

## **FAQs for Saint Louis EFA Merger**

### **1. What will the merger mean for the people we serve?**

Access to an HIV Medical Home that offers:

- ✓ Primary care and specialty treatment for people with HIV
- ✓ Dental care with a staff experienced in HIV oral health
- ✓ Behavioral healthcare and wellness services to support people with HIV in overcoming mental health challenges
- ✓ Pharmacy services that specialize in HIV care with access to the most advanced medications
- ✓ Social service case management to support people with HIV in overcoming poverty, discrimination, lack of housing and/or insurance issues
- ✓ Prevention services to help at-risk individuals remain HIV-negative, including testing and treatment for sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

### **2. When was the merger effective?**

The merger was effective September 1, 2018. At that time, EFA and the AIDS Resource Center will joined forces as a single entity.

### **3. Why does EFA want to merge with the AIDS Resource Center?**

EFA's board made the decision to expand and evolve by offering an HIV Medical Home to deliver the best outcomes for the people it serves. The AIDS Resource Center is a national leader in this model and has amongst the best outcomes to help people with HIV live long healthy lives.

### **4. Why does the AIDS Resource Center want to merge with EFA?**

The AIDS Resource Center looked at AIDS organizations in 26 states to expand its HIV Medical Home. EFA was chosen because of its leading role in the fight against AIDS, its strong service delivery history, and its excellent reputation.

### **5. What will happen to the EFA Board of Directors?**

Several board members will join the AIDS Resource Center board so St. Louis will have significant representation.

### **6. Will EFA keep its fundraising events?**

Yes. Dining Out for Life, Thirst for Life and Art of PAWS will continue.

### **7. Will money raised in St. Louis stay in St. Louis?**

All funds raised in St. Louis will be invested in St. Louis.

### **8. What will happen with staffing?**

Staffing will increase to meet current and new needs for programming.

### **9. Who will lead the merged organization in St. Louis?**

The merged organization will be governed by a national board of directors with significant representation from St. Louis. It will be led by Mike Gifford as President & Chief Executive Officer. Mike has 25 years of experience with the AIDS Resource Center and has served as its President & Chief Executive Officer for six years. The Vice President of Operations in St. Louis will be Tawnya Brown, a lifelong St. Louis resident who has more than 17 years of experience leading the fight against AIDS in the area.

**10. What happens to the existing leadership of EFA?**

After a decade of strong leadership in St. Louis' response to HIV/AIDS, EFA Executive Director Cheryl Oliver will retire on September 1. She will continue to serve the merged organization as a consultant to support transition.

Ann Ritz, Director of Social Services, will continue to serve in that role and as a senior leader in the organization.

**11. What will happen with current programs and services?**

We will expand current programs as we transition to an HIV Medical Home including opening a medical clinic, dental clinic, mental health therapy program and pharmacy in January, 2019.