

# Venue Based HIV Testing

*Prepared by:*

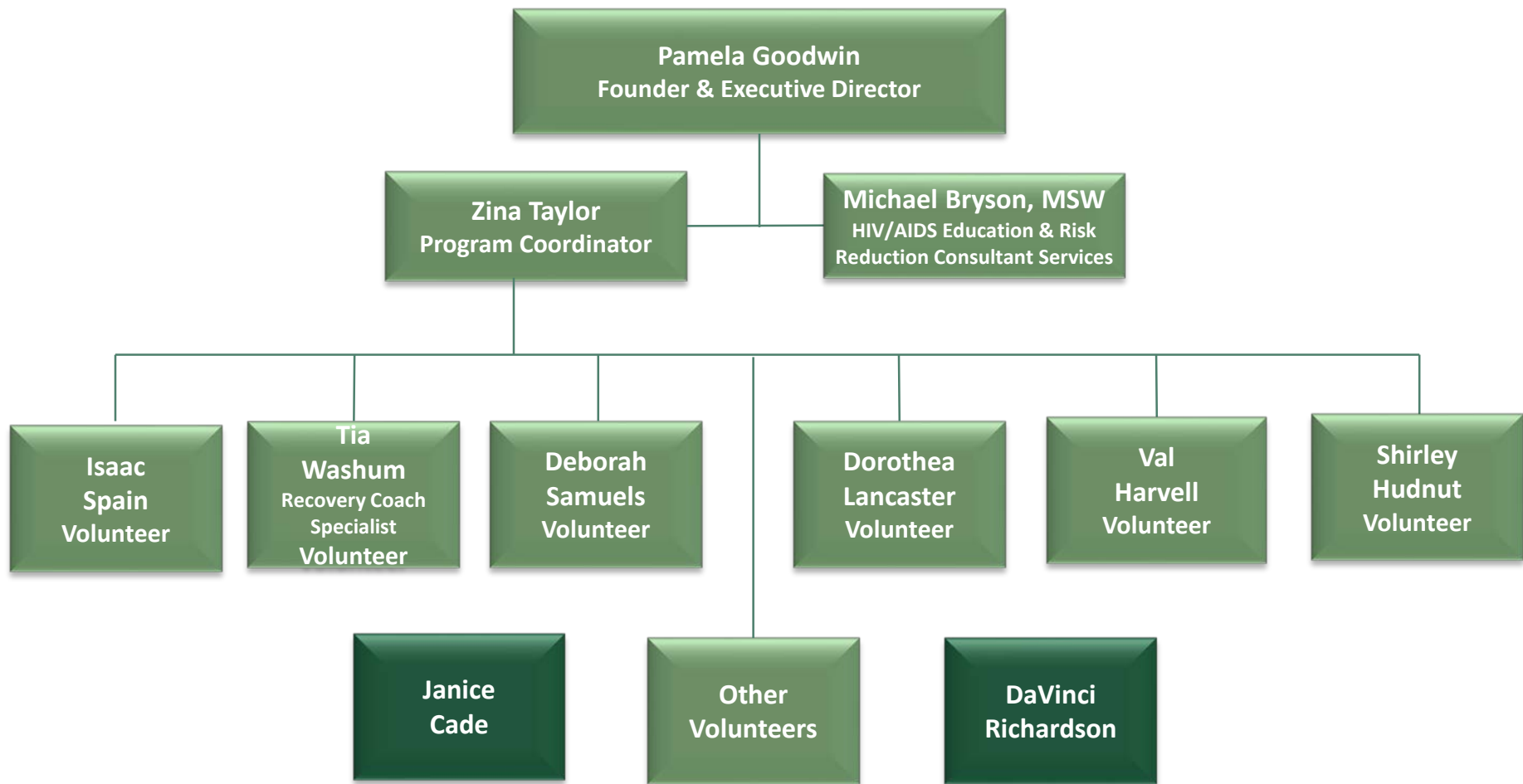
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# Women in Motion, Inc.

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Women in Motion, Inc. is a non-for-profit, Indiana-based organization that provides education on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. In addition, it provides education on other topics that lead to unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse, domestic violence, obesity and other sexually transmitted diseases. The program targets primarily women of color; however, believes that people of all races, including men, can benefit from its services.

The program's initiative is to incorporate spirituality with long-term behavioral changes that will promote healthier living which ultimately creates a better community for everyone.



# Venue Based HIV Testing

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- When I think of venue based HIV testing, I think of an effective strategy to reach high risk individuals for HIV and reducing transmission. WIM took a look at the following:
  - Who is considered high risk
    - People with substance use disorders and their sex partners
    - People in recovery
    - Homeless individuals
  - Where are they?
    - Hot spots
      - Drug houses & after hour venues
      - Neighborhoods where crime is concentrated, usually urban areas
      - Identified homeless camps
    - Treatment centers
    - Recovery Houses
    - Speedway gas stations, Laundromats & Family Dollar venues in high risk areas

# Venue Based HIV Testing Cont'd

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- Things WIM does to continue its testing efforts for this population
  - Meet them where they are while offering them education, support and resources.
    - Some individuals are not ready to be tested or do not want to be tested in certain environments. Find a convenient & safe place for them.
    - Some individuals are not ready for their results.
  - Help them identify their risk behaviors
  - Encourage them to host Janice Reaching Out Parties for their partners & others.
  - Find out what their barriers are and how WIM can assist. For example:
    - Substance use. WIM provide the following resources:
      - 12 step programs
      - Detox and/or in-patient treatment
      - Medication Assistant Treatment (MAT)
      - Syringe Exchange Program
    - Domestic Violence
      - Not all women in our program use drugs. Don't leave anyone out.
      - We've encountered women who have been forced to live in very uncomfortable situations, especially during the pandemic.
    - Keep engaging homeless ppl...more ppl are homeless as a result of the pandemic.

# Goals

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- To reach, educate and test “high risk” individuals on HIV and reduce transmission
- To reach, educate and test individuals who have never been tested for HIV
- Identify positive individuals and link them to care
  - WIM maintains its agreement with BU Wellness as a linkage to care for anyone testing positive
- Provide individuals with needed resources such as:
  - Substance use treatment
  - Healthcare (mentally and physically)
  - Food
  - Shelters
  - And more...

# In closing....

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- WIM's mission statement is "Education is Prevention. We can't reiterate enough the importance of education."
  - WIM provide education on HIV/AIDS and its co-factors
  - When administering the 1 minute INSTI HIV-1/HIV-2 Antibody Test, WIM takes the time to provide pre and post counseling.
- WIM educates an average of 8 groups per month and test 30+ individuals, per month.
- WIM is reaching individuals at high risk for HIV. And, even though we are not seeing HIV positive results when testing, we are making them aware of how they and their partners can reduce their risk and remain HIV negative.
- WIM's target population has changed over the last couple of years because we recognize the need to target women of all races, especially in treatment centers and recovery houses where we are seeing more white women than in the past. WIM also provide education and testing for men and teens.
- WIM has created trust within the recovery community...several of its volunteers are in recovery. We have personal contacts who assist with identifying hot spots for testing.
- WIM continues to go over and above to reach its target population, individuals at high risk for HIV. And, during this pandemic, has mandated all its volunteers to wear masks and provide masks to individuals they serve. Education is Prevention and so is Safety. 😊

Thank you for your time and work  
at **ending the HIV epidemic!**

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