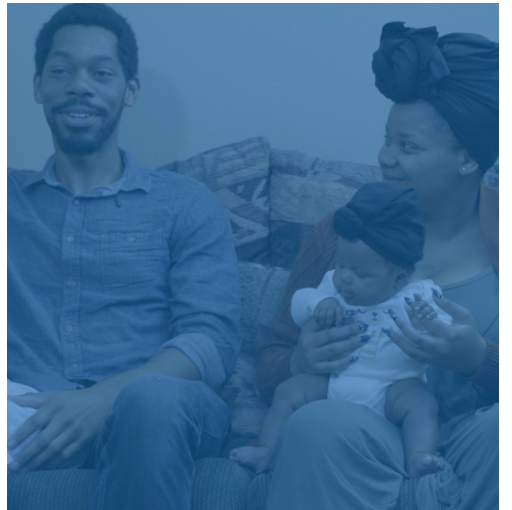




INSTITUTE OF WOMEN & ETHNIC STUDIES



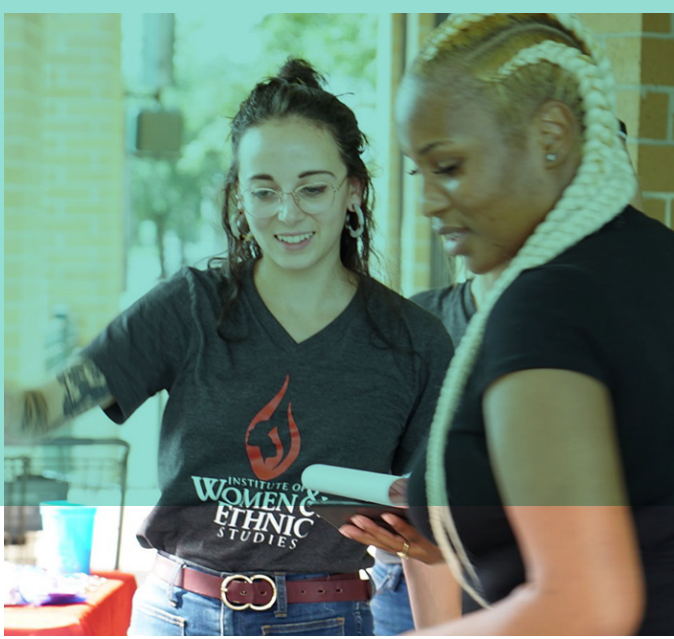
mosaic

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

As I reflect on my message for this report, Charles Dickens' opener for his book, 'A Tale of Two Cities' keeps floating into my consciousness - *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."* For, in December of 2019 we heard what then seemed to be far away news that increasing numbers of people in the province of Wuhan, China were seeking medical care for acute respiratory and flu-like symptoms. The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, was found to be the causative agent; this was the worst of times for 2019.

Up until then, it seemed to be the best of times for IWES. Following our festive 25th year gala in December of 2018, in 2019 we moved to a new office on the campus of the University of New Orleans. Our growth spurt continued in 2019, with new grants that have added to the mosaic of programming that we offer at IWES and reflect the respect, competence, caring

and compassion with which we serve our community. IWES has always been committed to ending childhood trauma and promoting healthy parent-child attachment, especially in BIPOC communities. Science now shows that experiences during the prenatal and first 2-3 years of life affect adult health even more than school achievements, therefore we secured new funding to deepen our maternal and child health portfolio through collaborative efforts with other partners. Continuing our commitment to adolescents, our positive youth development programs expanded to serve larger numbers of youth in Louisiana, with a deep focus on operationalizing trauma-informed and healing prescriptive approaches.

In July 2019 I testified before the United States' House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight and Reform on Childhood Trauma. I also participated as the co-chair of the City of New Orleans' task force on childhood trauma, where I co-edited and IWES underwrote *Called to Care: Promoting Compassionate Healing for Our Children*, a 200+ page report outlining citywide and multi-sectorial and collaborative strategies for the prevention, assessment and holistic treatment of childhood trauma. Another standout of the year was our work at Foundations Prep, where we piloted IWES' whole school attachment and play-based social emotional learning initiative. The findings overwhelmingly showed significant improvements in learning and behavior in students from K-5th grade that are designated as Tier-1, which means that they do not show signs of existing emotional or behavioral dysregulation and are capable of coping and simply need support to maintain their well-being. The adoption of fun, love and compassion in classrooms significantly

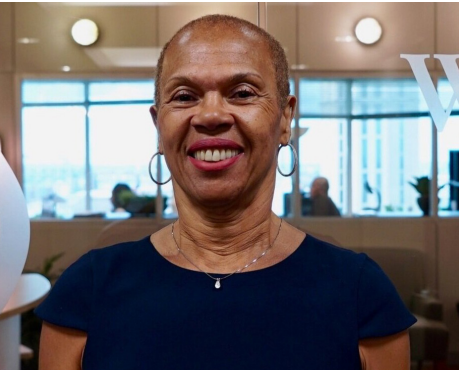
contributed to the positive school climate that the leadership at Foundations Prep was devoted to achieving.

In an expansion of our HIV prevention portfolio, we focused on the intersection of HIV transmission and Intimate Partner Violence and received funding to support survivors of (IPV) while simultaneously working with male mentors and coaches to change gender norms and promote new norms that protect against IPV. We also premiered another new youth health prevention film in the New Orleans Film Festival, *And What Happened After That?*, and created another short film, *i'm still me*, that premiered at Visual AIDS' annual Day With(out) Art centering the experience of a Black woman living with HIV in New Orleans. And finally, as indicated by the theme of this year's report, our media and communications department launched **Mosaic**, the consolidation of all of our media outputs (films, podcasts and more!) on a new website and social media channels. Of all of the highs, we chose Mosaic as our theme this year to represent the patchwork of the diverse, varied and colorful aspects of our organization that, despite their differing aims, goals and motivations, all still end up working together in harmony to create **The IWES Way**. May we all stay safe and healthy and find ways to protect each other and ourselves so that we can return to the best of times!

Sincerely,

Denese O Shervington M.D., M.P.H

2019 BOARD



Denese Shervington, MD, MPH | President & CEO

Dr. Shervington has an intersectional career in public health and academic psychiatry. She is a graduate of New York University School of Medicine, completed her residency in Psychiatry at the University of California San Francisco, and is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Later, she attained a Masters of Public Health in Population Studies and Family Planning from the Tulane University School of Public Health. She is IWES' President and CEO, and she also directs a community-based post-disaster mental health and emotional resiliency recovery program and a federally funded trauma-informed Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program. Dr. Shervington is also a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Tulane University with a focus on residency education and training. In 2018, she received the Award for Excellence in Service and Advocacy from the American Psychiatric Association. In 2012, she received the Jeanne Spurlock Minority award from the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Shervington is a member of the American College of Psychiatrists. She has authored several papers in peer-reviewed journals addressing health disparities, the social determinants of health and resilience in underserved communities.



Michele M. Moore, JD | Board Chair

Michele Moore is a corporate and brand communications professional with 25 years managing communications and marketing operations for Fortune 500 corporations, media, government, and nonprofit entities. Her experience across multiple industries in strategic and crisis communications, media relations, brand marketing, public affairs and corporate philanthropy stem from her senior roles spearheading communications and marketing departments at Nickelodeon, BET, the National Urban League, Temple University, and Lifetime Networks. She is currently the Chief Communications Officer for the National Office of the American Civil Liberties Union. Moore earned her law degree at Howard University and her B.A. in Communications at UCLA.



Kandice Doley, JD | Board Treasurer

Kandice earned her undergraduate degree in Marketing at the University of Miami. She joined IWES in 2008 as an Administrative/Program Assistant of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Advocacy Project until enrolling at Loyola University New Orleans' College of Law. She worked as a research assistant for the Henry F. Bonura, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law, Ms. Jeanne M. Woods, on human rights and international law publications. Upon graduating from Loyola Law in 2012 with a Certificate in International Law, Kandice joined a private practice law firm and now works as a research attorney at the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Ava Rogers, MPA | Board Secretary

Ava has worked in international affairs, specializing in conflict and emergency settings for 20 years. Her previous assignments with the U.S. State Department and the United Nations include the Republic of the Congo, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Nigeria, and Sudan. She has an undergraduate degree in International Relations from Georgetown University and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Stephani Hatch, PhD

Dr. Hatch is a social epidemiologist in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. She earned her PhD at the University of Maryland, College Park and was a former faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University. She is a principal and co-investigator on several community research projects, including the social inequalities strand of the UK National Institute for Health Research funded by the Mental Health Biomedical Research Centre, South East London Community Health Study. Dr. Hatch is also the co-founder of the Health Inequalities Research Network, a partner with IWES on US-UK comparative studies.



Erica Gollub, DRPH, MPH

Dr. Gollub is an internationally recognized researcher and expert in the area of women-initiated HIV/STI prevention and advocacy aimed at expanding health education for women and girls. Dr. Gollub has served on both national and international health and regulatory advisory boards and has published and presented widely on her work. She has served in multiple advisory capacities globally, including: Expert Group on Prevention of HIV in Women at the French Health Ministry, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Meeting on Improving Acceptability Research, and the World AIDS Congress in Durban, South Africa.



Dorothy Peprah, MPH, MPHIL, PhD

Dr. Peprah is widely regarded as an expert in global health, infectious disease, community participatory action research and qualitative methodology. She completed her MPhil and PhD in Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and her MPH in International Health at the Boston University School of Public Health. She is currently a Global Health Security Advisor with USAID, responsible for ensuring well-coordinated and effective delivery of technical and program support across the Agency's Global Health Security Agenda portfolio. The portfolio includes programming to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, and pre-empt or combat newly emerging diseases of animal origin that could threaten human health. Dr. Peprah has also worked as a global consultant on various projects, including sanitation and hygiene programs in refugee camps, and providing technical support to research teams in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.



Jacqueline Coleman

Jacqueline Coleman begins her 13th season with the Washington Nationals, as Senior Vice President of Broadcasting, Promotions & Events, Marketing and Game Presentation. Prior to joining the Nationals, Coleman served as Vice President of Arena Operations, Broadcasting & Radio for the Washington Mystics. With the Mystics, Coleman's team was responsible for in-arena videoboard, TV partner content and technical set-up, as well as serving as the liaison between various departments within Monumental Sports. Coleman also served as the Vice President of Programming and Production for the Charlotte Bobcats' (NBA) Regional Sports Network, CSET from 2004-06. There, she helped lead the production operations formation, content, and launch of the first 24-hour Regional Sports and Entertainment Network programmed exclusively for North Carolina and South Carolina. Prior to moving into sports full-time, Coleman was Vice President of Sports, Specials and Primetime at Black Entertainment Television where she managed staff in Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.

MISSION

IWES is dedicated to improving the mental, physical and spiritual health and quality of life for women, their families and communities of color, particularly among marginalized populations using community-engaged research, programs, training, and advocacy.

VISION

IWES envisions a world wherein all people can live and create environments and communities where health and wellness are valued and promoted so as to enhance quality of life.

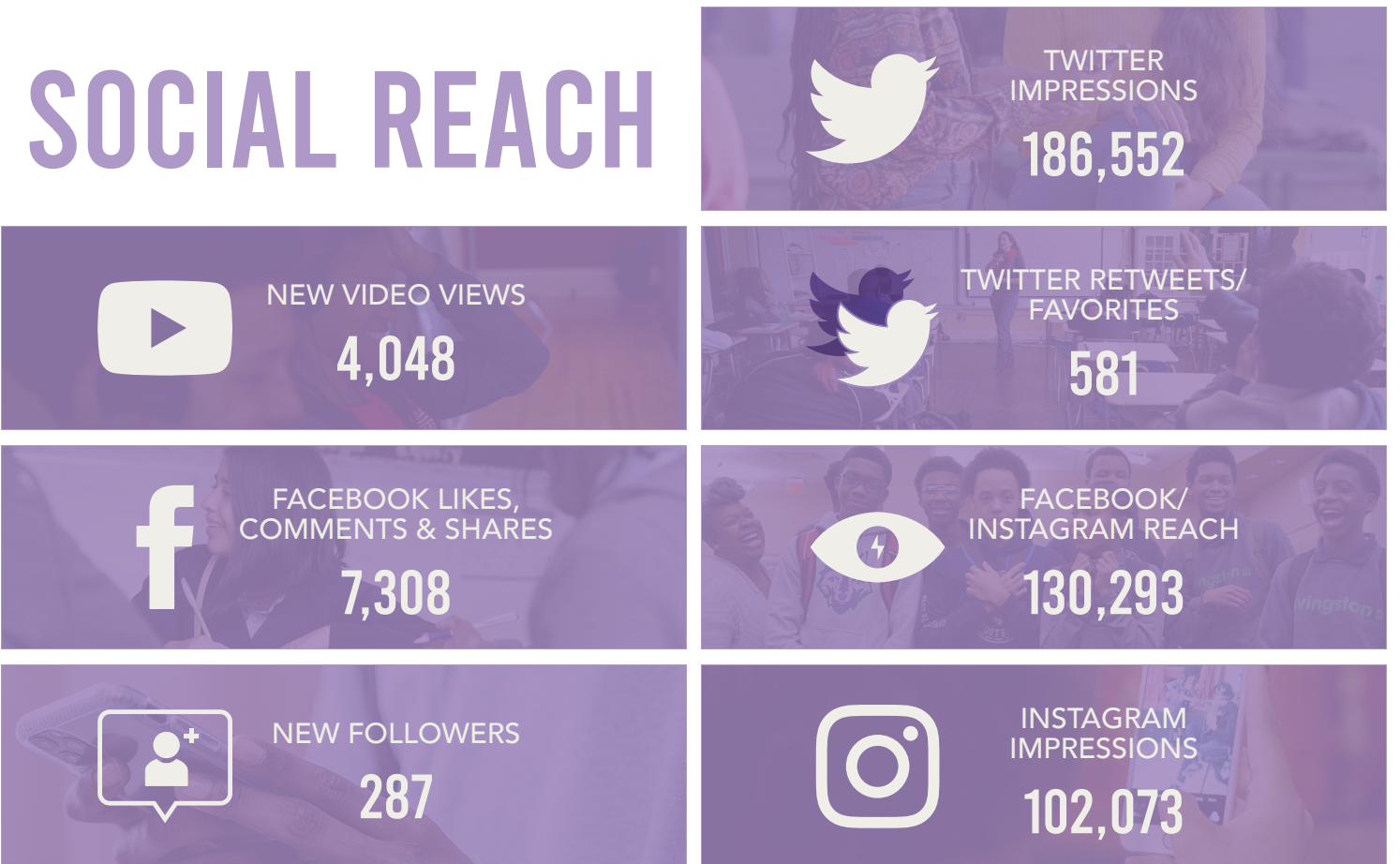
DIVISIONS

- Positive Youth Development
- Community Resilience, Well-being & Mental Health
- STI/HIV Prevention & Care
- Research & Evaluation
- Media & Communications

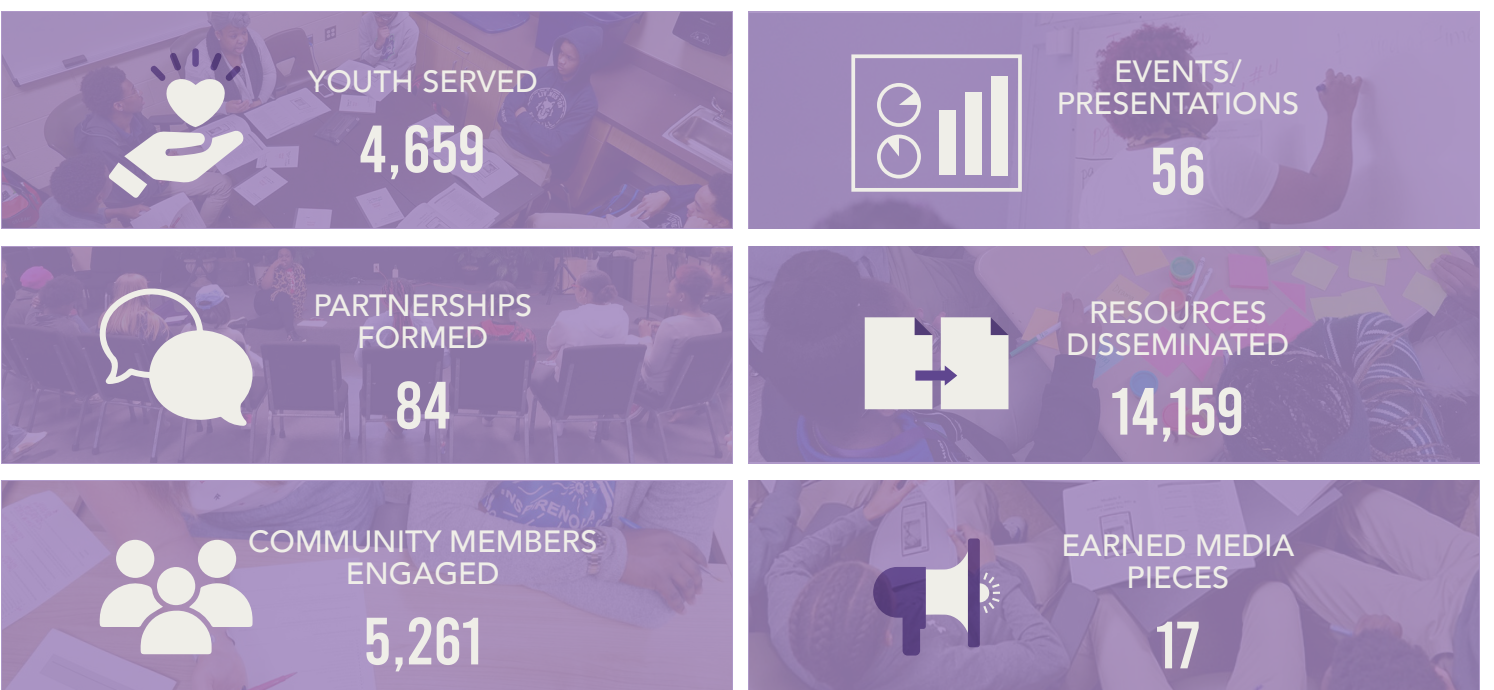
ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIES

- Education & Interventions
- Training & Capacity Building
- Community-engaged Research & Evaluation
- Reproductive Rights & Sexual Health Policy Advocacy
- Communications

SOCIAL REACH



COMMUNITY REACH



INTRO TO MOSAIC

In 2019 our Media department rebranded itself as *Mosaic*, a hub to house the wide variety of our media projects—narrative & documentary films, features & shorts, podcasts & music videos—all in one place. Like *Mosaic*, IWES' work is a beautiful and intricate compilation of a plethora of diverse programs, campaigns & initiatives that harmoniously work together to create The IWES Way.

Narrative is power.

Since our founding, we have emphasized narrative change in all aspects of our work to bring the stories, experiences and perspectives we represent to life. Storytelling has been the cornerstone of many of our programs, even woven into our curricula, especially when focusing on health prevention topics such as healthy relationships and emotional well-being. While storytelling often takes the form of films, podcasts or other media pieces, it is also the backbone of our campaigns, our partnerships and even our programming in both straight-forward and (more often) innovative ways!

To achieve our vision of optimized health for all—especially those that are currently marginalized and denied access to quality care—in the Greater New Orleans area and beyond, we have to shift the narrative around health and dream and create new paradigms in partnership with our local communities.

We have to shift the narrative around youth of color and tell the real stories about the obstacles they face to be well, starting by asking them what they need from us to help them succeed.

We have to shift the narrative around Black maternal and child health from one of complications, inequity and

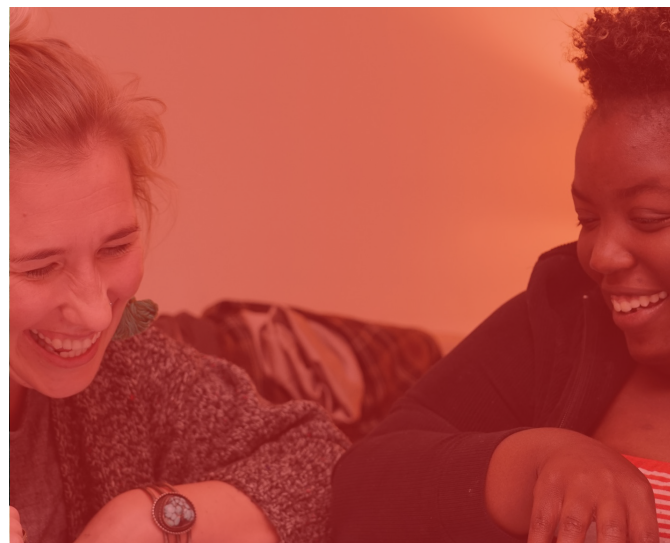
gaps in care to stories of dignified treatment, choice (regarding types of care, delivery and practitioners), and overall healthy outcomes.

We have to shift the narrative around the HIV/AIDS epidemic and include Black women's voices in the conversation to not only end stigma, but also have Black women living with HIV see themselves represented and have a space to discuss their unique concerns.

And finally, **we have to shift** the narrative around wellness and self-care to focus less on quick solutions and unsustainable events to focus more on deeper contemplation of life's hardest questions and the identification of the principles, rituals and practices that bring healing, balance, compassion and self-love to our souls.

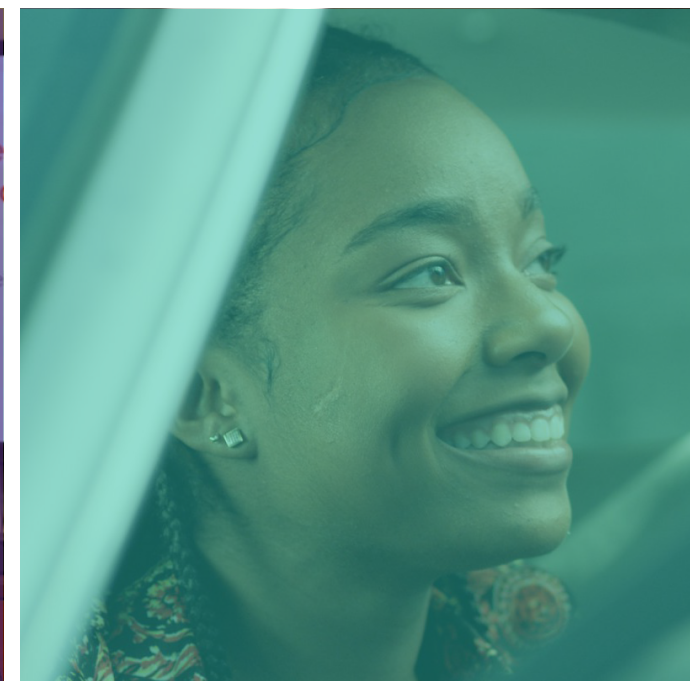
The name *Mosaic* may be new, and the configuration of programming may annually change, but the goal, integrity and intention of our work remains the same. We will continue to bring honest portrayals of important health issues through a new lens, and give a voice to those often overlooked or misrepresented, whether through a short documentary, city-wide billboard, formative research or program implementation.

Thank you to the IWES family for continually helping us tell our story.



GUIDE TO IWES DIVISIONS/PROGRAMS:

To visualize the full mosaic of IWES departments, teams and programs, the next section introduces IWES' current structure and shares key highlights from our work in 2019.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

IWES prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through activities and experiences that help them develop social, sexual, emotional and cognitive competencies. Youth development and leadership activities include: motivating young people to achieve a healthy adulthood; supporting the development of goals, self-esteem, and confidence; and guiding young people on a course of competency and skill building.

PROGRAM

Believe In Youth - Louisiana (BY-LA)

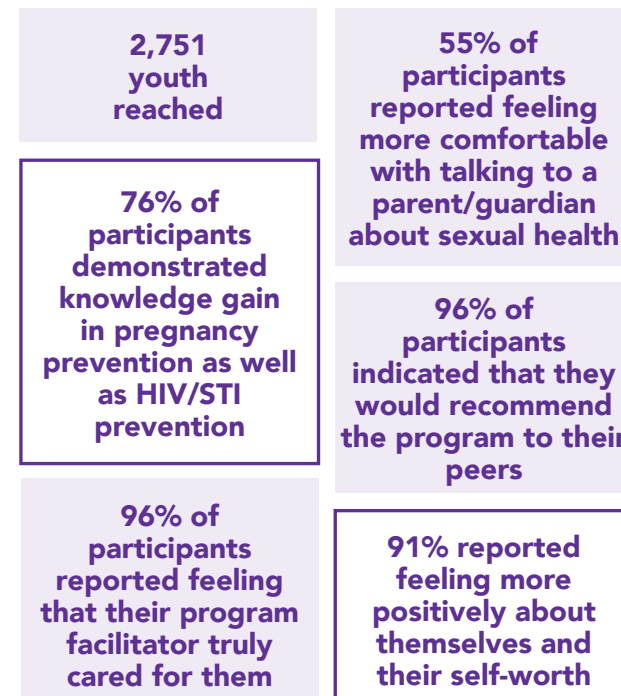
Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office of Population Affairs (OPA)

BY-LA is a trauma-informed teen pregnancy prevention program that teaches age-appropriate sexual and emotional health to young people in Louisiana. The program's goal is to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy, birth rates, HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections in youth ages 11-19 in Southeast Louisiana. Programming is implemented in a number of settings including schools, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and juvenile justice facilities. BY-LA implements the Making Proud Choices! (MPC!) curriculum with four additional emotional wellness modules focusing on mental health, stress and coping skills that were developed and incorporated by IWES. The program prioritizes quality program delivery, providing safe spaces for participants who identify as LGBTQ, incorporating positive youth development practices and institutionalizing a trauma-informed approach.

In 2019 BY-LA expanded services to Regions 2 and 3, which required obtaining buy-in and support at the school board level. BY-LA also expanded services to offer full implementation of the Making Proud Choices! (MPC!) program to the Latinx population with implementations program to Latinx youth by implementing the Spanish version of MPC! with Latinx youth in Regions 1, 2, and 3. A total of 3,000 workbooks were distributed to youth during presentations and direct implementation, and approximately 3,200 swag items were distributed to youth participants and parents/caregivers.

BY-LA staff also led two Youth Leadership Council (YLC) meetings with youth members in Regions 1 and 3. The

objectives of the meetings were for youth to obtain an understanding of themselves within the context of the broader community and society in which they exist; understand the basics of trauma and how it impacts people individually and as a social group; and to develop innovative solutions for how they can address their problems. Outside of youth implementation, BY-LA also prioritizes the needs of parents. Three parental advisory team (PAT) meetings were conducted with the goal of engaging, supporting and networking with parents interested in continuing conversations around sex ed, consent, and mental health at home. Two community advisory group (CAG) meetings were also held, focusing on establishing a network of community partners from neighboring parishes in an effort to build capacity and sustainability.



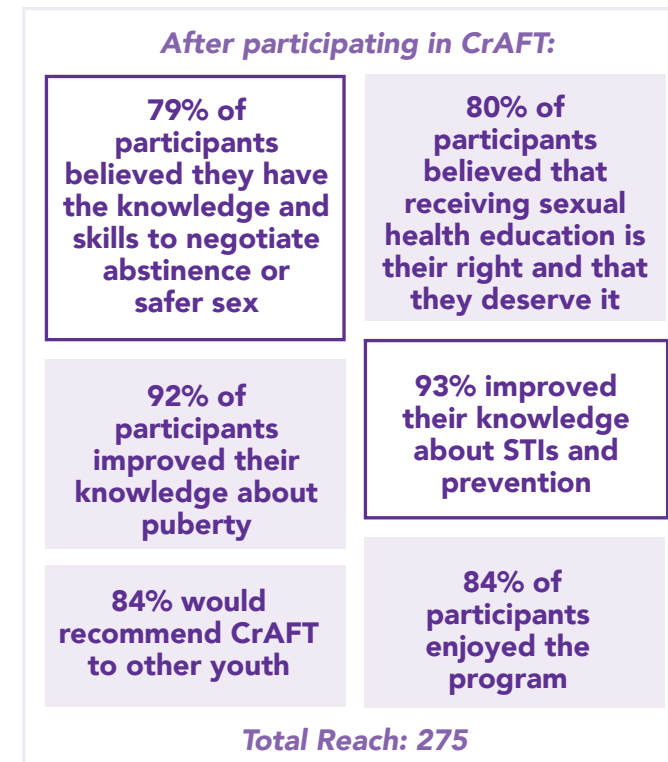
PROGRAM

Creating A Future Together (CrAFT)

Funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Grove Foundation.

CrAFT addresses gaps and shifting policy in sexual and reproductive health in New Orleans. CrAFT works to create an educational and policy environment supportive of youth health and development through teacher training, research, implementation of a gender-transformative sexual health curriculum, and statewide advocacy in collaboration with other youth-serving entities. CrAFT's goal is to improve access to, and delivery of, high-quality, comprehensive sexual health education in New Orleans.

This year the data collected from pre- and post-assessments after participating in CrAFT showed that participants reported an increased knowledge of and comfort with reproductive health information. In 2019 IWES staff delivered two Foundations: Core Skills trainings for sex ed and technical assistance to teachers, social workers, administrators, paraprofessionals, healthcare providers and volunteer health educators across New Orleans. This training served to strengthen the capacity and allotment of resources of school and local partners to provide school based sexual health education. IWES welcomed a new partnership working with youth at the LGBT Community Center of New Orleans Youth Group and continued a partnership with the Orleans Parish School Board. CrAFT was taught at six sites across New Orleans; Kipp Central City Academy, Martin Luther King High School, Orleans Parish School Board (PAYE Program), International High School of New Orleans, Morris Jeff High School and JCFA East.



INITIATIVE

Working to Institutionalize Sex Education (WISE)

Funded by the Grove Foundation and the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

The WISE Initiative was created to prepare our nation's youth for life-long health and well-being. WISE is a national initiative implemented across 13 states working to develop sex education programming that is high quality and sustainable, thus integrated into the curricula and the character of school districts. IWES' WISE work includes supporting district- and charter-level policy development, providing high-quality teacher-training on sex education skills and curricula, and providing technical assistance/ professional development to schools seeking to institutionalize sex education as part of their overall curriculum.





COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, WELL-BEING & MENTAL HEALTH

IWES provides programming to enhance mental and physical health and emotional resiliency through community-level approaches to individual and collective recovery, resiliency and healing of vulnerable communities, in particular youth. IWES utilizes a socio-ecological framework (focusing on the individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels) to promote wellness at the individual, community and societal levels.

PROGRAM

Collective for Healthy Communities (CHC)

Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Baptist Community Ministries, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, and the Metropolitan Human Services District

The Collective for Healthy Communities (CHC) is an initiative that provides community-level interventions that promote well-being and resilience using a social-ecological approach (focusing on the individual, interpersonal, community and societal levels). In addition, CHC advocates for policy changes that reduce the impact of traumatic exposures in children at school, in the community, and in the home.

The Wellness Evaluation – Community Action Network! (WE-CAN!)

WE-CAN! addresses emotional wellness as a key component of resilience among New Orleans youth. WE-CAN! relies on research, community engagement and partnership building to better understand community wellness and find promising ways to improve interactions young people have with individuals communities, and systems, especially youth that experience adversity. Ultimately, the program's goal is to improve collaboration, communication and partnership among key community stakeholders and organizations to improve the emotional wellness of children in New Orleans.

BCM Situational Analysis & Community Health Survey

IWES has been assessing the accessibility, availability and service gaps of mental health, behavioral health, and substance use services in the New Orleans area. This year, the goal was to capture perspectives on the New Orleans mental health system from the lens of users, consumers and families. This year IWES also completed and published a **Community Health Survey**—a web-based survey tool developed and administered on tablets and via e-mail to patients, caregivers, and members of the New Orleans community who have sought mental, behavioral, or substance use services in the city. Comprehensive data was collected to determine priorities for increasing the availability of and access to mental and emotional wellness services.

Community Health Survey Response

28 survey responses from mental/behavioral health providers revealed that there is a need to strengthen care coordination and the continuum of care for patients so that they are able to receive quality services at an affordable cost.

Creating a Truer Self (CATS)

The CATS program is a mental health and skills building workshop for girls ages 11-18. The primary purpose is to provide a safe space and opportunity to dive deeper into discussion and activities that promote healing from past trauma and improve the girls' ability to function positively in decision-making related to their physical and emotional health. CATS provides education and skill-building that encourages them to make responsible decisions through building self-esteem, recognizing healthy relationships, creating a positive self-image and learning the importance of nutrition and exercise.

302 were youth served at 9 sites in Jefferson, Orleans, St. Charles and St. James Parishes

Women's Recovery Groups (WRG)

In partnership with Metropolitan Human Services District, IWES social workers facilitated free WRG sessions in New Orleans East, Central City, Algiers and a location in St. Bernard Parish, serving a total of 576 women. Based on the curriculum created by psychiatrist Dr. Shelly Greenfield, the WRG promotes healing and personal growth for women seeking support in coping with substance use disorders and/or other behavioral health issues. Another recovery group IWES hosted was the **Hotel Hope: Empowerment Hour**, a weekly Women's Empowerment Hour that offered psycho-education and space for connection, processing and support. Using a trauma-informed approach, IWES social workers and public health professionals gathered input from Hotel Hope staff to design a curriculum for the women on site and were able to host around 40 participants this year. Topics included: coping with trauma and stress, nurturing parent-child relationships, navigating health care systems, healthy relationships and boundaries, as well as, substance use and women's reproductive health. Drawing from IWES' experience working with local youth and understanding the complex issues they endure, weekly Chat & Chill sessions were also held with 60 youth throughout the year on-site to support their resilience and the development of their social emotional skills.

40 adult and 60 children participants were served this year

Trauma-Informed NOLA (TI-NOLA)

TI-NOLA is a program created to help IWES foster a child-centered, compassionate and equitable New Orleans for all local children through focused community change efforts. TI-NOLA supports community partners through psychoeducational workshops to discuss the following areas: 1) impact of individual and community trauma, 2) Adverse Childhood Experiences, 3) self- and community- care and resilience. Mental health professionals also facilitate Storytelling Circles to explore group participants' experiences with trauma and each individual's role in understanding and becoming more trauma-informed. In 2019, IWES hosted 7 workshops with 364 participants.



DEPARTMENT

Maternal & Child Health (MCH)

Funded by Merck for Mothers, the Chanel Foundation, and the Kellogg Foundation.

IWES' Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programming works to improve maternal and infant mortality and morbidity through thoughtful collaborations with government, health systems, funders, insurance and community-based organizations with an aim to reduce systemic and individual inequity. The MCH department's goal is to implement policy changes and/or birth equity solutions in partnership with community and health care providers to benefit women in the Greater New Orleans area and throughout Louisiana before, during and after childbirth. To accomplish these goals, the department uses the following strategies: conducting both qualitative and quantitative research; promoting MCH awareness on social media; co-designing training for perinatal community health workers and healthcare institutions; and, effecting MCH-focused policies at both the local and state level.

During 2019, the MCH program focused on building upon and expanding the current network of maternal and child health professionals, including hospitals, government officials, academic institutions, early childhood providers, community doulas, private providers and other community-based organizations and professionals. After completion of a community scan, the MCH team submitted a protocol to IWES' community Internal Review Board (IRB) to conduct six different types of focus groups and in-depth interviews with women who have experienced birthing complications, families whose infant(s) spent time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, women with breastfeeding experience, fathers/partners who lost a mother due to child birthing complications, and nurses and obstetricians/midwives who work with women during the prenatal, birthing and postpartum phases. MCH team members also had the honor of co-presenting at Xavier University of Louisiana's Intersectionality Luncheon & Working Group, leading a discussion on what intersectionality is and how it shows up, focusing in on class, race, gender and religion.

My Body. My Voice. My Birth. My Support.

The series "My Body. My Voice. My Birth. My Support." began in August of 2019 as a way to raise awareness and ultimately reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates among people of color by breaking down systemic racial barriers, improving the quality of care provided, amplifying the voices of community members and advocating for policies that uplift the lives of families. The series features a set of short films with service providers, birthing families, lactation consultants and more. The series is available on Mosaic and IWES' YouTube channel, and the photos on the right share moments from some of the featured films in the series.



RESEARCH & EVALUATION (R&E)

IWES' Research & Evaluation division devises and performs monitoring, evaluation and continuous quality improvement for all IWES programming. R&E oversees multiple programs of its own and collaborates with partners and stakeholders on a variety of external initiatives, each with unique needs with regards to data management, data collection, and presentation of outcomes. Beyond ensuring funder requirements are met, the Research & Evaluation division works closely with internal program staff and external partners to document and collect additional measures for research, publication, and program/initiative refinement. The R&E team specializes in designing and conducting mixed methods research and evaluation activities and has a growing collection of scholarly publications and presentations at national and international conferences.

PROGRAM

Research & Evaluation (R&E)

While the R&E division is funded by multiple sources across programs, R&E receives direct funding from the David & Lucille Packard Foundation and the Office for Victims of Crime.

On top of general program monitoring and evaluation, in 2019 the Research & Evaluation division focused efforts on two particular programs in partnership with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the New Orleans Family Justice Center. Another highlight from this year is the R&E team's contribution to the paper, *Indirect violence exposure and mental health symptoms among an urban public-school population: Prevalence and correlates* written by IWES board member Erica Gollub, R&E Director Jakevia Green, Chief Impact Officer Lisa Richardson, Founder/CEO Denese Shervington, and Ilyssa Kaplan.

The Catapult Study:**The Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS)**

The aim of the Catapult Study is to "understand the factors in early adolescence that predispose young people to subsequent sexual health risks and conversely promote healthy sexuality, so as to provide the information needed to promote sexual and reproductive well-being." This year the program had 710 youth enrolled and was implemented at 14 partner sites.

A Pathway to Justice, Healing, and Hope: Addressing Poly-victimization in a Family Justice Center Setting
IWES serves as a research partner to the New Orleans

Family Justice Center (NOFJC) in this initiative to holistically address the national epidemic of trauma. In the past, IWES has worked closely with NOFJC to support their goals to develop a poly-victimization assessment tool. Currently in full implementation at NOFJC, the tool is used to gather information to document the past and current victimization that NOFJC's clients experience so that NOFJC can provide timely, appropriate, and effective services to meet their needs. In 2019, 64 clients participated in the implementation of the poly-victimization assessment tool. **Polyvictimization generally describes one person having experienced many forms of trauma, which may have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity.**

Poly-victimization Survey Highlights

Of the 64 FJC clients (all adult women) having completed the polyvictimization tool, **60 (93.8%) were found to have experienced polyvictimization.**

The top three adverse symptoms [resulting from traumatic experiences] reported among respondents of the polyvictimization tool are: **#1 anxiety** (reported by 78.1%), **#2 repeated disturbing memories, thoughts, or images of a stressful experience** (reported by 73.3%), **#3 sleep disturbances** (reported by 67.2%).

Respondents of the polyvictimization tool reported an average of **8 distinct symptoms of adverse mental/physical health outcomes as symptoms they were currently experiencing due to traumatic experiences in their lives.**



STI/HIV PREVENTION & CARE

IWES aims to reduce HIV stigma and expand access to HIV/STI testing services, treatment, and care, specifically among African American and Latinx people ages 13 and older, through the STI/HIV Prevention & Care division. There is a disparate burden of HIV and other STIs in the South and, in particular, in Louisiana, especially among people of color. IWES works towards ending the HIV epidemic by decreasing the rising rates of STIs, increasing visibility and accessibility of services, and normalizing conversations about risk and prevention through programs and services. These services include providing HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C testing, facilitating a virtual support group for Black women living with HIV, and providing support for people living with HIV.

PROGRAM

HIV Testing and Prevention (HTP)

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ViiV HealthCare

The HIV Testing and Prevention (HTP) program works to reduce HIV stigma and encourages Black and Latin(x) people ages 13-60 to access HIV testing services and care in the Greater New Orleans area. HTP employs a high-impact prevention strategy with five key components: targeted HIV testing; the Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Access to Services (ARTAS) strategy for linkage to care; the Community Peers Reaching Out and Modeling Intervention Strategies (Community PROMISE) community-level HIV prevention intervention; IWES' Peer Advocates Undoing Stigma through Education (PAUSE) communications strategy; and the distribution of condoms and safer sex kits.

In 2019 HTP focused on increasing the organization's footprint in the community, solidifying new partnerships with community-based organizations, and retaining HIV testing sites. IWES continued to make great strides in HIV testing and expanded its testing locations with local Walgreens pharmacies to include a new testing site located at the United Medical Center, extending the organization's reach to include four Walgreens sites located in strategic areas of the city. Additionally, HTP staff provided free HIV testing at several other locations, such as the Main Branch of the New Orleans Public Library, the Harry Tompson Rebuild, and Urgent Care Eleven, where IWES was able to serve people experiencing homelessness, clients transitioning from incarceration, folks dealing with substance abuse and clients that are in need of basic primary care. The HTP team was also able to serve the Latinx community through a partnership with NOLA Village in New Orleans

East. Additionally, the HTP team was able to reach folks involved with the justice system through partnerships with Orleans Parish Juvenile Court (OPJC) and the St. Bernard Jail. The newest addition to the HIV portfolio is an initiative dedicated to promoting better health outcomes and addressing issues of isolation, stigma and trauma experienced by Black women living with HIV. The program is called Out of the Shadows (OOS) and it works with participants to build leadership skills and self-efficacy to help them take charge of their health and advocate for improved systems of HIV care.

23 Rodel Model Stories developed	776 People Tested: Averaging 65 tests per month
7,959 Condoms distributed	20 Sexual Health Presentations
2,762 face to face encounters	1,547 face to face conversations

PROGRAM

MORE

Funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health

The MORE Project employs holistic and innovative strategies to reduce harms after experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) and to promote positive social norms against IPV. The project has two program goals. The first is to support victims/survivors of IPV in New Orleans to lessen harms. The activities to accomplish this goal aim to prevent HIV transmission, increase HIV screening, and improve access to services for people with newly-acquired HIV infections. The second goal is to promote social norms that protect against IPV in New Orleans. The intended long-term impact of this work is to reduce the prevalence of IPV perpetration and victimization and reduce the burden of HIV within the vulnerable victim/survivor population.

The primary focus during the startup phase of this project was on developing an evaluation plan and formative research activities. Activities included: implementing a community needs assessment, developing an evaluation plan and conceptual framework, conducting an environmental scan and literature review, and assessing organizational screening capacity. Additionally, IWES met with partners and provided trainings to address the second goal of the project of promoting positive social norms.

The MORE Project team conducted a community needs assessment (CNA) with 8 multi-sectoral partners and stakeholders. The CNA revealed that priority HIV/IPV action areas and sectors varied significantly among participants. It was determined that knowledge of the spectrum of existing services was insufficient, even among providers. During a round-table discussion consensus was able to be found around prioritizing some underserved, marginalized and transient groups that are at a higher risk of both experiencing IPV and contracting HIV such as women who identify as LGBTQ+, sex workers, substance users, people experiencing homelessness, non-English speaking and/or undocumented immigrants, and those with a history of trauma. The group also discussed the need to intentionally engage women in the 18-24 age group, as observations have shown that many women enter their first abusive relationships during this time – especially if they have childhood traumas.

The New Orleans Family Justice Center is IWES' primary partner in efforts to reduce harms to female victims/survivors of IPV. In order to promote social norms that protect against violence, IWES established eight community-based partnerships such as: 1) organizations working with coaches and student athletes, including the local chapter of the NFL Players' Association, the non-profit Blessed 26 and the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC); 2) male mentorship programs working with at-risk male youth in New Orleans including Silverback Society, 100 Black Men, and Son of a Saint; 3) the Welcoming Project, a one-on-one mentorship program engaging systems-involved youth

who are returning to the New Orleans community from incarceration; and 4) Healthy Start New Orleans, which provides mentorship and support to new fathers.





MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Utilizing mediums such as film, photography, graphic design and social media, IWES creates award-winning projects and campaigns to share our comprehensive vision of health and contribute new voices and lenses to the fields of media and communications.

PROGRAM

Media & Communications (COMMS)

In 2019, the Media and Communications department excitedly launched Mosaic, the theme of this report and a continuation of the IWES goal of bringing honest portrayals of important health issues through a new lens, giving a voice to those often overlooked or misrepresented. The Mosaic website is a new way to consolidate all of IWES' varied media outputs, and to share behind the scenes moments, sneak peeks and trailers of new projects, discussions that explore the intersection of media and health, and, of course, premieres of IWES' newest pieces.

At the beginning of the year IWES launched a billboard campaign titled "We Are IWES" with quotes and narratives from four IWES health educators. Later in the year, thanks to funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Leadership program, staff furthered the campaign with new In That Number partners BE NOLA and The Welcoming Project. Together a new iteration of the In That Number campaign was developed to focus on two community-identified priority areas; education and juvenile justice. Staff hold focus groups to determine what to focus each aspect of the campaign on with around 50 youth and adult participants. The team interviewed and developed narratives for five formerly incarcerated youth and six New Orleans educators. The campaign focused on the

education and juvenile justice systems to highlight how prevalent trauma is among the most vulnerable youth and those who encounter our youth everyday. Staff also hosted an In That Number Criminal Justice Sector Working Group Dinner with 10 attendees, where findings were presented from the focus groups to folks working within & around the system to continue to determine the focus of the campaign and facilitate networking opportunities.

To share this work on a global scale, the COMMS team presented "From Public Will to Social Marketing: Lessons from a Campaign Promoting Trauma-Informed Care in Post-Katrina New Orleans" at the World Social Marketing Conference, focusing on the transition of In That Number from a public will campaign to a social marketing campaign. The team also published three summary reports for In That Number, one per sector on findings from the research, and one on the entire process.

In 2019, the Media & Communications department also released multiple films and projects including:



i'm still me

IWES' Director of Media and Communications, Iman Shervington, was selected to create a short film for Visual AIDS' Day With(out) Art. Iman created I'm Still Me, a short film that explores how digital platforms have created community and connections for Sian, a Black woman living with HIV and navigating the stigma and misinformation that is prevalent in the American South. The film enjoyed over 100 screenings in the US and abroad on World AIDS Day.



And What Happened After That?

Told through a series of five short episodes that can also be combined to create a full short film, *And What Happened After That?* captures the everyday struggles of youth at a New Orleans high school as they sort through their sexual and emotional health, identities and the possibility of new love. The series premiered at the 2019 New Orleans Film Festival and is also being used to support IWES' adolescent health curriculum.



CARE Documentary

Through the generous support of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, beginning in 2017, IWES convened a group of community leaders from various fields in New Orleans to explore their own self care. Through in-person events and trainings with ample opportunity to talk, process and reflect, fitness and wellness activities (such as yoga and cooking demonstrations) and retreats, the Compassionate and Restorative Engagement program, or CARE, allowed participants the space to think about their emotional well-being, resilience and healing. This brief documentary captures the experience over the three years of the program, and it debuted at IWES' Katrina Commemoration Event.



iTP3 Design Cadre

Our Director of Media and Communications, Iman Shervington, was accepted to participate in Texas A&M University's Innovative Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program's (iTP3) Design Cadre to be trained in human-centered design tactics. Following her training, Iman led four design sprints with IWES staff, partners and outside health educators to think through an IWES digital platform to deliver comprehensive sexuality education.

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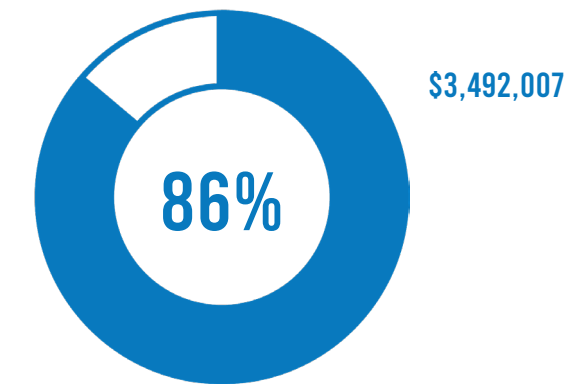
FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED \$	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED \$	TOTAL \$
Federal Grants	\$ 2,119,464	\$ 0	\$ 2,119,464
Private Grants	0	3,375,809	3,375,809
Contract Income	307,037	0	307,037
Contributions & Donations	4,950	0	4,950
Other Income	43,728	0	43,728
Net Assets Released From Restrictions:			
Satisfaction Of Restrictions	<u>1,420,475</u>	<u>(1,420,475)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Support and Revenues	3,895,654	1,955,334	5,850,988
EXPENSES			
Program Services	3,492,007	0	3,492,007
Supporting Services:			
Fundraising	220,678	0	220,678
Management and General	<u>352,133</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>352,133</u>
Total Expenses	4,064,818	0	4,064,818
Change In Net Assets	(169,164)	1,955,334	1,786,170
Net Assets, Beginning Of Year	<u>514,377</u>	<u>1,524,910</u>	<u>2,039,287</u>
Net Assets, End Of Year	\$ 345,213	\$ 3,480,244	\$ 3,825,457

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES



SUPPORTING SERVICES

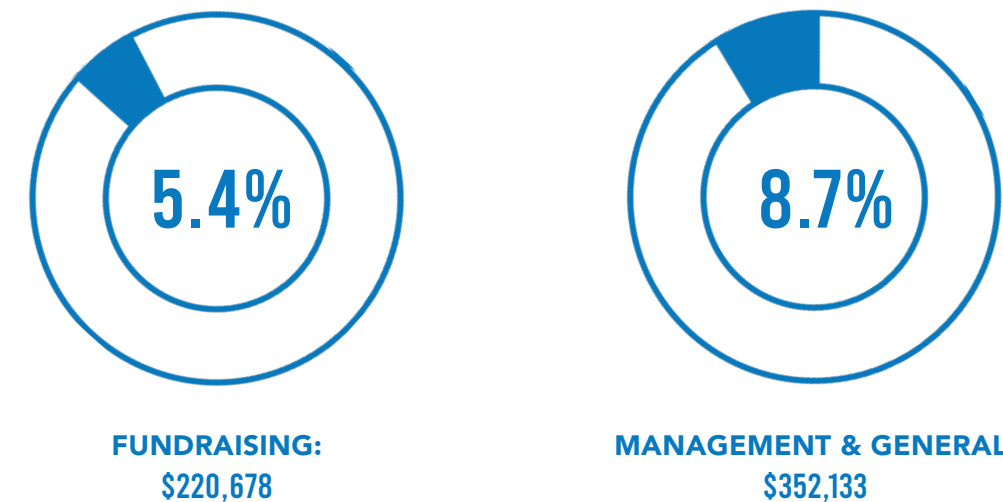


PHOTO CREDIT

COVER: Iman Shervington, Jason Foster, Lucy Blumberg, Cardinal Seawell

INTERIOR COVER: Jason Foster, Jake Springfield

TABLE OF CONTENTS: Jason Foster

PAGES 2-3: Jason Foster

PAGES 4-5: Iman Shervington, Jason Foster

PAGE 6: Jason Foster

PAGE 8: Jason Foster

PAGE 9: Iman Shervington, Jason Foster, Jake Springfield

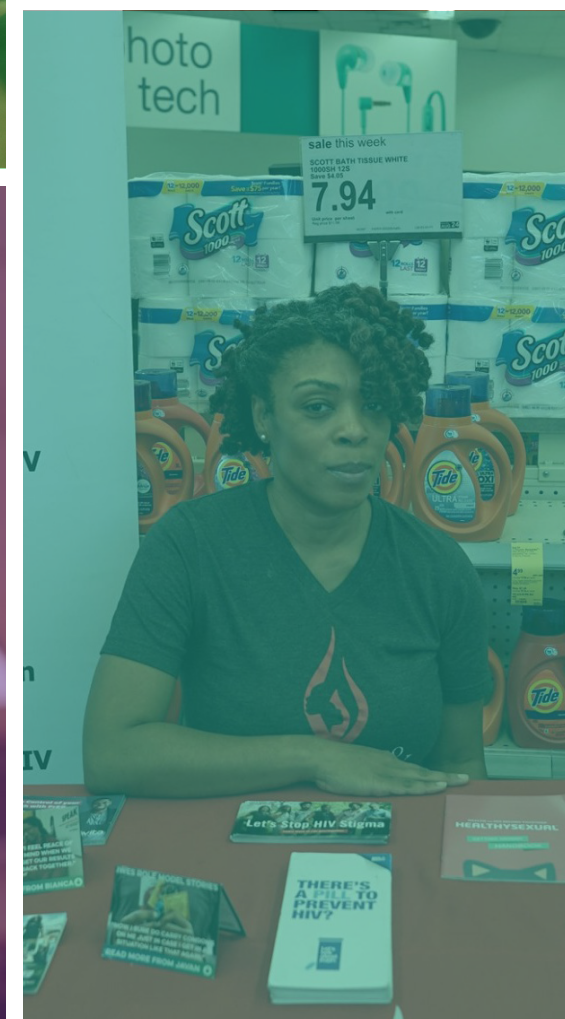
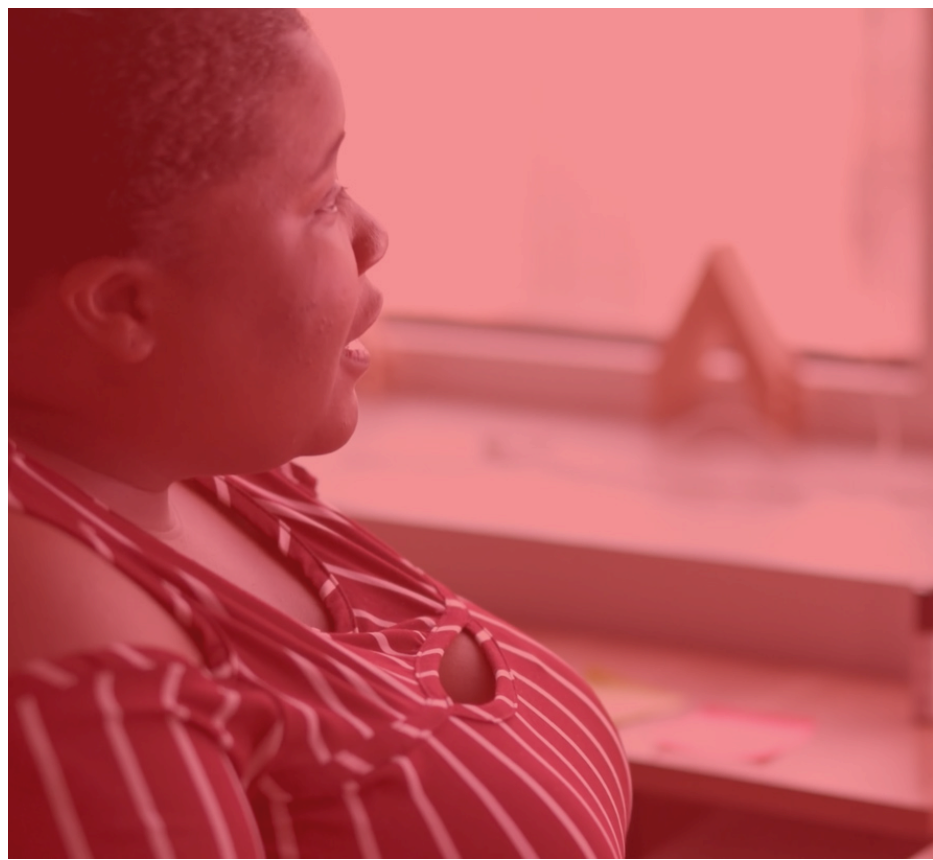
PAGES 10-15: Jason Foster

PAGES 16-17: Iman Shervington, Jason Foster

PAGE 18: Kaelyn Charbonnet

PAGE 19: Iman Shervington, Jake Springfield, Jason Foster

BACK COVER: Iman Shervington, Jason Foster, Chenier H. Taylor





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