519**

Individuals case-managed through the Ryan White Program

**384**

Medical transportation rides provided to clients (round trip)

**115**

Individuals enrolled in health care plans covered by Project Response

## FOOD BANK

**33.8k** POUNDS OF FOOD  
**\$16.3k** FOOD COST  
**31.2k** MEALS



# PREVENTION

## 810 HIV RAPID TESTS CONDUCTED IN 2025

At the core in ending HIV is PREVENTION. This is only accomplished by education, resources and getting tested. Knowing your status is your individual power and it helps you make informed decision about your health! HIV and HEP-C tests are performed every day at the Project Response Clinic and they Are always free!

We follow the Talk Test Treat protocol so that we have a better understanding of your needs. You should never be afraid of taking a test because it is always going to be good news! If you are non-reactive for HIV then lets discuss what brought you in today? And let's discuss if PrEP is right for you? Remember PrEP is 99.9% effective in preventing a person from contracting HIV, it does NOT prevent other Sexually Transmitted Diseases. If you are reactive for HIV, your Tester will get you in for confirmatory lab work and you will see the doctor. Our clinic will make sure you have all follow up appointments, Antiviral Therapy (medication) for two weeks and assigned a PEER Navigator who will help you with any questions and concerns in the days and weeks to come. WE GOT YOU and YOU GOT THIS!

**614**

Hep-C tests  
conducted in 2025

**6**

Reactive HIV  
tests in 2025

**416**

Reactive Hep-C  
tests in 2025

**22.3k**

**CONDOMS  
DISTRIBUTED  
IN 2025**

# OUR CLINIC



**MATTHEW PRICE, RN, BSN**  
OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Project Response experienced tremendous growth in 2025 with total clinic visits at just under 7000. We attribute this to being not only the leader in HIV care in Brevard but also our expanded Primary Care and our community openness! Everyone is welcome here. Our caring medical staff provide full wrap around service with patient at the center of it all.

**6,984**

**TOTAL CLINIC VISITS**  
DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

## HFSSO SERVICES RECEIVED

**656**

STD tests given

**2,389**

Infectious disease doctor visits

**47**

PrEP prescription visits

**2,401**

Wellness visits

**2,251**

Lab visits

**48k**

Prescriptions filled by Empire Pharmacy

**Globally, an estimated 40.8 million people were living with HIV in 2025**

A striking reality is that while adolescent girls and young women (15–24) account for roughly 570 new infections daily, they face a severe funding crisis limiting access to prevention and mental health programs. (World Health Organization)



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The largest GAP in health Care in Brevard is access to mental health. Project Response has recognized this need and in 2026 is stepping up to fill the gap with additional staff and tailored programs to address the unique needs of the community. Look out for more Mental Health services from your trusted health provider, Project Response.

**624** **ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING SESSIONS**  
DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

**125** **SUPPORT GROUP PARTICIPANTS**  
DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

**556**

Counseling visits

**15**

Positive Living Conference Attendees

**185**

Holiday Dinner & Dance Attendees

**160**

Senior Activities Group Participants

**50**

World AIDS Day Memorial Service

*"The senior activity group has been such a blessing. I get to go places with a group of new friends, things I would never do on my own."*

– J.P.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach is critical to the success of Project Response's mission. To seek out individuals that may be of high risk for HIV or Hepatitis C, test, educate and get individuals into the appropriate care.

Project Response has long lasting relationships of testing at local Recovery programs, Juvenile detention centers and rehabilitation clinics where individuals at high risk receive services. Our outreach includes; Health fairs, Pride Events, Cultural festivals, University and College events. Project Response provides Testing and education regarding HIV and PrEP at these events. Community education give us the opportunity to speak to many different groups to educate about the risk of HIV, prevention progress PrEP and advances in treatment as well services offered by Project Response.

In January of 2026, Project Response Mobile Clinic entered into service. The Mobile clinic has shown tremendous success in its ability to go to Hot Spots throughout the county and both educate and test individuals following the Talk Test Treat protocol.

In 2025 our outreach and clinic performed 1185 HIV Rapid tests. Our goal I 2026 is to increase that number to 2400 tests. We will accomplish this by scheduling the mobile clinic to be at 15 different sites in any given months. These include, Churches, Shopping Centers and public parks. As well as libraries medical centers and pop up events. This is in addition to our established locations.

The goal is to educate on HIV, protection and treatment. The mobile unit is supervised by a registered nurse and a growing staff of trained (FDOH) and certified testers. The mobile unit is scheduled for weekday, evening and weekend use.



**VISIBILITY IN THE COMMUNITY IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR OUTREACH PLAN.**  
OUR GOAL IS TO:

- Test and Educate
- Get individuals into care or on PrEP
- Answer questions about HIV and deliver educational information
- Provide references for further care
- Qualify connections for educational programs and additional testing locations
- Foster partnerships with other medical -Mental Health- service organizations to provide full wrap around services.



**ABIGAIL GAVIN**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



# CLOSING WORDS



## A Letter from Captain J. P. “Flip” Walters

Without Project Response my beautiful young husband may well not have been alive to meet me. We are both HIV Positive; and Project Response provides his only access to healthcare and the life-saving medications we both need.

Project Response provides a knowledgeable and caring community to help guide us through the mercenary bureaucracy of American medicine to provide testing, medications; and even much needed counseling.



***Project Response provides [my husband’s] only access to healthcare and the life-saving medications we both need.***

But, more than this Erik and the awesome staff at Project Response amazingly offer not only a business and clinical setting; but even a social network... We have attended numerous social activities, dinners; and some of Rob’s group activities over the years; and even when we show up unannounced without an appointment our case manager, Peter always makes time to see us and shares his genuinely caring assistance and advice.

The annual Positive Living Conference (nicely managed by Nikko) provides a tremendous education and socialization opportunity; to connect with other people coping with similar problems/issues; and very importantly, to learn about the advances in the science; and the politics of improving life with HIV.

Finally, the wonderful, caring people at the clinic and the amazingly helpful staff of Empire Pharmacy (too many to single out individually) have understand our complication in life with HIV; and are always warmly helpful, amazingly considerate, compassionate and full of solutions!



## Anonymous Testimony

I came to Florida in 1998 carrying more than just luggage. I carried fear, uncertainty, pain, and the heavy weight of living with HIV/AIDS during a time when many people still lived in silence and shame. Back then, life was hard. There were days I felt alone, misunderstood, and unsure about my future. I did not know where to turn or who I could trust. HIV was not only affecting my health – it was affecting my spirit.

Then I found Project Response Inc.

What they gave me was more than support. They gave me hope. They gave me dignity. They treated me like a human being when I needed compassion the most. Through their help, I learned that surviving is not just about staying alive – it is about finding strength when life tries to break you.

Today, I stand here as a long-time survivor. That means something powerful to me. It means I fought through the darkest moments and kept going. It means I refused to let HIV define my worth or destroy my future. I am grateful for every person at Project Response who stood beside me through the difficult times. Because of organizations like this, people like me are still here, still fighting, and still living with purpose.

To anyone struggling right now, I want you to hear this clearly: your life matters, your story matters, and your future is not over.



***I am grateful for every person at Project Response who stood beside me through the difficult times. Because of organizations like this, people like me are still here, still fighting, and still living with purpose.***





**DONATE**

We do all this without one penny from the Florida Tax Payer. Our primary funding source is the 340B ACT created by congress that allows us to pay whole for life saving drugs and use the savings to extend care to our most vulnerable population. But we need you to help us provide the life saving care that we have been known for these past 36 years. Pledge today, a one time 36.00 gift or 36.00 for 36 months and help us celebrate 36 years of care in our community.



PROJECT  
RESPONSE , INC.

We have so many events at Project Response designed to enhance the lives of those thriving with HIV that we can always use an extra pair of hands. Volunteer today and make a difference.



**VOLUNTEER**