

About Housing Works



Housing Works is a vibrant, healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS through relentless advocacy, the provision of lifesaving services, and entrepreneurial businesses that sustain our efforts. Housing Works is the largest grassroots AIDS organization in the U.S., as well as the largest minority-controlled AIDS organization.



Housing Works Advocacy

We believe that people living with HIV/AIDS must lead the fight to eradicate the disease, a fight that includes access to healthcare and supportive services and an end to AIDS stigma. Advocacy highlights:

- Advocacy offices in New York City, Albany, Washington, D. C., and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and partnerships with CAIM in Puerto Rico.
- Since 1995, weekly visits by our HIV-positive clients to New York State legislative offices in Albany.
- Groundbreaking impact litigation, including a 2004 case forcing New York City to provide medically appropriate housing to homeless people living with HIV/AIDS

Housing Works Services

Our services address our clients' complex issues. Services highlights:

- Over 200 units of housing for homeless New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS
- Three "one-stop shop" Health Centers and 80 case managers and care coordinators who provide help to 4,000 clients annually
- Comprehensive services, including primary care, dental care, mental health services, case management, transgender health services, job training, wellness programs and more

Housing Works Entrepreneurial Businesses

We operate businesses that generate funding for our mission, provide jobs for our job-training graduates, and educate hundreds of thousands of customers about AIDS and homelessness. Business highlights:

- Housing Works Thrift Shops, an upscale chain of thrift shops and shophousingworks.com, an online auction site, that sell donated high-quality clothing, furniture and housewares, and generate approximately \$18 million in annual revenues
- Housing Works Bookstore Cafe, a Soho bookstore and cafe that sells donated books and has become a unique downtown literary and event space that generates approximately \$2 million in annual revenues
- The Works Catering, a catering company specializing in customized seasonal menus
- Annual galas Fashion for Action, a charity sample sale, and Design on a Dime, an interiors shopping event

FROM TOP

- Housing Works CEO, Charles King, at the International AIDS Conference 2012
- Three Housing Works clients in front of our Stand Up Harlem residence
- A stylish display at our popular social enterprise Housing Works Thrift Shops



Meet the Housing Works Community



Jada Fredericks

Four years ago, when Jada Fredericks came to Housing Works, she was homeless, HIV-positive, and hardened by the discrimination she'd experienced as a transgender woman. Housing Works became her rock: She signed up for our Transgender Transitional Housing Program, which gave her a place to live until she could find an apartment of her own. She also enrolled in primary care and mental health services, and started attending our creative art therapy program.

"I was going through a really, really rough time," Jada said. "And I've found that art allows me to get out and explain my life in terms of why I am who I am without having to put everything into words." Jada has been an artist since she was six, when she began designing clothing for her sister's Barbie dolls. For her first client art show she designed a silky leopard-print dress, and the mannequin wearing it, she said, is also HIV-positive. "She and I collaborated and decided that HIV does not have us—we have HIV."



Carlo Liggio

Carlo Liggio is a Psych Nurse Practitioner at the Cylar House Behavioral Health Clinic at our East Village Health Center. On a daily basis, Carlo faces the very real challenges of serving our target population: varied and numerous health problems in addition to HIV/AIDS as well as homelessness. "[Our clients] have so many other health issues, including substance use and mental health that often get overlooked... [And] how do you give care to a person when they don't have a roof over their head?"

While we all know that we have a long way to go, the good news, Carlo says, "is that Housing Works is willing to address [those challenges], look at them, and provide that care." He adds, "I love Housing Works because, as different as we may all be, I know we're all here to work on one goal."



Alan Miles

When Alan Miles, Nielson executive, Housing Works Thrift Shop Board member, devoted husband (finally able to marry in 2011 after a 16-year engagement), and dad to a boxer named Chip Glick, joined the BRAKING AIDS® Ride for the first time, he had no idea if he would be able to physically finish, and was nervous about fundraising as well. Turns out, there was no need to be nervous, as Rider #117 rode like a champ and raised nearly \$20,000! As Alan puts it, "I discovered I was not only up to the challenge, but I found the whole event incredibly uplifting."

As Alan implies, the Ride is an important outlet to spread the word about Housing Works, to inform folks about our mission, and to remind everyone that AIDS remains a major crisis. Only by creating a healing community that advocates relentlessly for its constituents and provides housing, health care, job training, and other lifesaving services can we bring about the end of the AIDS crisis.