Interested in Volunteering?
We are looking for volunteers to help out at:
- The Front Desk
- The Kitchen
- PAWS
- The Treasure Chest
- And other projects!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Gamble at KarenG@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119.

How YOU can help!
Make a monetary contribution — The need to support people living with HIV/AIDS is constant. As we continue to grow, we need your financial support to continue and expand our impact. Please consider a meaningful gift today.

Throw a FUN-raise! — Do you have energy, time and passion? Then throw a fundraiser for us. This is a great project for school, church, and employer groups to help raise needed funds and HIV/AIDS awareness! You can even throw one for your birthday or a special occasion online. Also, we have a new easy system and resources to support your fundraising!

How is it going at the new building?
It's the most frequently asked question that I receive from people since we moved in Nov 6, 2017 — and I just love answering it every time!

Our new Damien Center building and grounds are just amazing. We finally have plenty of space for our programs (annually serving over 350 people with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones) and 20 truly gorgeous apartments situated in a beautiful park-like setting on ½ acre on Madison Avenue in Albany. It is also the first time the Damien Center is fully ADA accessible, complete with an elevator to transport both people and all our supplies up and down each day. Aurenus Specialty Pharmacy is now open on the Damien Center's 5th level and is making home deliveries of medications and filling pill boxes for each person in need of assistance.

The magic though is what happens inside our new Damien Center building 24 hours, 7 days each week. The apartments are now a place where 20 persons of all genders with HIV/AIDS who were homeless now call their home. Our Living Room area is bustling with activities for both tenants and members of the community who struggle with HIV and AIDS. Volunteers and staff work hard to ensure each person is having a good visit, full of the love and support one would find in a warm and loving home.

In the past 10 months, we have had some great outcomes. Tenants have adjusted to living in their apartments in a loving home.

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Are you living with HIV/AIDS or know someone who is?
We can help in many ways — all in a loving, supportive, and comfortable drop-in living room space!
We have openings in our: Pharmacy, Smart Meals, Housing and Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS) Programs.

Call 518-449-7119 for more information and see what FREE services are available.

Summer 2018 Newsletter

Albany Damien Center
728 Madison Avenue, Suite 100
Albany, NY 12208
518-449-7119

Personal Care Items Needed
Our members could use your help! We are in need of:
- *Shaving cream
- *Deodorant
- *Body wash
- *Soap
- *Feminine hygiene products
- *Laundry detergent

If you can help, please drop off these items at our front desk or mail them to 728 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208.

Delicious food from a tenant dinner.
How Smart Meals Saved My Life

I’ve been a member of the Albany Damien Center’s Smart Meals Program a long, long time. I remember when the program started and want to start by saying that it’s a wonderful program. I have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and am on oxygen 24/7; I’ve lost a lot of muscle mass in my legs and arm, and as a result of all that I am generally homebound, living in a neighborhood right north of Albany. The Smart Meals nutrition program helped me tremendously, as with what little income I have I can’t afford to buy fresh fruits and good proteins and meats; the things I need to survive. I could only afford canned food loaded with sodium and preservatives but now I have my fresh fruits and veggies delivered right to me.

The program not only provided me with healthy and nutritious foods, but I’ve also learned a tremendous amount about how to read nutrition labels, the dangers of consuming too much salt and sugar, how to watch for calories, avoiding saturated fats, and how to eat a well-balanced meal. Since I can’t make it to the nutrition classes in person, I’m thankful that I can dial in to Lindsey’s (our Community Nutrition Educator) conference call education classes twice per month. I can’t say enough about how great she is; Lindsey is the cat’s meow!

I’m not exaggerating when I say that this program has saved my life. I wouldn’t be as healthy as I am now without this program because it’s maintained me with healthy foods, and as a result I have high T-cell count as well as an undetectable viral load. I pray that the program continues because there are many of us who benefit, and I’m grateful and appreciative of everything that’s given to me. This program saved my life, and I praise it. - Diane, Smart Meals Member

Volunteer Spotlight: Ayco

Volunteers from Ayco, a Goldman Sachs Company, took a day and made our backyard ready for summer! They laid down soil and planted flowers and herbs. They also helped clean up right before our Memorial Day weekend BBQ. Volunteer Johnathan Skabowski said, “Our volunteer day at the Albany Damien Center was extremely rewarding. Perry, Jonathan, and the other staff and members were so incredibly kind and welcoming to our group. Seeing the transformation of the landscaping and how happy it made the members made it clear why we wanted to partner with such an amazing organization that does so much for the community. We are hopeful that the new herb garden will certainly add a special touch to the meals prepared on-site and that the flowers put a smile on everyone’s faces!” We’re lucky to have awesome volunteer groups like from Ayco!

Is your company interested in volunteering or supporting the Damien Center? If yes, please contact Samuel Roads at SamuelR@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119, EXT. 220.

Thank You United Way!

Volunteers from the United Way of the Greater Capital Region, including new President and CEO Peter Gannon, stopped by our new building to meet our members and learn about our programs. They had a chance to chat with members of our staff. Peter Gannon with our staff and members!

Staff from the United Way of the Greater Capital Region, including new President and CEO Peter Gannon, stopped by our new building to meet our members and learn about our programs. They had a chance to chat with members of our staff. Peter Gannon with our staff and members!

Diane Kempf: Why I named a room at the NEW Albany Damien Center

My brother, Frank Goggin, was an incredibly loving, kind, compassionate, hilariously funny, living life to the fullest, and musically gifted young man who at only 25 years old in 1989 said goodbye to us and his struggles with HIV/AIDS after a brave and faith-filled journey.

When the Albany Damien Center came to my attention, I knew support of the Center would be a way to honor Frank’s life and memory. Frank would have loved the Albany Damien Center — a place to dwell, visit, find friends, and be understood without judgment. Unfortunately, in the late 1980’s such a place did not exist. My mother and I began thinking of ways to support the Center financially in small ways now as well as in our estate planning. Meanwhile, as the new building was preparing to open, there were opportunities to name a room. I decided to name “The Quiet Room” in memory of Frank as a Christmas gift to my mother.

What a blessing the staff, volunteers, and residents and friends of the Damien Center must be to those facing health and personal issues. Much of what they do depends on people getting involved, something I hope everyone will consider. For my mom and I, we have been so warmly welcomed into the community at the Albany Damien Center that it feels like “family.” It is a gift. We are grateful.

God Bless you all - Diane Kempf

If you are interested in naming a room after a loved one at our new building, please contact Jonathan Richardson at JonathanR@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119, EXT. 213.

Fundraiser with Bebe Neuwirth a success for PAWS!

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser with Bebe Neuwirth! We had over 60 people attend and enjoy the personal event with Bebe.

A big thank you to Doug Cohn and Barry Brown for helping organize the event. We are grateful for their longtime support of the program.

The event raised over $9,000 for our Pets are Wonderful Support Program!

If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser to support the Albany Damien Center or one of our programs, please contact Jonathan Richardson at JonathanR@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119, EXT. 213.

Save the Date!

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Spare Time, Latham

The Quiet Room at 728 Madison Ave.

Bowlers having fun at our 2018 event!

If you are interested in donating a raffle item or having your company or organization sponsor the event, please contact Samuel Roads at SamuelR@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119, EXT. 220.

2017 Annual Report Now Available Online

Our 2017 Annual Report is now on our website. Visit albanydamiencenter.org to check out the impact our programs had in 2017 and all the supporters who made it happen. If you would like a paper copy, we’ll send you one! Contact Jonathan Richardson at jonathan@albanydamiencenter.org or 518-449-7119, EXT. 213.

Did you know that 80% of our members reported being homeless after being diagnosed with HIV? Housing is the greatest unmet need for people at risk of or living with HIV in NYS and that’s one reason why our housing program is so important. To find out how you can help end homelessness for people living with HIV, contact Jonathan Richardson at 518-449-7119, ext.213.