

Dear UAF Supporter,

This year marks our 20th year of care in Utah, and we have spent a lot of time reflecting on how much help we have received from people and organizations like you.

Many of you have been a part of UAF since its inception, and many of you are newcomers to this work. It takes all of us working together to continue the work that UAF excels at.

As you know, HIV testing is an especially important component in the spectrum of HIV-related services. Our presence in Utah has increased thanks to our Test Site. We conduct HIV rapid tests at over 12 locations throughout Utah. We also expanded our Test Site hours at our office to include Monday evenings and Friday afternoons. Our staff and volunteers pour so much energy into the Test Site, and they do an amazing job. Our Test Site links newly diagnosed clients into medical care, and provides a support system to help them adjust to living with HIV/AIDS. This is critically important work. And there is no better opportunity to talk about HIV risk reduction than during testing counseling.

Take a few moments to look through the materials in this packet. Then sit down to make a donation to support the Utah AIDS Foundation and people living with HIV/AIDS across the state of Utah.

I thank you for your support of the Utah AIDS Foundation.

Sincerely,  
Stan Penfold  
Executive Director



## STIs Cause Long-term Effects- Why UAF needs support to test for STIs

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) such as *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* are a considerable health burden in the United States. STIs, with millions of new infections each year, disproportionately impact adolescents and young adults.

This poses significant public health concerns because STI symptoms often go undetected. Therefore, many people contract diseases that go untreated, which can cause harmful permanent complications.

For instance, untreated cervical infections can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), which often results in scarring of the fallopian tubes. This scar tissue is a primary cause of infertility, chronic pelvic pain, and potentially fatal ectopic pregnancies, where a fertilized egg implants in the fallopian tube instead of the uterus.

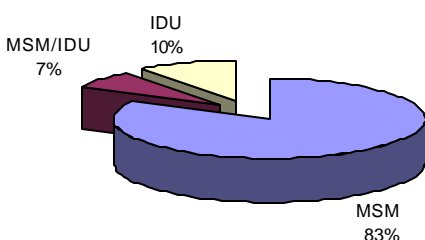
Pregnant women infected with *Chlamydia* can transmit the infection to their infants during delivery, potentially resulting in neonatal complications and pneumonia.

*Chlamydia* and *Gonorrhea* infections also increase the likelihood of acquiring HIV. These infections have dramatic economic consequences as well. In a report from University of North Carolina, it is estimated that *one year of STIs in youth costs the public health care system \$6.5 billion over a lifetime.*



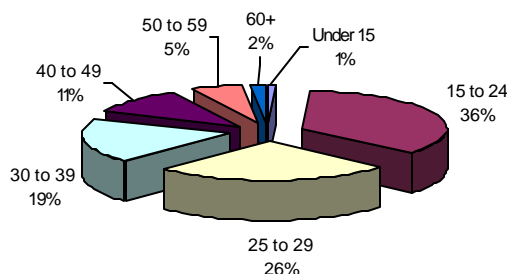
## Test Site At a Glance — Who We Test

HIV Test Site - 1st Quarter 2005 - Risk Category



MSM = men who have sex with men  
IDU = injecting drug users

HIV Test Site - 1st Quarter 2005 - Age Distribution



To help reduce the public health and economic consequences, the Centers for Disease Control recommend annual STI and HIV screenings for high risk individuals, particularly men who have sex with men (MSM). The UAF Test Site already targets MSM, so STI screening at UAF is a logical extension of our already successful HIV screening program. UAF hopes to offer STI screenings again in the future.

## Volunteers are essential to our Test Site

### Karidee Thomas

- Volunteer in the Test Site since 2003
- Trained to give positive results in 2004
- First volunteer at UAF to guide a client through the first steps of Partner Counseling and Referral
- Talents as a counselor shine through with a comfort and professionalism that's hard to match
- Currently the nutritionist at the University Hospital Infectious Disease Clinic
- Headed to Physician Assistant school this summer!



**Karidee gearing up for testing**



### Eric Konnick

- Volunteer at UAF since December 2003
- Volunteer in Test Site since March 2004
- Regularly signs up for all positions in the site- from intake to lab tech to prevention counselor
- True asset to the Test Site
- Became a Test Site team lead in late 2004—has run the test site solo many times
- Currently works for ARUP laboratories where he researches HIV and Hepatitis C testing systems

**Eric taking a quick break between duties**

### Jerry Warner

- Volunteer in the Test Site since August 2003
- One of first volunteers trained to give Positive results and to guide clients through the Partner Counseling and Referral
- Complimented by clients on his abilities to help clients feel supported and "to come back to focus"
- Became a Test Site team lead in early 2004
- Currently employed by the Regence Group which keeps him very busy



**Jery settin' up the lab**

Everyone at UAF is so grateful for all of our volunteers' commitment and dedication.

## Introducing OraQuick® ADVANCE

In February 2005 the Utah AIDS Foundation became the Utah pilot site for OraQuick® ADVANCE

OraQuick® ADVANCE is superior to the original OraQuick® device for several reasons. First, clients prefer the specimen collection, which is a simple cheek swab. UAF began oral specimen collection with the new testing devices on February 28th. OraQuick® ADVANCE will quell many clients' concerns surrounding the former finger-stick method, as well as our specimen collectors' and counselors' concerns of exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Second, this device may be used with several different types of specimens, including an oral specimen, finger-stick whole blood, venipuncture whole blood, as well as plasma. Additionally, this device has been approved by the FDA to test for both HIV-1 and HIV-2, although the Utah AIDS Foundation will only be testing for HIV-1.

Finally, OraQuick® ADVANCE allows for increased flexibility within our lab. OraQuick® ADVANCE can be run in locations with greater temperature variation than the original OraQuick® device (up to 99 degrees compared to 80 degrees). This will be particularly beneficial when we take the Test Site to community events like Pride.



*Blood specimens are no longer needed at the UAF Test Site. The new OraQuick® ADVANCE, shown above, uses a cheek swab.*



*It's how we care.*

*At the Utah AIDS Foundation we strive to help individuals, families, friends, and communities as they struggle with the complex issues surrounding HIV. We are committed to partnerships that mend health, promote compassion, and extend companionship to everyone who has been impacted by HIV.*

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**United Way of Salt Lake**