



Howard Brown
Health

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING THE DOTS WITH CARE

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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Howard Brown Health's programs and services are designed with our patients at the center. Every step in an individual's health journey contributes to improvements in individual and community wellness.

Howard Brown believes in holistic, whole person care. Last year, we launched an anal dysplasia clinic in response to patients' HPV-related screening needs to prevent anal and rectal cancers. We expanded behavioral health services, including psychiatry, at locations citywide. Because oral health benefits overall wellbeing, we expanded our dental clinic at Howard Brown Health 63rd Street and completed more than 2,000 procedures in 2018.

With expanded Behavioral Health Consultancy available throughout our network, mental wellness services are even more accessible during a primary care visit, providing an immediate gateway to our therapy, counseling, and psychiatric services.

Working to connect the dots of our community's care means finding ways to support our patients in and beyond the exam room. In 2018, we launched our surgical navigation program, helping transgender and gender nonconforming people gain access to the services they need.

Looking to address the specific needs of our younger clients, ages 13 to 19, we started Teen Day at the Broadway Youth Center, with programs and services for younger clients every Saturday. Young LGBTQ people on the south side now have a drop-in program one evening a week closer to home, with Southside Safe Space, or Triple S.

Whether a first-time visit, or as part of their ongoing health plan, patients receive guidance toward wellness and life improvements. At Howard Brown, we see individuals as they are, answering questions and connecting the dots along their care journey.

We can connect people to needed resources only because of our incredible mosaic of patients, community supporters, and donors. Thank you for your partnership to respond to the needs of our community.

Sincerely,



David Ernesto Munar,
President and CEO



Mario Treto, Jr., JD
Board Chair





Jenny

"SexuWellness helped get rid of a lot of the barriers I had before. I didn't have to register in advance. There wasn't a traditional waiting room. The night was a discussion, where we shared intros including our pronouns and zodiac signs. I felt comfortable right away. Compared to a bigger hospital, there's no pretense, no air of condescension."

2,279

DENTAL PROCEDURES
COMPLETED IN 2018

Expanding Care

In 2018, Howard Brown Health's primary care practice further expanded its scope of care, bringing more specialized services in-house. Recognizing a need for more robust and proactive anal health among the communities we serve, our medical team launched an anal dysplasia clinic, with new guidelines for screening patients for cancer related to human papilloma virus (HPV).

Affordable, accessible, and affirming dental care is an essential component of whole body care, so Howard Brown launched dental services at Howard Brown Health 63rd St. The dental team includes four providers, a hygienist, and several support staff, making oral health part of our holistic model.

Supporting families in Chicago means providing what school-aged children need, when they need it. Over the summer, Howard Brown kicked off our first Back to School Physicals program, providing a valuable service

to parents needing physical exams for their children entering a new school year. We helped families across the city get back to school with updated vaccinations and new access to primary care. Howard Brown supports families from the start. In 2018, nine medical providers began supporting individuals or couples ready to begin the insemination process. Last year the Alternative Insemination (AI) program had 30 couples attend the AI orientation, 37 intrauterine inseminations completed, and five successful pregnancies.

Walk-in sexual health services are key to making healthcare accessible. In 2018, Howard Brown expanded walk-in services to our Englewood clinic, delivering our uniquely accessible and efficient sexual wellness resources to a south side hub. Women's Health Services reinvented a more intentional drop-in space for women and trans and gender nonconforming (TGNC) community members with *SexuWellness*, a monthly event featuring both clinical opportunities as well as cultural programming for attendees.



Eva

“Finding Howard Brown was something like divine intervention because it was everything I needed. I’ve now been coming to Howard Brown for 12 years. I started hormone replacement therapy nine years ago and had a lot of trouble at first. When I got the bloodwork for my hormone levels, they told me I had hepatitis C. So rather than starting my hormones, I had to get rid of hepatitis first. My provider worked with me to adjust my dosage and meds so I could make it through the treatment and finally start estrogen. It took a lot longer than I had anticipated, but six months later, right around Thanksgiving, I had my first hormone shot.”

459

UNIQUE PATIENTS ASSISTED
BY TGNC HEALTH NAVIGATORS

Focusing on Trans Health

Transgender health is one of the hallmarks of Howard Brown's practice. Having trans and gender nonconforming (TGNC) people lead our initiatives means we can connect with the community on the ground, and work with them to determine urgent priorities. In June of last year, the TGNC health team launched the Surgical Navigation program, to support TGNC individuals who want to explore the complex path towards gender-affirming surgery.

Of the 459 patients who worked with our TGNC Health Navigators, 233 have been assisted with surgery preparations, and 102 received long-term surgery case management. Eight case managed patients have completed surgery at the time of this report.

In addition to surgical navigation, Howard Brown's Trans Health Services continued their work to support clients with name and gender marker changes, and identified new referral sources for trans-competent specialty care

in the Chicago area. The team helped pilot a surgery letter-writing program to fulfill insurance document requirements, and continued to provide support groups and drop-in services including our evening TGNC drop-in, After Hours, the SHINE needle exchange program, and other support groups. As we work to meet the needs of today's TGNC community, Howard Brown is also committed to making healthcare more relevant to future generations of transgender patients.

In early 2018, Howard Brown's Center for Education, Research, and Advocacy launched the TGNC Research Working Group to develop TGNC research priorities, engagement strategies, and best practices for TGNC health research. This working group will develop standards and recommendations that are informed by patients and staff for better insights into the needs of the community.



David

“I’ve been getting mental health support and case management help at Howard Brown for a long time – there used to only be one location. They helped me get access to ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) when it first started. The drugs were very basic, but they started adding more and it became more useful. Howard Brown helped see me through the bureaucracy of public programs as they changed over the years. At Howard Brown, they have a sense of urgency when it comes to caring for people with HIV. I consider myself a long-term survivor. It’s not magic, it’s just hard work. You have to be 100% compliant, go to appointments, and take meds. It took me a long time to find a system that works for me, but I did.”

420

PEOPLE WHO ENROLLED IN
CLINICAL TRIALS OR SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Supporting Our Patients Beyond the Exam Room

In 2018, Howard Brown's Center for Education, Research, and Advocacy made strides toward creating a better world for LGBTQ people in Chicago and beyond. In the fall, authors and editors from Howard Brown published the textbook *Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Health and Aging*, the first resource of its kind for healthcare and social service providers supporting TGNC people over age 55.

With nearly 600 attendees, the 2018 Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium brought together healthcare professionals from around the country to learn more about best practices in LGBTQ health and further expand the availability of research and current frameworks in healthcare for the communities we serve.

Our participation in clinical trials leads to more widespread availability of the newest medications developed to treat HIV. Last year, ERA's work contributed to the approval of two new HIV/AIDS treatments, Biktarvy and Trograzo, giving people living with HIV more options that fit their schedules and lifestyles.

Illinois' new governor selected David Ernesto Munar, Howard Brown's President and CEO, as co-chair for the Healthy Children and Families Transition Committee. The working group gives Howard Brown a direct hand in advising the new administration on policies impacting people across the state.



Ky

“I actually first heard about BYC when I was in jail. Channyn Parker visited me when I was there and told me about the services they offer to LGBTQ people. I can be pretty shy the first time I go to a new place. My attorney came with me to make sure the BYC would take good care of me, and they did. I’m a former DCFS ward, so I try to access as many programs as I can to make my life better. Today I go to the BYC for my T[estosterone] and the drop-in. Drop-in is a relaxed community where I can just be.”

2,568
UNDUPLICATED YOUNG PEOPLE
REACHED BY BYC IN 2018

A Safe Haven for LGBTQ Youth

2018 was a period of transformation for Broadway Youth Center (BYC), reaching new communities of young people, including more school-age people, and south-side youth. Knowing that more specific programming is needed for teenage clients, BYC launched “Teen Day” every Saturday, a day of programs and services specifically geared towards clients between the ages of 13 and 19. BYC also launched a series of new groups both in and out of its own space to support young people and develop their interpersonal and creative skills.

Last year, BYC started *Soul Sisters*, a group designed to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood, love, and community between trans and cisgender women. BYC also started *Play on Words*, an improvisation group open to youth of all genders that addresses racial justice and equity within the BYC youth community.

In the past year, BYC staff expanded programing to more fully serve the holistic wellness of patients and clients, reaching 2,568 unduplicated young people in 2018. Efforts to reach young people include outreach and events outside of a medical setting or support group, which is why in the fall, BYC hosted a Friendsgiving meal and winter coat drive, providing warmth and a holiday

meal for 40 young people. Recognizing the cutting edge work done by BYC in Chicago, the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group presented its 2018 award to BYC. The award recognizes Chicago-area leaders whose work exemplifies Health & Medicine’s mission to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and healthcare.



Dakota

“When I first got diabetes, I didn’t know I had it. I was constantly thirsty and I couldn’t drink enough water. I wouldn’t have the energy to start my day because I wouldn’t sleep since I was going to the bathroom all night. I’ve gotten a lot better as time has gone on, especially with my provider at Howard Brown.

She’s a stickler about me and my diet. She tells me how important it is and I feel a lot better. I see the difference in how I feel and how I act. I feel a lot more energetic, like I want to exercise, I want to get up and be active. Since I’ve gotten older, I want to prove that someone like me can live a long and healthy life. I am on top of my meds, try to eat healthy, get my check-ups. I want to be here. I would be so ecstatic if I made it to 70.”



70

PATIENTS CURED OF HEPATITIS C

Providing Holistic Care for Chronic Conditions

In Englewood, Howard Brown Health 63rd St. received Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Diabetes Prevention Recognition. This distinction acknowledges the clinic's ability to work with our patients to manage their diabetes with holistic approaches tailored to their lifestyles and individual concerns.

Additionally, Howard Brown Health 63rd St. is now home to an outpatient fibroscan on the south side, allowing us to provide advanced hepatitis C (HCV) screening resources to patients. Fibroscan imaging allows Howard Brown to help patients determine the best course of action to treat and cure an HCV infection. We also began sharing the resource with community partners on the south side, reaching more people who are at risk or need treatment for HCV.

Tackling stigma is another way Howard Brown approaches all forms of healthcare. Over the summer, we launched a CTA advertising and social media campaign using the slogan "You Deserve Support, Not Stigma." The ads featured black women, both transgender and cisgender, in comfortable and familiar settings such as a hair salon, brunch, a barbeque, and in a shopping district. By showing women where they

feel most supported, the ads invited new patients to consider Howard Brown as a place they can feel at home and tell their provider what they're really thinking and feeling. The ads specifically listed common conditions that we help patients manage despite the stigma that surrounds them, namely diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, high blood pressure, and mental wellness.



Rosey Puloka

“As a dance movement therapist, I continue to be interested in decolonizing trauma work, queering trauma work, and pushing against mental health approaches that incorporate white institutional values. It’s a process that I’m still figuring out, but I know that it includes music, movement, art, dance, song, story, and food. LGBTQ people of color have been doing this work for centuries. I’m just trying to bring some of that here with the therapy group, ‘The Collective’.”

2,720

PSYCHIATRY VISITS PROVIDED
IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

Caring for Your Body and Mind

In 2018, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) moved into its new home, the **Counseling Center**. The move to a dedicated space created specifically for therapy services supports an intentional therapeutic experience, critical to delivering appropriate and effective mental wellness services. Further supporting the need for psychiatry services, Howard Brown significantly increased essential psychiatry services across all sites.

Additionally, in order to provide dynamic therapy modalities that best meet patient need, BHS greatly expanded its group-based therapies in 2018. This includes a creative arts therapy group for LGBTQ people of color called “The Collective,” which integrates storytelling, arts, and movement.

The Medical Services and Behavioral Health Departments collaboratively launched a Suboxone Program for individuals who are dependent on opioids,

other prescription pain medications, or drugs such as heroin. This life-saving initiative gives Howard Brown a new opportunity to treat substance use among its patients and clients and is expanding to Howard Brown Health 55th, 47th, and 63rd St. clinics in 2019. Behavioral Health Consultants continue to provide essential services throughout Howard Brown, including screening for psychiatry service needs, Suboxone screening, management of suicidal/homicidal ideation, and chronic disease management.

843
CLIENTS ACCESSED
MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES
THROUGH
5,349
VISITS

276
CLIENTS ACCESSED
SUBSTANCE USE
TREATMENT
SERVICES THROUGH
3,012
VISITS



Stefanie

“I had to learn about hormones. I went to the clinic on Sheridan Road and talked about informed consent, and I got a hormone shot the same night. It was euphoric, like the fulfillment of a 68-year-old dream. For the next month, I loved the way my body was changing. I love being arm candy – I used to be the arm, now I get to be the candy.”

67%

OF HOWARD BROWN'S SEXUAL ASSAULT
SURVIVOR CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ

Customized Care in Times of Need

Our social service teams are essential components of our wrap-around model of care. The primary care appointment is often the place where new needs are identified. Frequently, our patients come in for a medical appointment and trust their providers with questions about a new HIV diagnosis or sometimes, a sexual assault. In 2018, 318 of our patients reported experiencing sexual violence. Each of them was

offered support from in.power*, our LGBTQ-specific sexual assault survivor program, and 77% received nursing and/or case management services.

2018 marked the first complete year of Howard Brown's Same Day Start model of care for people living with HIV. This new rapid-start model seeks to empower patients by offering the opportunity to start medication for HIV the same day as diagnosis, instead of waiting weeks or sometimes months before starting. Working collaboratively with multiple departments, Howard

Brown saw 235 patients in 2018 who were newly diagnosed with HIV and eligible to start medication through Same Day Start.

Supporting patients in every stage of their health journey means working with our communities to try to give them what they need. For women on the south side, every month, the *Phenomenal Women* group offers engaging workshops and activities, providing information on topics such as PrEP, safer sex, self-defense, living wills, and vaginal health.

Holistic care also means adapting someone's care plan as they advance in age. The growing Aging Services team has expanded their capacity to provide complex care for people living with chronic disease as well as for aging individuals over 55 years old. In the upcoming year, the Aging Team will be providing education on such topics as dementia/Alzheimer's awareness, medication management, depression awareness and management, fall prevention, chronic disease management, and advanced care planning.



Lee

“When I started coming to Howard Brown I wasn’t insured. I used the sliding scale for care until I became insured through work. Years later, when I left my job and encountered trouble with COBRA, they connected me with an insurance assister. I worked with them to get covered through COBRA. I had a lot of trouble getting COBRA through my employer, but Rachel, the assister, helped make sure I was covered and was paying the right amount. Eventually Rachel suggested I sign up on the insurance marketplace because it was easier and more affordable. She really helped me step by step. And to get access to HIV meds, they also helped sign me up for Ryan White and coordinate all the different parts of my care. Everybody at Howard Brown goes above and beyond to help individuals.”

1,009
HIV SCREENINGS DONE
IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

Community Engagement

Howard Brown's outreach staff, working in 23 different locations across Cook County, performed 1,009 HIV screenings, 517 syphilis tests, 1,469 gonorrhea tests, and 1,475 chlamydia tests in 2018. Outreach screening for HIV and other STIs is in addition to the thousands of screenings conducted annually during primary care and walk-in visits. In an effort to further connect our medical services with our Brown Elephant stores, two of our resale shops offer on-site sexual health screening services.

In 2018, Howard Brown embarked on a new effort to work with service industry workers, including bartenders, servers, artists, and people working as freelancers. To better understand their health needs, we launched the *Hard Work and Health* survey, with questions about health concerns and healthcare access. Insurance access is vital to this part of our community's workforce, so during this last year's open enrollment period, we hosted two community-based insurance enrollment events to provide easier access to insurance navigation services. At the end of the open enrollment period, Howard Brown successfully enrolled 423 clients in insurance coverage.

In addition to reaching people in the service industry, Howard Brown is also committed to expanding outreach efforts to all parts of the city. During summer 2018, the V.O.I.C.E.S. team at BYC launched Southside Safe Space (Triple S) for transgender and gender nonconforming people ages 12 – 29. The weekly event offers free vogue practice and classes, HIV screening, light refreshments, counseling, education, and life skills training, all in a non-judgmental safe space on the far southwest side of Chicago.

In addition to in-person outreach, Howard Brown is also committed to digital outreach using social media. Howard Brown was conceived in 1974 by bold medical

students who were fed up with mainstream medicine's deliberate and systemic ignorance of the LGBTQ community. In the spirit of these forward-thinking and passionate pioneers, this summer, Howard Brown adopted "Queer AF" as its theme for the 2019 Pride parade, making a big splash with t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan.

In August, Howard Brown released its first ever rap music video, featuring KC Ortiz and Big Dipper covering the classic go's hit, "Let's Talk About Sex" as an educational message, "Let's Talk About PrEP." The video garnered international press and has been viewed over 100,000 times on Facebook and YouTube.

STATEMENTS of FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended June 30, 2018

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 27,667,202
Other Current Assets	17,319,116
Total Current Assets	44,986,318
Property and equipment, net	14,072,902
Other assets	1,657,914
Total Assets	\$ 60,717,134

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$ 7,224,679
Long-term Debt	6,476,750
Total Liabilities	13,701,429
Net Assets, unrestricted	45,282,954
Net Assets, Temporarily restricted	1,732,751
Total Net Assets	47,015,705
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$ 60,717,134

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Net patient service revenue	\$ 96,061,454
Government contracts	7,485,502
Direct public support	6,999,169
Donated services	991,984
Other, including Alliance income	539,850
Total revenues, gains and other support	112,077,959
Expenses	
Medical	75,813,300
Youth services	2,476,534
Behavioral health	2,224,832
Research	924,537
Prevention	2,321,835
Total program expenses	83,761,038
Development	597,552
Public relations	485,055
Brown Elephant	2,803,588
Total expenses by function	87,647,233
General and administrative	8,438,262
Total expenses	96,085,495
Change in net assets	15,992,464
Net assets at beginning of year	31,023,241
Net assets at end of year	\$ 47,015,705

OUR DONORS

\$500,000+

Gilead Sciences*
Estate of Joseph Sikorovsky

\$100,000-\$499,999

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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We regret any errors or omissions. To report an error, please contact us at 773.572.6988.



Stacey Digs Deep

In 2016, donor Stacey Bashara began volunteering at Broadway Youth Center, doing office work, making PrEP follow-up calls, and helping wherever needed. She felt a need to volunteer because “it was time to do more than just give money.... It was about doing what I could locally for my own community.”

When Howard Brown Health needed help with its website, we engaged her company, Trilogy Interactive, to work with us. Trilogy now helps us maintain and update our website and has helped us create an internet to support our 500 employees at 15 sites in Chicago. While Stacey is now a seasoned volunteer, her larger contribution is through her company, which works with Howard Brown at a steep discount.

According to Stacey, “Even though I’m not in direct contact with patients, I’m doing a small part to support folks who are underserved and who often experience stigma. Mental health, medical care, dental care; all of these are human rights. And if we’re not providing these services equally for everyone, we’re not taking care of America’s best resource: its people. Everyone deserves good healthcare.”

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641 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60621

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6500 N. Clark Street, Chicago IL 60626

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3948 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60613

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734 W. 47th Street, Chicago, IL 60609

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Brown Elephant Oak Park

217 Harrison Street, Oak Park, IL 60304

OUR MANAGEMENT:

Administrative Office

1025 W. Sunnyside Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640



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Scheduling for all locations: 773.388.1600

For more information on hours and services:

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