Are you or someone you know living with HIV and need help eating well to stay healthy?

The SMART Meals program can help. Call us at 518-449-7119
This past September, I had the great honor to present the 2020 Albany Damien Center Hero Award to retired CBS6 News Capital Bureau Chief, Ken Screven. At the event, Ken implored us to work toward equity in all realms of life and for each of us to be hero's in the fight we still wage daily against the horrible effects of the AIDS and COVID pandemics.

The Albany Damien Center’s annual Hero Award’s event shows how everyday people like you and me can do extraordinary things to change the world, one person at a time.

These are indeed extraordinary times. During the COVID pandemic, we have relived too many of the same traumas we experienced in the early days of the AIDS pandemic—and at the Damien Center I have witnessed that same resolve and fight to help the people we serve despite the tremendous obstacles put before us.

In addition to COVID, we recognize that HIV stigma, poverty, trauma, racism, substance use, and mental health issues continue to create formidable, and often systemic, barriers to each person with HIV having equal access to the care and support they deserve. In the age of COVID, these factors create additional barriers to keeping each person we serve safe from a virus that continues to ravage our communities. Ensuring equity is a must and a true focus of our work everyday.

Our grassroots, trauma-informed approach continues to leverage existing resources to maximize our mission’s impact locally and on a statewide level. Threats from the 340B discount drug program Medicaid carve-out, state funding uncertainty, and increased demand for our services will NOT deter us, but rather increase the activism that is needed for us to survive—and thrive—during this extraordinary time.

What the Damien Center needs today is even more Hero's!

There are many ways to be a Hero. Contribute funds, volunteer, and continue to educate people about HIV and AIDS by supporting the life-changing work we do at the Albany Damien Center - and be a Hero as a lasting legacy of helping others!

Be extraordinary!

Join me today as we change the world, one person at a time!

Sincerely,

Perry Junjulas
Executive Director & Person with AIDS who is UNDETECTABLE

---

**Employment Pathways Goes Live.**

As the Coronavirus continues to negatively impact the economy and leave people out of work, our Employment Pathways team has worked hard to get creative in how they provide guidance, resources and support to our members.

This September, Geri and Lyndsi began offering workshops via Facebook Live enabling us to reach our members, and the general public, with valuable information critical to finding and maintaining employment during this difficult time.

“Lyndsi and I wanted to stay connected to jobseekers and also let others know about the Employment Pathways services that are available to people living with HIV”, said Geri Walsh, Employment Systems Manager. They’ve done just that. To date, more than 1,200 people have been reached by their effort.

Workshops are every Wednesday at 2pm on the Albany Damien Center’s Facebook page and topics include resume writing, conducting a job search, job accommodations and self-advocacy.

---

**Join Us for World AIDS Day.**

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute is hosting the 2020 World AIDS Day and Ending the Epidemic Summit virtual event December 1-3, 2020 and we invite you to register for the event by emailing worldaidsday@health.ny.gov. Participation is free.

This year’s theme is “The Story of Ending the Epidemic: Past, Present and Future.” Many of the important stories and testimonies of determination, courage, hope, and progress that New Yorkers continue to demonstrate each day, despite the many challenges 2020 has presented, will be highlighted.

The Albany Damien Center will be participating by conducting the Lighting of the Blue Candle which symbolizes hope as it provides light against the darkness of the HIV Crisis. As the New York State Capital Region Chapter of The Names Project, and the only one in New York State, we will also be dedicating panels to the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

December 1st has been designated World AIDS Day since 1988 and is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic and mourning those who have died of the disease.
The 2020 Virtual Hero Award Raises $35,000.

Although the Coronavirus left us all feeling uncertain about the future, we knew one thing for sure: we had to find a way to honor our 2020 Hero, Ken Screven, and celebrate his 70th birthday, despite the inability to host a large in-person gathering. We decided on a nearly week-long virtual celebration via Facebook with a live Zoom finale.

From September 12—17, 2020 Ken was honored with posts celebrating his life and achievements with links to noteworthy stories he told during his 38-year career at WRGB and tribute videos made by his friends and family. We showed up on his stoop with cake, a performance by Calypso Breeze as Diana Ross (Ken’s favorite performer), Mayor Kathy Sheehan declaring September 17 Ken Screven day and proclamations honoring Ken from Senator Breslin and Assemblymembers McDonald and Fahy. At the live Zoom finale, guest speakers Barbara Smith, Liz Bishop and Jeff McCain honored Ken, and the audience enjoyed more video tributes. Ken was presented with the 2020 Hero Award and, of course, there was cake.

Along the way, we asked you to show your support for Ken and the Albany Damien Center by sponsoring the event, joining the Honorary Committee, donating an auction item and purchasing tickets. And you came through for us. Together, we raised more than $35,000 for the Center’s programs and provided Ken with not only a proper celebration but an experience he will always cherish. If you missed the event, you can view the tribute and other videos on our website at www.albanydamiencenter.org. We are so grateful for, and humbled by, your support.

Platinum Sponsor: GILEAD
Silver Sponsor: towntotal
Bronze Sponsors: HARRIS A. SANDERS, ARCHITECTS, P.C.
Advocate Sponsors Ms. Eileen Rea
In-kind Auction Sponsors
Amy Gerber Houser
McGeary’s Pub
Janet Tanguay
Chuck Miller
Sheilah Sable
Christopher Pierce
Todd Cramer
Judy Disco
The Albany Pump Station
G. Willikers
The Animal House
Jeff Nichols
Keith Stoebele
David Marcus
John Bowers
Mark Burgasser
Williams Sonoma

Are you or someone you know living with HIV and need assistance with legal matters? The Family Support Services team may be able to help. Call us at 518-449-7119

Thank you!
Together, we provided Ken Screven with a week he will always cherish and we raised more than $35,000 for the Albany Damien Center.
Our programs are at risk!
Open now to learn how you can help us protect them.

Volunteer!
for more information visit:
www.albanydamiencenter.org/volunteer.html
or email volunteers@albanydamiencenter.org

WE ARE OPEN!
If you or a person you know is living with HIV and AIDS, we want to help with:
- Behavioral health/family support
- Housing
- Job placement
- Pet care
- Groceries
- Prepared meals

Please call us at:
518-449-7119

Become a Red Ribbon Partner by scheduling an automatic monthly gift.

- $30 = 30 meals
- $50 = 1 behavioral health session
- $75 = Vaccines for a PAWS program pet
- $100 = 4 pantry bags
- $250 = Keeps the lights on for 1 month

www.albanydamiencenter.org/recurringdonations.html
Or call us at 518-449-7119

Follow us on social media!
Facebook: @albanydamiencenter
Instagram: albanydamiencenter
Twitter: @albanydamiencnr