



Brothers United

Mission

The mission of Brothers United is to enhance the health and wellness of our community, which includes those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. Brothers United provides high quality, comprehensive prevention and care services in a welcoming environment and seeks to improve the overall health of the Indianapolis community, through education and training, outreach and advocacy, prevention and research.

History

A group of Men from the African American community in Indianapolis were alarmed about the impact HIV and AIDS were having on our community. Gatekeepers and other concerned men came together in the summer of 1998 for a discussion focusing on the lack of sexual health services targeted towards African American gay, bisexual, same-gender-loving and transgender persons. They named themselves Brothers United.

Brothers United set about the task of building awareness around the impact of HIV/AIDS on African American males living in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. The “basement discussion group” grew into a viable and reputable resource and lifeline for the community. With technical assistance from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Brothers United incorporated in 1999 with the mission of enhancing the health and wellness of our community, which includes those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and the people who live and work in our neighborhoods. That same year Brothers United collaborated with the Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) to seek funding under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funding Announcement 99091-A. The award was for direct HIV prevention and education to the African American Gay Community. Additionally in 1999, Brothers United received funding from the ISDH and the Marion County Health Department (MCHD) to provide HIV/STD prevention, education, awareness, and outreach.

Programs & Services

Brothers United offers a wide range of culturally appropriate and acceptable programmatic supports that reflect the needs and interests of our community. These programs are designed to strengthen Brothers United's impact on both an individual and societal level. This is accomplished through the following prevention and supportive services:

- Street and Club Prevention Outreach
- Internet Outreach Prevention Program
- Peer Educators Training Program
- Young Adult Prevention Discussion Group
- Transgender Prevention Discussion Group
- Support Groups for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS
- HIV Counseling, Testing and Referrals Services (CTRS)
- Comprehensive Risk Reduction Counseling Services (CRCS)
- Individual and Group level Prevention Education Programs
- Referrals for Supportive Services
- Community Health Fairs
- Advocacy
- Ryan White Services for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS
 - Case Management (Non Medical)
 - Psychosocial Support Sessions
 - Medical Transportation
 - Mental Health Counseling (Gallahue Mental Health Services)
 - Substance Abuse Counseling (Gallahue Mental Health Services)