



**2016
2017**

ANNUAL REPORT



ACAS



ACAS MISSION

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) is a charitable, non-profit, community-based organization. ACAS is committed to providing HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support services to the East and Southeast Asian Canadian communities.

Our programs are based on a proactive and holistic approach to HIV/AIDS and are provided in a collaborative, empowering, and non-discriminatory manner.

OBJECTIVES

To reduce the infection of HIV/AIDS by promoting public awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention and safer sex in the East and Southeast Asian community.

To provide comprehensive and culturally appropriate support, education, and outreach services to Asians and Asians infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in a non-discriminatory and non-judgmental manner.

To enhance the well-being of Asians infected and affected by HIV/AIDS by providing direct services, increasing their control over their own health, and by promoting a supportive environment in the larger community

To promote a supportive environment to Asians infected and affected by HIV/AIDS by increasing access to services and by reducing racism, homophobia and AIDS-phobia

To increase networking and collaboration among the Asian communities and HIV/AIDS services in Canadian society



1994

HISTORY

On World AIDS Day, December 1, 1994, three of the AIDS groups serving the East and Southeast Asian communities in Metro Toronto - Gay Asians Toronto's Gay Asian AIDS Project, Southeast Asian Service Centre's Vietnamese AIDS Project, and the Toronto Chinese Health Education Committee's AIDS Alert Project - joined forces to form a new coalition agency: Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS). This was a turning point for the agencies and signified communities to work together and build a safer space for the marginalized members of our community. The amalgamation was also our collective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at that period of time.

AIDS in our communities continues to be a struggle. Many still see it as taboo, fearful, and shameful. These barriers prevent many community members from accessing information and services needed for their protection and survival, and reinforce many forms of discrimination and harassment against immigrants and refugees, queer and trans people, youth, women, substance users, sex trade workers and people of colour. Faced with such important social responsibilities, ACAS continues to organize concerted community efforts to address these on-going challenges.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

First of all, we would like to thank staff, volunteers, members, funders, and community partners for supporting the important work we do. Because of you, ACAS is the lead organization in Ontario providing safer sex education and support services to East and Southeast Asian LGBTQ+ communities and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

ACAS will turn 25 next year. We look back on our history and there is much to be proud of. Since its beginnings amidst the HIV crisis, ACAS has played a key role in Ontario's HIV/AIDS sector by leading culturally and linguistically appropriate HIV prevention and support services for our target communities.

We also look ahead and see both exciting opportunities and looming challenges. The changing landscape of the non-profit sector and the socio-medical advances in addressing HIV infection have inspired all AIDS service organizations, including ACAS, to ask: how do we make our work relevant to our contemporary context? Today, more than 50% of Torontonians identify as a visible minority. The East and Southeast Asian community is among the largest and fastest growing demographic in Canada. This increase in our target population, as well as growing public discussions on social justice, sexual health, consent, and mental well-being, points to strong demand for the kind of programs and perspectives that ACAS offers.

We are very excited to present the new 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan. The next few years will be crucial as ACAS reevaluates its vision and mission to reflect the changing needs in our communities. We look forward to exploring effective, sustainable, and equitable approaches to delivering our services. Through it all, we are committed to ensuring that ACAS continues to be a sex and queer positive, anti-oppressive, safe space for newcomers, people living with HIV/AIDS, and queer and trans individuals.

Finally, we hope this report will give you a picture of what ACAS has achieved over the past year. We look forward to continue supporting our clients and community in the coming year and we hope you will join us in accomplishing new successes.

Fiona Lee
Board Co-chair

Mezart Daulet
Board Co-chair

Noulmook Sutdhibhasilp
Executive Director

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BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

There is an ongoing need for the Asian community to access current and accurate information on sexual health and HIV/AIDS. To ensure accurate information reach those who are indeed, the Education and Outreach Programs provide educational workshops and community outreach via in person and online platforms to ensure information reach our Asian gay/bisexual men, women, and LGBTQ+ youth. Our other services include peer-based counselling and support, peer educators' training, condom distribution and educational resources in Asian languages.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

We'd like to highlight two ACAS programs that have been very impactful in improving community bonds:

Our **Support program** provides confidential, practical and emotional support services to East and Southeast Asians living with HIV, and their partners, families, and friends. In collaboration with other ACAS programs and related community partners, this program improves the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) through services that are linguistically and culturally appropriate. We strive to support and empower PHAs to cope and live with HIV by enhancing PHAs' knowledge and skills to facilitate self-care and to make positive changes to their lives.



When You're Ready is an 8-week program for East and Southeast Asian youth to explore and discuss issues related to their queer and trans identities. Some of the topics covered were anti-oppression, intersectionality, anti-blackness within the Asian community, shadeism, chosen family and much more! This program helped create community bonds, and strengthen peer support networks. Youths shared their stories and discussed ways to dismantle structures of oppression.

From a client about ALPHA (Asians Living Proof of HIV Alliance) -one of the social groups offered by the Support Program:

“ ALPHA has become a home and safe haven for me since I joined this group in 2010. After I relocated to another city and finally moved back to Toronto, the first group I thought of was ALPHA. ALPHA provides a space where I could freely express myself as a gay man and as a person living with HIV without worrying about stigma or judgments. At ALPHA we talk about intimate topics such as relationship, sex, disclosure, and racism... etc. I have made so many good friends here and I am grateful to be part of this family. ”
- P.K.



RESEARCHING COMMUNITY RESILICENCY

Stemming from the research findings of the AMP2R Study, the Asian PHA Resilience Dialogues (APHARD) intervention, in partnership with Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention and Ontario Positive Asians, is a peer-based capacity-building training program developed to help individuals to build personal skills to overcome life challenges and community connections.

Participants who participated in the training had chances to explore barriers in life, and apply resilience strategies learned from the training to address issues related to sexuality, HIV, immigration, and intimacy. The intervention trained 10 graduated in the first cohort; 4 graduates were trained to be co-facilitators to provide support for the coming two cohorts.

The preliminary findings of APHARD will be presented at the Canadian Association for HIV Research in Vancouver, April 2018.

PRODUCING COMMUNITY LEADERS



YOUTH PEER EDUCATORS

The youth peer educators help organize, facilitate and execute monthly socials, and our “When You’re Ready” sessions. They tackle topics of intersectionality, anti-oppression, shadeism, chosen family, sexual health and peer support. Through their hardwork they’ve positively impacted youth that come to QAY seeking community and support. Many of the youth service users have credited the peer led programming to help build resilience and provided QAY members with a sense of belonging.

CHAMP ALLIANCE

CHAMP aims to reduce HIV-associated stigma and increase community capacity through structured experiential group learning and build skills in community mobilization to address systemic barriers in social determinants of health. The Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT), the Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS), Africans in Partnership for the Prevention of AIDS (APAA), the Alliance of South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) and the Centre for Spanish Speaking People (CSSP) are involved in the CHAMP intervention program.

OPA+ NETWORK

Ontario Positive Asians (OPA+) Network aims to strengthen the connection among Asian PHAs across Ontario to collectively identify and act on issues most relevant to our wellbeing and to promote self-efficacy as a group. The network held its third annual, peer-led gathering in March 2017 and was attended by 27 Asians living with HIV from the East, Southeast, South, and West Asian background. The culturally appropriate gathering promoted individual and collective resilience and enhanced intercultural understanding amongst members. OPA+ is jointly supported by ACAS and the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP).

PHA LEADERSHIP AWARD

In November 2017, ACAS was proud to congratulate Christian Hui in receiving the PHA Leadership Award from the Ontario AIDS Network (OAN) Honour Roll for his outstanding HIV-related work on a local, national, and international level. Christian’s work includes the co-founding of the Ontario Positive Asians (OPA+) Network and being a strong voice for the Undetectable=Untransmittable campaign which continues to be vital in combating HIV stigma worldwide.

Christian continues to advocate for the needs of people living with HIV from diverse communities, challenge systemic and institutional thinking by offering alternate views which are grounded on the lived experiences of people living with HIV. ACAS is honoured that OAN has recognized Christian’s dedication and hard work.

CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE



PINKDOT TO

PinkDot TO is a collaborative community project with partners such as Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter and Scadding Court Community Centre, to address the lack of representation of Asians within the mainstream LGBTQ+ and as well as the Asian community. With "Love Our Differences" being the theme, we celebrated our rich and diverse Asian LGBTQ+ communities with a march from Church and Wellesley towards Chinatown and keynote speeches by City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and long-time community advocate Grace Ng. Since 2014, PinkDot TO has been successful in not only engaging Chinatown and the Scadding Court neighbourhood, but also gaining media and public attention. We look forward to further growing this exciting project in the next coming years!



15 YEARS OF QAY PRIDE STAGE

While ACAS participates in Pride activities including Pride Parade, Dyke March, and Trans March every year, we had the most successful Queer Asian Youth (QAY) Pride Stage in 2017! The QAY Pride Stage is an annual platform that provides East and South Asian LGBTQ+ youth to celebrate their artistic talents and unique stories including drag, dance performance, singing, and stand up comedy; Creating a much needed community space during Pride weekend for youth to come together, build skills, and feel connected to their community. In 2017, the QAY stage celebrated its 15th anniversary. The event drew an audience of 250+ people and featured the largest roster of diverse talented performers in its history.



WORLD AIDS DAY 2017 U=U

ACAS presented a community forum to educate our community about the Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) Campaign for World AIDS Day 2017. The U=U Campaign presents an empowering message that people living with HIV who are undetectable are unable to sexually transmit the virus. The forum featured Bruce Richman, the founding Executive Director of the Prevention Access Campaign, and the community panel to further facilitate the dialogue on what this campaign will mean for our community. ACAS is committed to further promoting U=U message and addressing the stigma and fear surrounding HIV within our community.



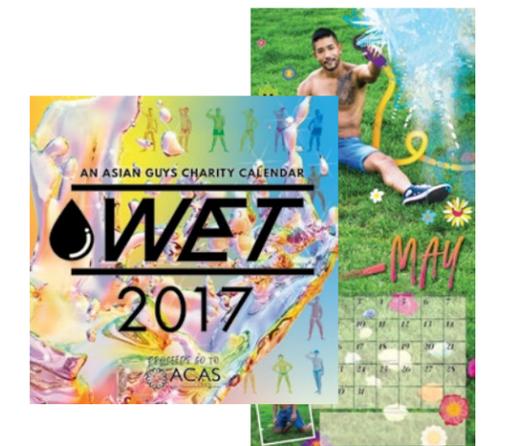
ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Art is an important part of ACAS programming and we continue to engage our community and the public with different forms of art.



The Photovoice Project empowered a group of East and Southeast Asian PHAs (Persons Living with HIV/AIDS) with workshops and training over the course of several months in 2016 to explore their experiences through photos; To capture their truths, hopes, and realities of living with HIV. Partnered with Lourdes Association in Taiwan, LOOK -the international photo exhibit from Toronto to Taiwan drew high praise by those who attended.

To promote body positivity and inclusiveness, the Men's Program created WET, the Asian Guys Charity Calendar for the 2017 year - Real guys, Real bodies for a Real good cause! The calendar spotlighted the fact that Asians are sexy no matter the body type, age or gender.





SNAPSHOT

109 active volunteers

1,099 program participants

10,890 people reached

106 workshops offered

1,130 case management/
support service sessions

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ASIAN COMMUNITY AIDS SERVICES

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended March 31, 2017

	2017	2016
REVENUES		
Grants - Public Health Agency of Canada	\$77,600	\$77,600
Grants- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	293,365	293,365
Grants- City of Toronto	171,564	134,945
Grants- Community One Foundation		4,817
Grants- Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) -Youth Internship	41,239	21,034
Grants - Employment and Social Development Canada - Canada Summer Jobs	2,700	2,640
Grants - M.A.C. AIDS Fund	9,278	722
Grants- Toronto Arts Council (ArtReach)	7,018	882
Donations, sponsorships and fundraising revenue	78,707	53,897
Others	15,201	4,461
TOTAL	696,672	594,363
EXPENDITURES		
Advertising and promotion	1,304	1,109
Amortization -equipment	1,997	2,342
Bank charges	679	578
Consultants - projects	3,268	4,510
Equipment and furniture purchased		300
Fundraising	18,712	2,634
Office and general	18,472	18,685
Office rent	43,771	41,876
PHA programs and activities	13,141	9,281
Professional fees	16,009	15,235
Program and educational materials	28,046	19,764
Salaries and wages	453,956	428,248
Staff development and support	6,395	5,082
Youth internship	36,960	21,034
Travel	11,866	6,001
Utilities, telephone and communications	7,916	5,328
Workshop, conferences and volunteer expenses	27,144	11,665
TOTAL	689,366	593,672
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$7,306	\$691

PERSONNEL FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

BOARD MEMBERS

Mezart Daulet Co-Chair
Fiona Lee Co-Chair
Euan Hwang Vice-Chair
Raymond Qin Secretary
Song Soon Yang Treasurer
Christopher An Director
Derek Yee Director
Michelle Tam Director

STAFF MEMBERS

Andrew Miao Support Program Coordinator
Anthony Tran Outreach Worker
Christian Hui CHAMP Community Engagement Coordinator
Cruz Delacruz Peer Educator
Desmond Chuang APHARD Project Coordinator
Gabriel Bacani Youth Education & Outreach Program Coordinator
Heyishi Zhang Peer Educator
James M. Lee Social Media Coordinator
Jenny Cheng Women's Support Worker
Jessica Lee Women's Education & Outreach Program Coordinator
Kenneth Poon Health Promotion Worker
Michael Adia Men's Program Coordinator
Mina Heng Administrative Assistant
Noulmook Sutdhibhasilp Executive Director
River Fujimoto Peer Educator
Ryan Tran Gay Men Strategy Coordinator
Sarah Quinto Peer Educator
Sean Kua Peer Educator
Sylvan Tang Peer Educator
Trisha Steinberg CHAMP Volunteer Coordinator

DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

Carmen Subibi
Paul Cadiente
Jazzmine Manalo
Janice Kwan
Paul Fernandez

INTERN STUDENTS

Agnes Kim
Andy Zhang

We wish to thank members of SLAM working group, Support Program Advisory, Women's Program Advisory, OPA+ Advisory, and APHARD Advisory Committees.

FUNDERS

AIDS Community Action Program, Public Health Agency of Canada
AIDS Bureau, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Toronto Urban Health Fund, City of Toronto
Toronto Public Health Investment in Youth Engagement, City of Toronto
Rainbow Grant, Community One Foundation
International Youth Internship Program, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
Summer Student Employment Program, Employment and Social Development Canada
M.A.C. AIDS Foundation
ArtReach, Toronto Arts Council
Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR)

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Asian Xpress
Barb Adach
Connie Chung
Gilbert Lai
Gilead Sciences Inc.
Moss Park Pharmacy
Oxford College
Spa Excess
Pace Pharmacy
ViiV Healthcare

We wish to thank 400 individual donors and over 100 active volunteers who have been instrumental in ACAS' work.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

AIDS Committee of Toronto
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)
Casey House
Central Toronto Youth Services
Committee for Accessible AIDS treatment (CAAT)
Glad Day Bookshop
Griffin Centre
Hassle Free Clinic
Japanese Social Services
Make Shift Collective
Raging Asian Women (RAW)
Rice Roll Productions
Thai Society of Ontario
The AIDS Network
Tongzhi Club of Toronto
Where Are You From (WAYF)

ANNUAL REPORT DESIGN

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