



## TOP DRAWER IS OPEN and we've got what you need

### SHOP

Tues-Sat 11-5 or anytime online at  
[www.projecttransitions.org/topdrawerthrif](http://www.projecttransitions.org/topdrawerthrif)

### DONATE

We want your unique/cool/high-end merchandise!  
Bring your donations to 4902 Burnet Road (Top  
Drawer #1) whenever the store is open

## "Do you have your HIV medication?"



"Yes. It's right here."

Take a good look at this photo. This is the contents of a small sack a resident handed us recently when we asked him if he had his HIV meds. Now, ask yourself: is this person effectively treating their HIV? Do they know which pill to take and when to take it? Do they know how and when to get refills?

This is a picture of the crisis and chaos of homelessness — everything thrown into one bag, loose and disorganized, with no rhyme or reason. Housing alone doesn't fix this. It's only through time, hard work, and deeply supportive services — all provided by the generosity of donors like you -- that chaos and crisis yield to stability. Thank you for seeing and supporting people with HIV in Central Texas.

## HIV IN CENTRAL TEXAS

A SNAPSHOT



6,721

Number of people living with HIV in Central Texas\*



245

New diagnoses in 2019 in Central Texas\*



40%

The population of people living with HIV in Travis County has increased more than 40% since 2010.



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please return the enclosed donor survey!



PROJECT  
TRANSITIONS

## YOUR DONOR IMPACT REPORT

SUMMER  
2021

## "Today, I'm Grateful to be Alive"

Thank You for Giving Teddy a New Lease on Life

Does this man look familiar to you?

Teddy's lived in Austin for decades, working as a bank examiner. He has had HIV for decades. He volunteered for Project Transitions for years, helping plan Texas Swing events and the annual AIDS Walk. He never dreamed he'd be the one who needed help one day.

Teddy's story is common in America: medical issues led to bankruptcy. First came a severe beating in early 2020 that left him in intensive care with a broken pelvis and hip. A few months after he got out of rehab, his car was hit by a semi-truck, fracturing his skull. More months of expensive recovery and no ability to work left Teddy destitute. Then a small heart attack landed him back in the hospital.

**"I believe we all must learn to live in the world we are given, and to create a roadmap for others to follow."**

- Teddy, HIV Survivor & Doug's House resident

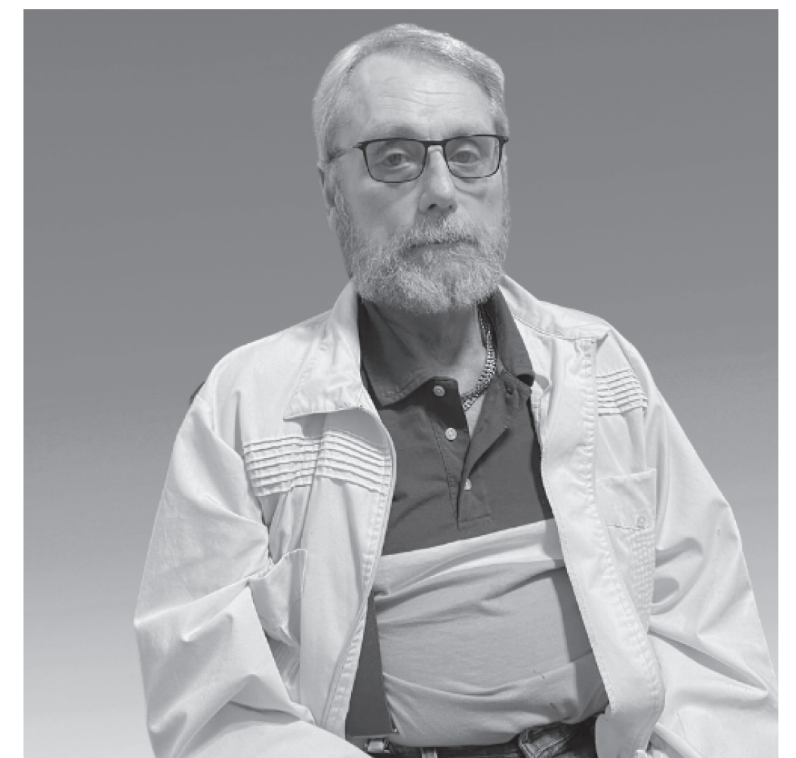
At this point, Teddy decided life wasn't worth living anymore. "I didn't have any money and I didn't believe anyone would help me. So I walked into traffic," he explains. "I just didn't see any other way out. And then I was arrested for attempting suicide."

Teddy was at his lowest point ever. But he didn't know that you and other supporters of Project Transitions were looking out for him. After a stay in a psychiatric hospital, Teddy came to Doug's House, where he had the chance to heal from his injuries, get help with his financial issues, and talk through options and opportunities with people who care. "Everyone here has given me a wonderful gift," he says. "There is so much humor and laughter here. I'm grateful to be alive today."

As a long-term HIV survivor, Teddy has heard doctors tell him many times before that his time is short. "The first time I was told I had six months to live was in 1986, when my T-cell count was three," he says. "Now I feel great inspiration to get back to life and give back again."

I believe we all must learn to live in the world we are given, and to create a roadmap for others to follow." Teddy's next stop is a special study on long-term HIV survivors at the Mayo Clinic. Now that he's back in the saddle, he's determined not to stop again — to use every day he's got on this earth to help those who are coming up the road behind him.

Thank you for being there for Teddy when he needed help.



*Teddy is healthy and hopeful today, thanks to your generosity.*

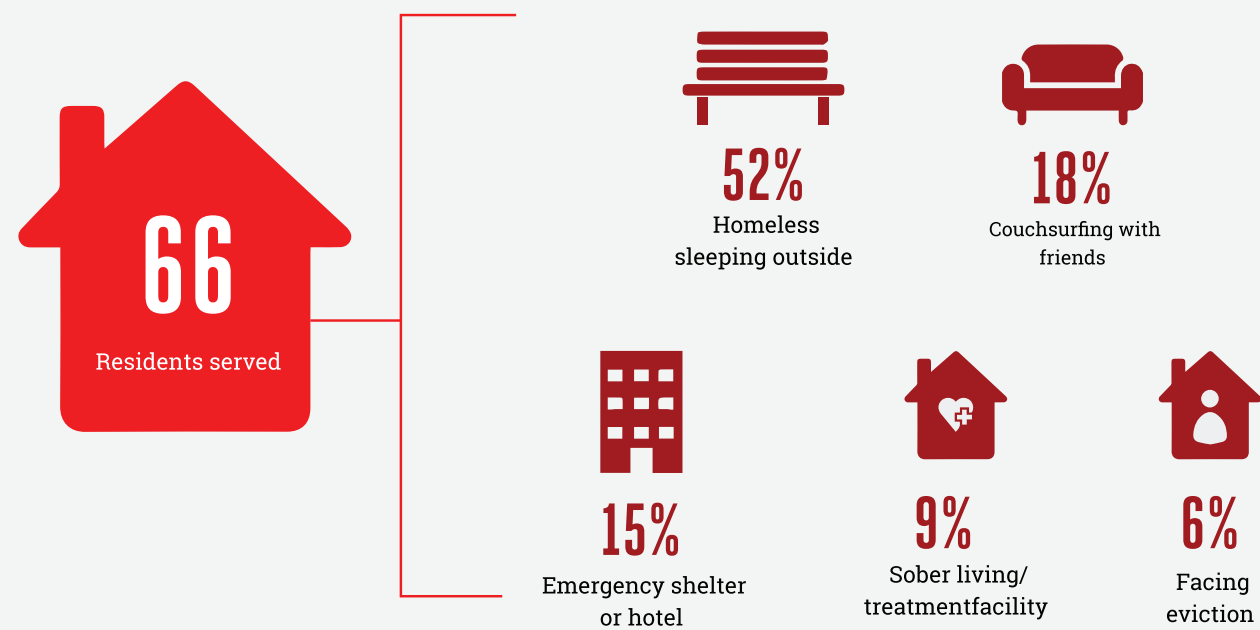
# YOUR 2020 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

To borrow a phrase from the children's book: 2020 was a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Year. We were forced to reduce capacity in all our programs due to COVID-19. We had to send all our volunteers home -- for the whole year. Both of our Top Drawer stores were closed, and all our events were canceled.

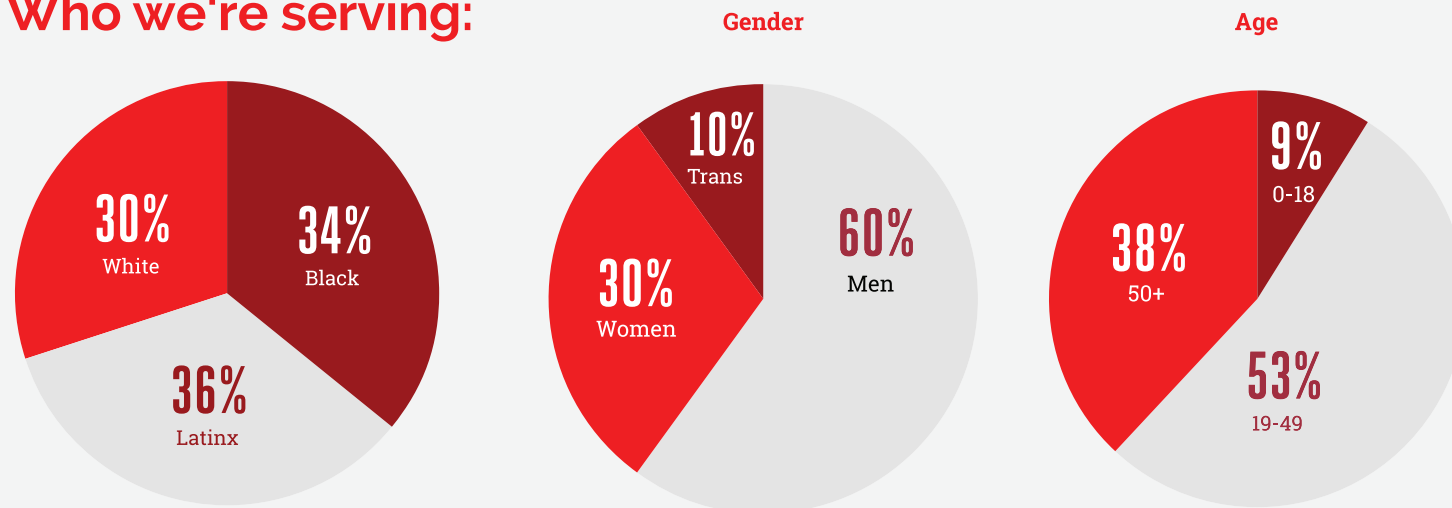
But thanks to the commitment and generosity of community members like you, we made it through -- and didn't let up on our ambitious expansion plans (see p. 4 for more details!).

Thank you to everyone who supported Project Transitions in 2020!

## Here's what your generosity made possible in 2020:



## Who we're serving:



## 2020 DONOR LIST

These individuals and organizations made gifts of \$1,000 or more to support Project Transitions operations in 2020. We are very grateful!

### Foundations

- All Together ATX Fund
- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
- Donald D. Hammill Foundation
- Moody Foundation
- Pierce Runnells Foundation
- Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless
- St. David's Foundation
- Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation

### Corporations

- Austin Subaru
- BBVA
- CPM Texas
- H-E-B
- Hill Country Ride for AIDS
- Pecan Street Association
- Prosperity Bank
- Tito's Texas Handmade Vodka

### Individuals

- Roy Adkins
- Lew Aldridge
- Elizabeth Armstrong
- Vicki Behl
- Scott and Crickett Berlin
- Victoria E. Beynon
- John Patrick Brown
- John Davis
- Jody De Jong
- Bill Dickson
- Sue Hammer
- Chris Hyams
- Jim A. Lommori
- Duane E. Mailman
- Lee Manford
- Ross Moody
- Oscar Rodriguez
- John Thomason
- James Whitten



*Thanks to your generosity, our neighbors with HIV get the support they need to achieve stable housing and good health.*

## Communities of Faith for Health & Housing



Austin's Religious Community Bands  
Together to Fight Homelessness

Project Transitions is very grateful to receive funding from the Religious Coalition to Assist the Homeless, a coalition of more than 140 local churches, temples, and religious communities. Through a city ordinance, members pool the drainage fee portion of their utility bills to create a fund through which they make grants to support organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness.

"As faith communities, we are called to provide shelter, support, and care to those among us who are in need. The medically fragile people experiencing homelessness who receive housing and care through Project Transitions are among our community's most vulnerable, and they need and deserve the human dignity that housing provides," said RCAH Executive Director Susan Morris. "We are pleased to support this work."



# To Keep Pace with Austin ... We're Growing!

New developments will more than triple PT's housing capacity by 2023



For the first time since 1998, we're expanding the number of available units of housing for people living with HIV and experiencing homelessness.

"Community needs assessments have found that as many as 1,600 people living with HIV in Central Texas don't have stable housing," explains Project Transitions CEO Cynthia Y. Herrera. "We'll never stop the spread of HIV in our community if we only have 30 units of housing in the face of that need."

Our first project, a redevelopment of our Roosevelt Gardens facility, **is fully funded and under construction**, with a projected completion date of January 2023.

Our second project, a new facility on Burnet Road, will break ground later this year.

When these facilities are complete, Austin will have 101 units of housing exclusively for people living with HIV — welcoming and inclusive communities with extensive on-site services like telemedicine and mental health treatment.

We can't wait to invite you to the Grand Opening!

*If you'd like to learn more about our property development efforts, please contact Cynthia Herrera at [cherrera@projecttransitions.org](mailto:cherrera@projecttransitions.org) or 512-454-8646 extension 101"*

## Fast Progress Toward Long-Term Change

The new Roosevelt Gardens is taking shape quickly! The building was demolished in October, we held a groundbreaking in December, and the team is working fast to finish the facility by early 2022.



Demo in October



Site Prep



New Construction

# MAKING IT A REALITY



The new Roosevelt Gardens will open early next year

Thanks to these early investors, the \$9 million Roosevelt Gardens project will welcome residents early next year, and we've raised nearly \$10 million toward the Burnet Place project.

It's only through the dedication and generosity of our community that lasting change like this is possible.

### Lead Gifts

Lew Aldridge  
Bill Dickson  
Steven Frantz  
Jim A. Lommori  
City of Austin  
Texas Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs

### Gifts of \$2,500 - 99,000

BBVA Compass  
Ellen & Alan Muskin  
William J. Brown  
Robert F. Dailey  
Donald D. Hammill Foundation  
Elizabeth Crook & Marc Lewis Foundation  
Gannett Foundation  
Lola Wright Foundation  
Duane E. Mailman  
Harry Zimmerman & Cindy Boldebeck



"This is one of the most exciting things I have worked on, especially because of its potential to help with homelessness and the containment of HIV for the next 50 or 75 years."

- Lew Aldridge,  
Capital Campaign  
Committee Member  
& Lead Donor

Donors Bob Dailey, Jim Lommori,  
Steven Frantz and Lew Aldridge at  
Roosevelt Gardens.

# After A Long Hiatus **EVENTS ARE BACK!**

"It's so amazing just to see everyone's faces again," announced Jezebel from the stage at April Showers before breaking into some fabulous dance moves.

After a long, lonely year inside, we all needed a good party -- no matter how you personally define that term!

**"It's so amazing just to see everyone's faces again,"**  
- Jezebel

For Type A early risers, the Hill Country Ride for AIDS offered a full season of rides, parties and events, raising more than \$427,000. These funds go to us and eight other local organizations that provide support, care and treatment for people living with HIV in Central Texas. The full season gave us a chance to connect with riders and with our fellow HIV organizations ... human connection we sorely missed in 2020!

For night owls with a taste for a cocktail or three, April Showers was just the ticket. This raucous drag show-slash-spring-celebration was fabulous and loud and a little bit inappropriate ... just like Austin.

Coming up NEXT in early 2022: The fabulous holiday-themed SNOW BALL — not stuffy, not fussy, just FUN. Follow us on social media or watch the website for details! [projecttransitions.org/snowball](https://projecttransitions.org/snowball)



A Night out at COTA for HCRA



Miss Vyllette Ward, Co-Host of April Showers



Easter Egg Hunt & Ride for HCRA

## Show your pride all year long

Become a Champion of Compassion for people with HIV

June is traditionally when the LGBTQIA+ community and allies celebrate PRIDE a defiant co-opting of the shame and stigma that has historically been heaped on anyone who doesn't follow a traditional path.

But why stop in June? By becoming a Champion of Compassion you can support people with HIV every month of the year.

Champions of Compassion set up a small monthly gift on their credit or debit card. A gift of \$10 per month — 33 cents a day -- provides ongoing support to people who are struggling with homelessness, illness, and poverty.

It takes just minutes to join -- and we'll send you an exclusive special-edition rainbow cuff to remind you that every day, you're providing HOME HEALTH and HOPE to people with HIV.



Special-edition rainbow cuff by Social Justice Jewelry

Will you become a Champion of Compassion for people with HIV?

Sign up anytime at [projecttransitions.org/compassion](https://projecttransitions.org/compassion).

## Still Pinching Ourselves: Project Transitions Awarded Transformational Grant from Gilead COMPASS Initiative

\$100,000 is being invested in our Transformative Housing Program to reduce housing instability for our neighbors living with HIV

Recently we got some HUGE news for a tiny homegrown nonprofit: Project Transitions was awarded a \$100,000 Transformational Grant from the Gilead Sciences COMPASS Initiative, which works to address HIV in the Southern United States. The grant will fund capacity building of our Transformative Housing Program to meet the anticipated growth in residents we will serve with our property development expansions. This investment will mean that more of the estimated 1,600 people in our community living with HIV and experiencing housing instability will have a transformative experience when they find a home with Project Transitions and will graduate sooner to permanent housing and life-long health. This support will also mean that our staff will have the capacity to build a collaborative network of partners to offer our residents holistic wellness resources and services, right at their home base.

"We'll work with partners to provide on-site services like AA meetings and substance dependency treatment, mental health treatment, life and job skills trainings, and peer support," explains Director of Resident Services Todd Logan. "Coordinating services and providing everything in one location will make it much easier for people to get the help they need. "We're absolutely thrilled to have the support of Gilead Sciences in this effort, the national leading HIV funder."

GILEAD  
COMPASS  
INITIATIVE