



Committed – Visionary – Responsive

Piedmont Care Marks 30 Years in 2024

Over the past three decades, Piedmont Care has embarked on a remarkable journey, leaving an indelible mark on the communities we serve and the lives we touch. To date, we have served 1,889 people living with HIV and AIDS and their families. As we look to the future, we remain committed to developing goals, strategies, and vision for a compassionate response to HIV and AIDS.

See the milestones and triumphs that have shaped our organization and propelled us into the future as we adapt to the ever-changing needs of our community.

- 1994** Piedmont HIV/AIDS Care Consortium founded
- 1998** Hired first Executive Director
- 2004** Created HIV Prevention Program
- 2005** Published *Hidden Voices: Reflections from an Affected Community*
Editor – Kristofer M. Neely
- 2019** Brought AIDS Memorial Quilt and the Piedmont Care Panel to Spartanburg; Completed first community HIV prevention needs assessment and landscape map
- 2021** Established a compassionate and inclusive on site medical practice

Please consider making a financial gift in honor of Piedmont Care's anniversary of service. Your gifts ensure our life-saving, life-enhancing programs continue. You may give by using the enclosed donation envelope, through our web site, via Cash App or by contacting our office.

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Gold
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Piedmont Care is a recipient of the GuideStar Candid Gold Seal of Transparency, which allows potential funders and donors to make educated decisions.

Art as Healing

A Former Client's Inspiring Journey

By Loree Bishop, CSE – Prevention Coordinator



Mother's Day Off

Spartanburg native **Melvin Nesbitt Jr.** is a professional artist whose vibrant collages explore themes of race, poverty, and the Black American Experience. He credits Piedmont Care with giving him his first public art commission, and his work was featured in Piedmont Care's book, *Hidden Voices: Reflections from an Affected Community*. Nesbitt wanted to express his gratitude to Piedmont Care and offer hope and encouragement to others living with HIV by sharing more about his journey. See what he had to say about living and thriving with HIV and how Piedmont Care helped him realize his life's purpose of becoming an artist.

Bishop: *Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your connection to Piedmont Care?*

Nesbitt: They really got me started off for the proper path. And, you know, it was a scary time because a lot of the people that I knew who were HIV positive were quickly developing AIDS and getting sick, really fast. But I was less afraid after working with Carol (Carol Barry – his Piedmont Care case manager).

“
I felt confident in talking to the doctors and the nurses and asking questions about when it came time to really deal with medication,
”

about different medications and cocktails and stuff like that. So that is one reason why I wanted to do this for Piedmont Care, because I feel that had I not connected with Piedmont Care so early in my HIV infection, it would have been much harder for me to take care of myself, and I wouldn't be doing as well as I am now. Yeah, I really wanted to try and figure out some way to get back. Hopefully this helps.

Bishop: *Can you share a bit about your journey as a visual artist, and how you've used your art to express your experiences of living with HIV?*

Nesbitt: I haven't really used my art to express my experience of living with HIV. But I have to admit that living with HIV kind of motivated me to try to find

my purpose in life, to try to, you know, make as best use of my time as possible because it just made me very, very acutely aware of my mortality, and the fact that I had a time limit on how much time I was going to be here, and made me think about how I wanted to use it.

“

And I had a hard time thinking of myself as an artist. And so they really encouraged me to do that and it helped me to see.

”

But also Piedmont Care gave me the first public art commission when, I think Tracey (Tracey Jackson, Executive Director) was there, and she learned that I was an artist and asked me to make some drawings for them to put up in the offices there. Which really, made me really proud. It really inspired me and set me up on this path to eventually pursuing it professionally. So that is how living with HIV connects to my art, and that helped to motivate me to kind of discover that this is what I should be doing with my life.

One of the things that happened to me, mentally, when I was diagnosed with HIV, was it really brought up a lot of insecurities, and feelings of low self-worth and just really not feeling valuable at all to society. And when I committed myself to making art full-time it really – and to making and studying art – It gave



me that. It gave me back the sense of purpose and usefulness that I felt had mostly lost in my depression over knowing that I was HIV positive. So yeah, it has been a really important part of my journey. And then with the success of my art career, has given me that extra motivation to prioritize my physical and mental health, so that I can – there's still a lot of art that I want to make so I gotta be able to make it! You know what I mean?

And so, becoming an artist and living with HIV has really helped me to, in a way, live as best I can, and try to be a contributing member of society – something that I seriously felt I couldn't be for several years after my diagnosis.

Bishop: *If you could talk directly to the community where you grew up what would you want them to know about Piedmont Care and about HIV?*

Nesbitt: I'd like to emphasize that Piedmont Care is the perfect resource for anyone at risk for or living with HIV. I didn't know where to go for help. I didn't know where to find a clinic. So that was

another part of my anxiety at the time, and so just all the information that I learned from Piedmont Care was really empowering and I don't know if people in the community – It's been a long time since I've been involved, but people need to know that there is a place where they can go if they need to, to get information about prevention and care for HIV

and AIDS in Spartanburg. Piedmont Care was very helpful, and they made me feel empowered and more confident in seeking care and help.

Watch out for more of our interview with Melvin Nesbitt Jr. as we commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1, 2023 and mark Piedmont Care's 30th anniversary in March 2024.



That's My Song

SAVE *the* DATE

THE UPSTATE'S PREMIER ADULT TRIVIA
IS BACK FOR ITS **11TH YEAR!**

Get your crazy costume
– *and your twisted mind* –
ready for:



TWISTED TRIVIA 2024

Friday, March 22 at 7pm | 1881 Event Center

Get your tickets, purchase a sponsorship,
or make a donation through:

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Mark Your Calendar



World AIDS Day Panel

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 | 6 – 7:30pm

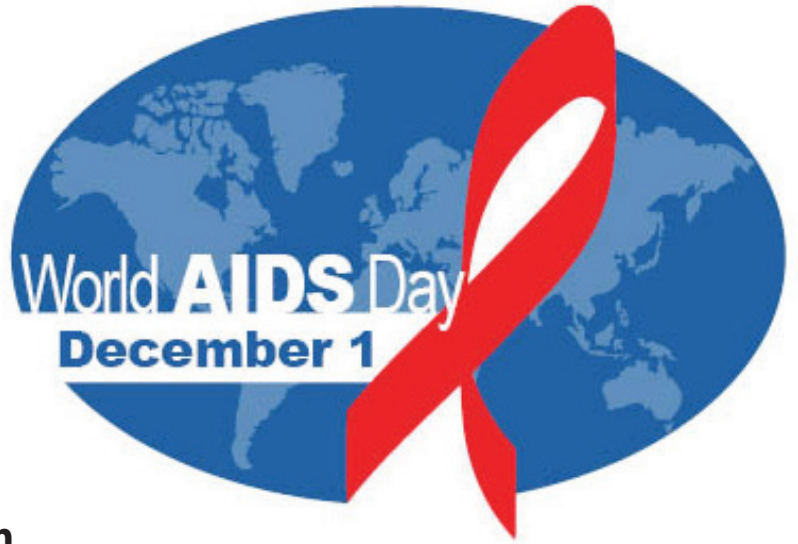
*Honoring the Past and Preparing for a Brighter Future
in the Treatment and Prevention of HIV*

USC Upstate – Campus Life Center Ballroom 310
656 Hodge Drive, Spartanburg | Open to the public

World AIDS Day

Friday, December 1, 2023

*Get tested and wear a red ribbon
to show your support for a compassionate
response to HIV and AIDS and in recognition
of those lost to the disease.*



Coffee Talk

Friday, December 1, 2023 | 7:30 – 9am

*Want to meet the Piedmont Care team? Have questions
about HIV, condoms, or health care? Need a red ribbon to
wear? Here's your chance. Buy a coffee and let's chat!*

Blue Moon Specialty Foods
130 S. Church Street, Spartanburg
Open to the public



*30th
Anniversary*
Piedmont Care
March 2024

Extended HIV Testing Hours for

World AIDS Day 2023

Thursday, November 30, 2023

8:30am – 7pm



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Wednesday, February 7, 2024

8:30am – 7pm

National HIV Testing Day



Thursday, June 27, 2024

8:30am – 7pm

National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Thursday, September 26, 2024

8:30am – 7pm

Free and confidential. Walk-ins welcome. Appointments encouraged.
Piedmont Care, 101 N. Pine St. Suite 200, Spartanburg (Pine and Main Building)

A few words from our clients & community!

I have been performing for over 24 years and Piedmont Care has been an active community partner for as long as I can remember. From their signature fundraiser, Twisted Trivia, to participating in Upstate Pride events or providing prevention & education information in the clubs & bars,

Piedmont Care has been a longstanding and highly visible advocate for the members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Before there was an Upstate Pride or even a Patti O'Furniture, there was Piedmont Care serving those impacted by HIV and those affected by stigma and discrimination. Spartanburg is a stronger, more inclusive & diverse community because of Piedmont Care!

PATTI O'FURNITURE

*They do things that other doctors won't... They do a lot more medicine checkups and asking about side effects than other places... PCI does a good job of caring for trans people...
I feel at home getting help here.*

This is such a nice office and everyone is so kind.
It is a nice atmosphere.

Congratulations on 30 years, and thank you for the work that you do in the community.

*I could've died prematurely, if not for the support and the guidance and the information I gained from being a client at Piedmont Care. I truly believe that. I was absolutely ready to just give up and give in, and just kinda wait to pass away. And, you really gave me a great deal of hope. So thank you, from me personally, and on behalf of the community, congratulations. And I wish you 30 more years. Hopefully, there'll come a time where this work isn't necessary, but while it is, I'm glad that
Piedmont Care is in my hometown.*

MELVIN NESBITT, JR.

I am grateful for all the things that you provided for me like socks, food, and information.

Phone 864.582.7773

Toll free 1.866.454.7773

Fax 864.582.8637

**Monday - Friday
8:30AM - 5PM**

101 North Pine Street, Suite 200, Spartanburg, SC 29302



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Thank You!!

continued...

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Staff News

Help us welcome five new team members!

Gia Almon, *Medical Case Manager*, joined Piedmont Care in August 2023. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Southeast Missouri State University. She has a background in case management and child protective services.

Thomas Kias, MD, *Physician*, joined Piedmont Care in 2023. He graduated from the University of Illinois and the Emory University School of Medicine. He completed his internship and first year of residency at the Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia and his residency in Internal Medicine at the Charlotte Memorial Hospital. Dr. Kias is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Jennifer Respass, *Specialized Medical Case Manager*, joined the Piedmont Care team in March 2023. She earned her BA in Elementary Education from USC-Upstate. Jennifer brings 15+ years of case management experience to our Outreach program.

Davice McBride, *Medical Case Manager*, joined Piedmont Care in January 2023. She earned her BA in Sociology from Claflin University and MS in Human Services with a concentration in social and community services from Capella University. She has a background in adult protective services, child protective services, behavior intervention, community health work, and disability and special needs program management.

Crystal Mullinax, *Nurse Practitioner*, joined Piedmont Care in October 2023. She graduated from The Medical University of South Carolina with both her BSN and her Masters of Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, which she completed in 2018. Crystal has many years of experience caring for medically complex patients to include inpatient oncology and palliative care.

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Executive Director

Pauline Crosby

Patient Access Representative

Amy Richards, LISW-CP

Therapist

Trista Anderson

Case Management Supervisor

Tenesha Cross, MA

Medical Case Manager

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Nurse

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Prevention Coordinator

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Julia Campuzano, MA

Medical Case Manager

Megan Mitchell

Office Manager

Megan Williams

Driver



*Compassionate HIV and
AIDS care, prevention, and advocacy.*

Our Mission

The mission of Piedmont Care, Inc., an educational and advocacy organization, is to coordinate and provide medical, social, and psychological services for individuals and families affected by or at risk for HIV.

Diversity Statement

In alignment with our mission, we commit to removing systemic barriers so that all people we serve have access to HIV education, care, and advocacy. We strive to sustain an inclusive environment where individual differences are valued, and all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Care Services

- Case Management
- Dental Care
- Food & Personal Care Pantry
- Health Education & Risk Reduction
- Health Insurance Premiums & Copays
- Language Services
- Medication Assistance
- Mental Health Counseling
- Outpatient Medical Care
- Support Group
- Transportation

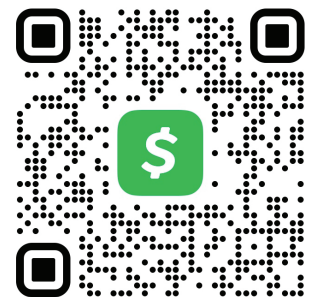
Prevention Services

- Condom Education and Distribution
- HIV Testing & Counseling
- HIV/STI Education & Awareness

More Than a Donation

Generous supporters like you help make these services possible.

- \$4,600 Provides HIV Test Kits For 1 Year
- \$3,000 Provides HIV Medication For 1 Client For 1 Month
- \$1,000 Provides Client Transportation For 1 Month
- \$750 Provides 5 Community Education Sessions
- \$125 Provides 1 HIV Testing Session
- \$30 Provides 1 HIV Test Kit



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Your support makes a difference!