How Do You Make a Difference for People with HIV & HCV?

25 Ways to Step up Your Support

You’ve kept up with CRI’s 25 years of life-changing clinical research, but do you ever wonder how you can make a difference for people living with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C (HCV) on a day-to-day basis? The good news is there are lots of ways to help!

In honor of CRI’s 25th anniversary, here are 25 steps you can take to support the HIV/AIDS and HCV communities:

1. Talk frankly about HIV, HCV, and safe sex to help reduce stigma, and pay attention to the ways you talk about it.
2. Attend, sponsor, and/or invite friends to CRI’s Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19.
3. Sign up to ride or crew with Team CRI at the Harbor to the Bay AIDS-benefit bike ride on September 20.
4. Participate in HIV and HCV clinical trials at CRI.
5. If you can’t participate in a trial, support clinical research by making a donation to CRI. Be sure to ask your employer if they can match your donation.
6. Volunteer your time at CRI’s special events, and other community events.
8. If you need help paying for your HIV medications or health insurance, call CRI to apply for the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Simply spreading the word about it is a big help, too!
9. Make long-term financial plans if you are living with HIV/AIDS.
10. Take pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—a once-daily pill that high-risk HIV-negative people can take to prevent becoming infected—use condoms, and practice safe sex.
11. Advocate! Ask your legislators to make HIV and HCV treatment and prevention a priority.
12. Educate yourself and others. There’s more information every day!
13. Start talking early! Speak with your kids or young people you know about safer sex. Peer-to-peer conversations are often the most effective means for spreading awareness.
14. If you have HIV/AIDS and/or HCV, be sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Talk with your doctor if you’ve been feeling down.
15. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status.
16. Tell your personal story about living with HIV and HCV. The more we talk about living with these conditions, the better we can fight stigma.

In honor of CRI’s 25th anniversary, here are 25 steps you can take to support the HIV/AIDS and HCV communities:

1. Talk frankly about HIV, HCV, and safe sex to help reduce stigma, and pay attention to the ways you talk about it.
2. Attend, sponsor, and/or invite friends to CRI’s Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19.
3. Sign up to ride or crew with Team CRI at the Harbor to the Bay AIDS-benefit bike ride on September 20.
4. Participate in HIV and HCV clinical trials at CRI.
5. If you can’t participate in a trial, support clinical research by making a donation to CRI. Be sure to ask your employer if they can match your donation.
6. Volunteer your time at CRI’s special events, and other community events.
8. If you need help paying for your HIV medications or health insurance, call CRI to apply for the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Simply spreading the word about it is a big help, too!
9. Make long-term financial plans if you are living with HIV/AIDS.
10. Take pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—a once-daily pill that high-risk HIV-negative people can take to prevent becoming infected—use condoms, and practice safe sex.
11. Advocate! Ask your legislators to make HIV and HCV treatment and prevention a priority.
12. Educate yourself and others. There’s more information every day!
13. Start talking early! Speak with your kids or young people you know about safer sex. Peer-to-peer conversations are often the most effective means for spreading awareness.
14. If you have HIV/AIDS and/or HCV, be sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Talk with your doctor if you’ve been feeling down.
15. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status.
16. Tell your personal story about living with HIV and HCV. The more we talk about living with these conditions, the better we can fight stigma.

In honor of CRI’s 25th anniversary, here are 25 steps you can take to support the HIV/AIDS and HCV communities:

1. Talk frankly about HIV, HCV, and safe sex to help reduce stigma, and pay attention to the ways you talk about it.
2. Attend, sponsor, and/or invite friends to CRI’s Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19.
3. Sign up to ride or crew with Team CRI at the Harbor to the Bay AIDS-benefit bike ride on September 20.
4. Participate in HIV and HCV clinical trials at CRI.
5. If you can’t participate in a trial, support clinical research by making a donation to CRI. Be sure to ask your employer if they can match your donation.
6. Volunteer your time at CRI’s special events, and other community events.
8. If you need help paying for your HIV medications or health insurance, call CRI to apply for the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Simply spreading the word about it is a big help, too!
9. Make long-term financial plans if you are living with HIV/AIDS.
10. Take pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—a once-daily pill that high-risk HIV-negative people can take to prevent becoming infected—use condoms, and practice safe sex.
11. Advocate! Ask your legislators to make HIV and HCV treatment and prevention a priority.
12. Educate yourself and others. There’s more information every day!
13. Start talking early! Speak with your kids or young people you know about safer sex. Peer-to-peer conversations are often the most effective means for spreading awareness.
14. If you have HIV/AIDS and/or HCV, be sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Talk with your doctor if you’ve been feeling down.
15. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status.
16. Tell your personal story about living with HIV and HCV. The more we talk about living with these conditions, the better we can fight stigma.

In honor of CRI’s 25th anniversary, here are 25 steps you can take to support the HIV/AIDS and HCV communities:

1. Talk frankly about HIV, HCV, and safe sex to help reduce stigma, and pay attention to the ways you talk about it.
2. Attend, sponsor, and/or invite friends to CRI’s Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19.
3. Sign up to ride or crew with Team CRI at the Harbor to the Bay AIDS-benefit bike ride on September 20.
4. Participate in HIV and HCV clinical trials at CRI.
5. If you can’t participate in a trial, support clinical research by making a donation to CRI. Be sure to ask your employer if they can match your donation.
6. Volunteer your time at CRI’s special events, and other community events.
8. If you need help paying for your HIV medications or health insurance, call CRI to apply for the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Simply spreading the word about it is a big help, too!
9. Make long-term financial plans if you are living with HIV/AIDS.
10. Take pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—a once-daily pill that high-risk HIV-negative people can take to prevent becoming infected—use condoms, and practice safe sex.
11. Advocate! Ask your legislators to make HIV and HCV treatment and prevention a priority.
12. Educate yourself and others. There’s more information every day!
13. Start talking early! Speak with your kids or young people you know about safer sex. Peer-to-peer conversations are often the most effective means for spreading awareness.
14. If you have HIV/AIDS and/or HCV, be sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Talk with your doctor if you’ve been feeling down.
15. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status.
16. Tell your personal story about living with HIV and HCV. The more we talk about living with these conditions, the better we can fight stigma.

In honor of CRI’s 25th anniversary, here are 25 steps you can take to support the HIV/AIDS and HCV communities:

1. Talk frankly about HIV, HCV, and safe sex to help reduce stigma, and pay attention to the ways you talk about it.
2. Attend, sponsor, and/or invite friends to CRI’s Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19.
3. Sign up to ride or crew with Team CRI at the Harbor to the Bay AIDS-benefit bike ride on September 20.
4. Participate in HIV and HCV clinical trials at CRI.
5. If you can’t participate in a trial, support clinical research by making a donation to CRI. Be sure to ask your employer if they can match your donation.
6. Volunteer your time at CRI’s special events, and other community events.
8. If you need help paying for your HIV medications or health insurance, call CRI to apply for the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP). Simply spreading the word about it is a big help, too!
9. Make long-term financial plans if you are living with HIV/AIDS.
10. Take pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—a once-daily pill that high-risk HIV-negative people can take to prevent becoming infected—use condoms, and practice safe sex.
11. Advocate! Ask your legislators to make HIV and HCV treatment and prevention a priority.
12. Educate yourself and others. There’s more information every day!
13. Start talking early! Speak with your kids or young people you know about safer sex. Peer-to-peer conversations are often the most effective means for spreading awareness.
14. If you have HIV/AIDS and/or HCV, be sure to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Talk with your doctor if you’ve been feeling down.
15. Treat everyone with respect, regardless of their status.
16. Tell your personal story about living with HIV and HCV. The more we talk about living with these conditions, the better we can fight stigma.
Today, in order to be eligible for HDAP or CHII, an individual must be a resident of Massachusetts and living with HIV.

At first, the drugs incorporated into the program were primarily for the treatment of certain common opportunistic infections, such as Bactrim, followed by medications to treat other opportunistic infections, new antiretrovirals, and medications to treat side effects. In 2001, the HDAP drug formulary was expanded to include all FDA-approved HIV/AIDS medications, with some limited exceptions.

In 1999, HDAP became one of the first state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs in the country to ensure adequate health insurance coverage for people living with HIV. The Comprehensive Health Insurance Initiative (CHII) helps cover the cost of expensive insurance premiums, so HDAP clients can access not only the HIV medications they need, but a full range of vital healthcare services.

Over the years, CRI and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health have worked hard to keep HDAP/CHII eligibility requirements simple to accommodate the maximum number of clients. These requirements also reflect the high cost and number of HIV/AIDS medications an individual may need, as well as the exceptionally high cost of living in Massachusetts. Today, in order to be eligible for HDAP or CHII, an individual must be a resident of Massachusetts and living with HIV, with a maximum individual annual income of 500% of the federal poverty level—currently around $58,350. Over 7,500 Massachusetts residents receive assistance paying for their medications and health insurance each year through HDAP.

In 2014, the HDAP Insurance/Benefits Resource Team began working closely with screening and enrollment staff to provide targeted training and technical assistance to case managers and clients throughout the state, with the goal of helping as many eligible clients as possible obtain and retain health coverage. As negotiating access to health insurance grows more complex by the day, HDAP serves as a vital resource to both consumers and providers, and will continue to provide targeted training and technical assistance to case managers and clients throughout the state, with the goal of helping as many eligible clients as possible obtain and retain health coverage.

For more information about clinical trials at CRI, visit our website at www.crine.org or call our research team at 617.502.1700.
H2B is a ride, not a race. It’s about caring people like you coming together to have fun while raising funds for a critical cause. Your every effort means better HIV and hepatitis C treatments around the world and thousands of longer, healthier lives.

Be part of the fun, camaraderie, and change you wish to see! Register for Harbor to the Bay’s Ride Twelve with us—Team CRI—at harbortothebay.org.

Endless thanks to those of you who have already joined the team. You are the reason so many lives and communities have already changed for the better. Thank you for letting our friends, family, and people everywhere know they can depend on you.

Let’s cross the line together on September 20, 2014, at H2B’s Ride Twelve! Are you in?

Take Action

► Register as a Team CRI rider or crew member to raise funds on behalf of Community Research Initiative
► Donate to your favorite CRI rider(s), crew member(s), and/or Team CRI
► Become a ride sponsor

H2B is a volunteer-run organization, so every dollar you donate goes directly to local beneficiaries, like CRI, that do HIV/AIDS research and provide critical health services.

A framed, signed, Tom Brady jersey could be yours! Sign up to ride with Team CRI from now until August 10, and you’ll be automatically entered in a drawing to win.

25 Years of Making Lives Better Together
Celebrating Your Dedication, Partnership, and Support

“It’s not just the teaching hospitals that create amazing science; it’s some of us, in simple forms, that change lives. I promise you we are transforming lives. There are people whose lives are changed not just because they can get the medicines for free, but because we help bring better medicines than ever before. That same virus that caused all that misery is still there, but it no longer has to be in somebody’s way, because these meds stop it. And you helped make us happen, which has made that happen. So we thank you, and everyone else thanks you.”

CRI Research Director Dr. Cal Cohen

With your help, CRI has been conducting life-transforming clinical research for 25 years, and that’s something to celebrate! In April, you joined us at the marc hall design atelier in Boston to do just that. During a beautiful afternoon gathering, we commemorated CRI’s 25th anniversary and offered our thanks to all of you for supporting CRI’s important work in so many ways.

Thank you from the bottom of all of our hearts. You have helped so many people in Massachusetts and around the world live long, healthy lives, and we are blessed to have you standing by our side as we continue to search for better HIV and hepatitis C treatments until there is no longer a need.
In honor of CRI's 25th anniversary, the thousands of lives changed for the better, and in memory of loved ones lost, please consider making an additional donation this year.

Your contribution to honor or commemorate someone who has touched your life helps advance CRI's mission to lead the way in clinical HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C research and changes lives around the world. It is a gift that gives again and again, for years to come.

When an In Honor or In Memory of gift is received, CRI will send a personalized acknowledgement to the person or family indicated, notifying them of just how much you care.

If you would like to learn how to make a donation in memory or honor of someone, please contact Sharon Gray at 617.502.1710 or sgray@crine.org.

Many of you know former CRI Leadership Council member Douglas M. Brooks, MSW, through his activism supporting CRI's research and as an outspoken HIV/AIDS community activist and leader in Boston. You've likely also heard by now that Douglas was appointed as the new Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) in March! In his new position, he is the chief advisor to President Obama for Federal HIV/AIDS legislation and reform, and we could not be luckier as a nation to have him in that role.

Douglas's previous experience within the HIV/AIDS community has included promoting outreach, awareness, research treatment education, and policy reform. While serving on CRI's Leadership Council, he also worked as the Senior Vice President for Community, Health, and Public Policy at the Justice Resource Institute (JRI) in Boston, and was also a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

Because of your support, brilliant and compassionate people like Douglas Brooks, who is himself vocal about his HIV-positive status, have the chance to live the long and full lives all people deserve. Please join CRI as we congratulate Douglas for his new appointment to ONAP, and thank him for his tireless efforts to change national HIV/AIDS policy for the better, and improve the lives of people living with these diseases across the nation.

Thank you—our compassionate and generous donors—for improving lives around the globe. You make our life-changing work possible. Please visit the giving section of our website (www.crine.org) to view the lists of donors who contributed to our important efforts this year.

**Welcome Back, Sharon Gray!**

Please join us in welcoming Sharon Gray back as CRI's Development Director! Many of you remember her from her 10-year tenure at CRI from 2003 to 2013. After her role as Development Director at Vinfen, she is back at CRI, continuing to lend her expertise to event planning, communications, organizational advancement, and much more, all in support of CRI's important HIV and hepatitis C research.

She says:

"I'm so happy to be back. I missed working with CRI's wonderful donors, supporters, staff, and Board for a critical cause. I hope to catch up with many of you at our Summer Party in Provincetown on July 19 and throughout the year."

**You Make CRI Proud**

Raising Awareness Together at Boston Pride

Your support means CRI can create change through discussion, collaboration, and partnerships at community events like the Boston Pride Festival. Each year over 125 vendors and over 75,000 people from around the country attend the festival to support the Boston Pride vision: creating change and progress in society by embracing our community's diverse history, culture, and identities, promoting community engagement and inclusivity, and striving for visibility and respect in unity.

Thirteen CRI staff and staff family shared information about our HIV and hepatitis C research and HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP), connecting our community to lifesaving resources. Approximately 1,000 attendees visited our booth to learn about prevention and treatment options as well as the effectiveness of treatment as a method of prevention. Your support helped us do all of this in a warm and welcoming environment; we offered complimentary face painting, stickers with anti-stigma messages, and coconut water to beat the heat.

Thank you for allowing CRI to conduct and share our critical work. We are proud to have you as a friend.
You Make Lives Better—You Can Contribute to CRI in Many Ways

· DIRECT, UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS  Place your gift in the general fund and support the day-to-day activities of CRI. Your gifts of cash, stocks, or securities help CRI conduct research that makes lives better.

· MATCHING GIFTS  You can maximize your gift if you (or a member of your family) qualify for corporate matching funds. Please check with your company to see if they participate in a matching funds program, and include a matching gift form to double the impact of your gift to CRI.

· GIFTS IN HONOR OR GIFTS IN MEMORY  You can make a gift in honor of an individual, to celebrate a special occasion, or in memory of a deceased friend or family member. CRI will notify whomever the donor designates.

· GIFTS OF BEQUESTS OR PLANNED GIVING  CRI is grateful for your bequest gifts via wills and planned giving arrangements. Please consider naming CRI as the beneficiary of your IRA, retirement fund, SEP, or insurance policy. We encourage you to discuss your giving options with your lawyer or other financial representative to determine how you can provide for the future growth of CRI while maximizing your tax benefits.

· GIFTS TO TEAM CRI THROUGH THE HARBOR TO THE BAY (H2B) HIV/AIDS BIKE RIDE  You can support CRI’s H2B efforts by riding or crewing with Team CRI, donating to your favorite Team CRI participant, or helping recruit sponsors. Visit www.harborothebay.org to learn more.

· GIFTS VIA CRI’S CARS PROGRAM  If you have an old vehicle taking up space in your driveway or garage, consider donating it to CRI—your 100% tax deductible donation goes straight to CRI’s critical HIV and hepatitis C research efforts! Our CARS vehicle donation program manages all the logistics, so you don’t have to worry about a thing.

A donation envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

For more information, please contact Sharon Gray at 617.502.1710.

· DONATE ONLINE  Just go to www.crine.org and click

“I ride for CRI because everybody deserves access to healthcare that allows them to live!”