

## Living Out Our Shared Responsibility: A New Model of Care

Friends—For the first time, we are on the cusp of an **AIDS free generation**. These big words require a shared responsibility. Today, medicine has allowed our HIV positive brothers and sisters to live a long and healthy life. Unfortunately though, less than 40% of our HIV+ brothers and sisters are actually retained in care and only 25% are virally suppressed and adherent to medications. In other words, **3 out of 4 people living with HIV in the United States are not living to their full potential**. Why? What is happening? How can this be?

Many of our brothers and sisters who are HIV+ and living in poverty, simply put, lack relationships. So, we are on a mission to make relationships more intentional and to partner with our HIV+ brothers and sisters to move from transaction to transformation by utilizing a model: **The Open Table**.

Because poverty is an indicator of adherence to an HIV medication regimen, **HopeSprings** has recently selected Open Table's nationally recognized poverty transformation model to help those who are HIV+ and in poverty to live into their human potential. In Open Table, 10-12 volunteers from faith communities invest their vocational/life experiences and networks to create and implement life plans for individuals and families. Alleviating poverty to live better with HIV is a groundbreaking approach to addressing the holistic needs of our brothers and sisters who are HIV+.

On Saturday, October 26, we officially launched tables with four churches here in Baltimore (Central Presbyterian Church, Grace Fellowship Church, Church of the Nativity and GraceCity—along with members from Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church and Govans Presbyterian Church) who are a part of this Journey with us as we work with Open Table, The JACQUES Initiative, and the Baltimore City Health Department to launch this movement. During our initial training, the Assistant Commissioner of HIV/AIDS Services for the City of Baltimore Dr. Patrick Chaulk spoke, emphasizing the need for the faith community to respond to this clarion call. **It is not only wanted, it is necessary**. Shared responsibility... partnership with government and the faith community... all working together to GET TO ZERO.

Lastly, I recently spoke with a brother who said, "I am one of the multitudes who must be invisible YET in the midst of illness, rejection, isolation and probably death—out of the darkness—hands reaching out—not family, friends or lovers, but strangers."

A stranger—becoming a friend—making a commitment to build a relationship. THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH.

So what can you do?

1. Pray. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are HIV positive. Pray for our table members and churches as we launch this new initiative. Pray and ask God if He is calling you to join this movement.
2. Contact us so we can speak with you and your Pastor. Although this is starting in Baltimore, it can be launched in your hometown. Reach out to us now: [tables@hopesprings.org](mailto:tables@hopesprings.org) or call **410-323-0005**.

***I will not die but live and will proclaim what the Lord has done. ~ Psalm 118:17***

Thank you for being a part of the proclamation story of what God is doing in the lives of our HIV+ brothers and sisters. Thank you for sharing in the responsibility of welcoming all to Christ's table.

Erin Donovan  
HopeSprings, Executive Director  
5400 Loch Raven Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21239  
[www.hopesprings.org](http://www.hopesprings.org)  
(410) 323-0005

