

M25 NEWSLETTER

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**Thursday
July 31, 2025**

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A Night to Remember in Indiana

We're thrilled to unveil our inaugural BBQ, Bourbon & Burlesque event—coming to Indiana for the first time on Saturday, September 20th! This one-of-a-kind evening promises to be an unforgettable celebration of flavor, entertainment, and purpose.

Savor the smoky goodness of local favorites—Thomason's BBQ, Homer's BBQ, and Lonestar BBQ—perfectly paired with tasting experiences from top-tier bourbon brands like Green River Distilling, Hard Truth, and Cedar Ridge. A full cash bar will feature signature bourbon cocktails that are sure to impress even the most seasoned bourbon enthusiasts.

And the fun doesn't stop there! Our silent auction will showcase 50 exclusive bourbon packages, offering guests the chance to bid on rare finds and curated collections.

Taking center stage for the evening is The Drop Dead Darlings, delivering a dazzling burlesque variety show full of energy and vintage flair.

While September is celebrated as National Bourbon Heritage Month, it's also Healthy Aging Month—a timely reflection of our organization's growing commitment to supporting our aging population. This event highlights the expanded services and reach we now provide across 12 Indiana counties, ensuring more individuals receive the compassionate care and support they deserve.

Tickets and sponsorships are available now—secure your spot at this premier fundraising event and help us continue making a lasting impact in the communities we serve.





VANDERBURGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Vanderburgh County Jail and Matthew 25

Collaborate to Offer Free, Confidential HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

We have partnered with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office in Indiana to provide free, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C testing to individuals currently incarcerated at their facility. This joint initiative demonstrates a shared commitment to public health by expanding access to early diagnosis, education, and medical care for those most in need.

Testing is conducted on-site by trained Matthew 25 staff using quick and reliable finger-prick tests, with results available in as little as 15 minutes. Individuals who receive a reactive result are immediately offered support services, including counseling, medical referrals, and case management to ensure access to appropriate follow-up care.

"This partnership is about more than just testing, it's about ensuring that every person, regardless of their circumstances, has access to the tools and support necessary to protect their health," said Sheriff Noah Robinson. "Public health and public safety go hand in hand. By identifying and addressing these conditions early, we're not only supporting individual well-being, but also reducing risk to the broader community."

The collaboration seeks to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases both within the jail and after release, reinforcing the principle that effective correctional health care benefits the entire community. It also reflects a broader goal of promoting the well-being of all members of the community, whether incarcerated or not.

Article provided by: <https://vanderburghsheriff.org/news/>

We will be going to the jail twice per month, for 3 hours at a time.

In the first month, we tested 19 people and did 38 tests.



Facilities Update: Investing in Sustainability & Access

We're excited to share that the final contractor for our mobile unit will be on-site tomorrow, officially marking the completion of this important project! This space will allow us to better protect and maintain our mobile unit, increasing our reach to those most in need throughout the region.

This project was made possible by the incredible work of several local partners:

- Keystone Construction built the garage structure
- Tompkins Construction completed the exterior concrete and resurfaced the entire construction site
- Combs Excavating dug trenches for necessary electrical work
- Tom Demar & Sons, led by Gary Daniels, completed all electrical installation
- Adrian Garage Doors installed the garage door opener

In addition to the garage, we've completed a full conversion to LED lighting throughout our Henderson location, thanks once again to Tom Demar & Sons. This upgrade not only reduces our energy costs but also supports our commitment to environmental sustainability.

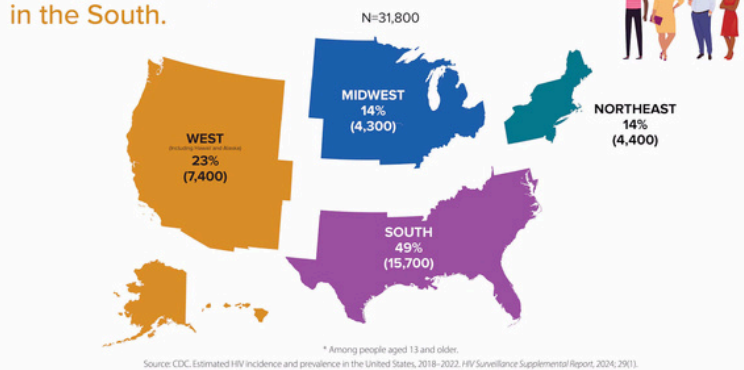
And finally, Tompkins Construction has helped improve access to our modular buildings by spreading gravel to improve drainage and ensure safe, convenient entry from both ends.

These upgrades are part of our continued efforts to steward your generosity wisely while creating safe, efficient, and welcoming spaces for the people we serve.



Estimated HIV infections in the US by region, 2022*

Nearly half (49%) of new HIV infections were in the South.



Southern HIV Awareness Day

This August, we recognize two powerful observances—Faith-Based HIV Awareness Day and Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day—both deeply connected to the mission of Matthew 25.

The South continues to bear a disproportionate burden of the HIV epidemic, especially in rural communities where access to care, transportation, and stigma remain real barriers. As an organization rooted in service across southern Indiana and western Kentucky, we see firsthand how HIV impacts individuals in these underserved areas.

National Faith HIV Awareness Day

Faith communities play a critical role in breaking the silence, offering hope, and connecting people to care. That's why Matthew 25 continues to engage with churches, faith leaders, and rural networks to spread education, reduce stigma, and ensure compassionate, judgment-free services reach those who need them most.

Your support helps us bridge the gap—bringing healthcare, prevention, and dignity to every corner of our region.



**FAITH HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**



Looking to get involved in your community?

Matthew 25 is looking for Board Members!

Our perfect Board Member Candidate will:

- Be passionate about our mission
- Be eager to dedicate their time, talent and treasure to Matthew 25 (Monthly meetings, community engagement, advocacy, and volunteerism)
- Have lived experience
- Have previous experience in the nonprofit sector
- Prioritize meetings and other board member responsibilities

Interested? Questions?

Check out our website, matthew25clinic.org, or call (270) 826-0200!

Seeking Board Member

We are seeking additional Board Members! If you're looking for a fulfilling way to get involved with Matthew 25 and have experience in the non-profit sector, you may be an ideal candidate.

Call our Henderson office at 270-826-0200 or email Rachel at rtrout@matthew25clinic.org for details.

Thank you for your Dedication

We would like to formally thank Board Secretary, Amy Alexander for her years of service as a M25 Board Member. Amy recently stepped down to embark on a new journey closer to family. Amy has been a long-standing community advocate in our region, not just for M25 but many other wonderful causes. We wish her well in her next endeavors and will miss her.



LEARNING EVERYDAY

Lived Experience Support Group

Community Conversations: Listening to Lived Experience

On Friday, July 18, the Henderson clinic welcomed a representative from the state of Kentucky as part of the "Community Conversations"

initiative—a state-funded program focused on gathering critical insight into the social determinants of health. This session brought together members of our monthly support group to share their lived experiences, particularly in relation to HIV, as well as broader challenges related to housing, nutrition, and daily life.

Facilitated by Jake Kiper, the 90-minute discussion was guided by a set of state-provided questions designed to spark meaningful dialogue. Angie Poe and the state representative listened closely, taking detailed notes as clients candidly shared their stories and perspectives.

The input provided by our clients offered valuable, firsthand understanding of the real-world barriers faced by people living with HIV—insight that is often overlooked but essential for shaping effective, compassionate care. In recognition of their time and contributions, each participant received \$75 in Walmart gift cards.

We're grateful to our clients for their honesty and openness, and proud to partner with the state in efforts to build more responsive and informed support services across Kentucky.



M25 Mental Health Counselors:
Jake Kiper, Tonya Dixon, Wade McGuire



WHAT'S NEW?

Clinic Update: Advancing Care & Expanding Services

We're excited to share some important updates that reflect our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, accessible care for our community.

Faster STI Testing Now Available

Very soon, our Henderson & Evansville clinic locations will be equipped with advanced molecular lab analyzers that allow us to test for certain STIs and deliver results in under an hour. This means patients will receive faster diagnoses and can begin treatment the same day—helping us stop the spread of infections and provide peace of mind sooner.. Due to the expensive nature of the equipment there are plans to add them at all locations, including the mobile clinic over time.

Now Offering PEP Starting August 4

Beginning August 4, we will officially offer PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis)—a vital HIV prevention tool for individuals who may have been exposed to HIV. PEP must be started within 72 hours of exposure. Patients can walk in or schedule an appointment to see our provider, get lab work done, and leave with a prescription the same day.

Expanded HIV Testing Capabilities

We're proud to share that all clinic staff at our Henderson and Owensboro clinics are now officially trained HIV testers.

WHERE TO FIND US IN AUGUST!

Kentucky Events



- 8/1- Community Alliance Resource Partners (CARP) Block Party @ corner of Martin Luther King Jr Ave & S Alves St Henderson from 4:30-7 pm (table only)
- 8/16- OWB Multi-Cultural Festival @ First Presbyterian Church 9-4 pm.
- 8/20- Welcome Back WKU @ WKU South Lawn 11-2 (Table only)
- 8/21-OWB Overdose Awareness Day @ Moreland Park 4-7 pm (Table Only)
- 8/27- SKYCTC Student Organization Fair 10-2 (Table Only)
- 8/31- Henderson Overdose Awareness Day @ Central Park 1-4 (table only)

Indiana Events

- 8/5 – Hope Central – 4 to 6 pm
- 8/7 – Hope Central – 12 to 1 pm
- 8/12 – Patchwork Central – 9 to 12
- 8/14 – Hope Dot Com – 11 – 1
- 8/16 – Summer of Recovery in Jasper – 3 to 7 pm
- 8/18 – Dubois County Health Department – 2 to 4 pm
- 8/21 – Evansville Treatment Center– 8:30 – 10:30 am
- 8/21 – VU Resource Fair – 10 to 11:30 am
- 8/28 – UCS – 2 to 4 pm

We'd love to participate in community events. Reach out to us!

Indiana- email oblanco@matthew25clinic.org

Kentucky-email apoe@matthew25clinic.org