



**Liver Health
Connection**

2015 Annual Report

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University of Colorado Denver
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Message from the Chair



It seemed as though every month of 2015 had a new and amazing announcement about hepatitis C. Many more baby boomers and those with risk factors were tested. Multiple new treatments were approved by the Food and Drug Administration. More patients were treated, including those who were “warehoused”, that is, waited after the launch of protease inhibitors in 2011 for the more effective direct acting antivirals of today. These rapid changes affect how we do business and our future in unexpected ways.

The staff and Board of Directors have spent the last couple of years investigating the hepatitis C business model and what it meant for our future. Although you now know us as Liver Health Connection, we spent considerable time determining what new programs would propel us into the future, what we should call ourselves because of the expanded programs, and then identifying a mission statement that reflected this new reality.

At the very core of our organization is a desire to help people live long lives despite their liver disease, or to help them achieve a cure from their liver disease. The model that Ann Jesse and others set up and has worked for twenty years still makes sense, and we are pleased to share this annual report which describes our accomplishments as Hep C Connection. *Enjoy.*

Charlie Hebeler, 2015 Chair

Hep C Connection Board of Directors

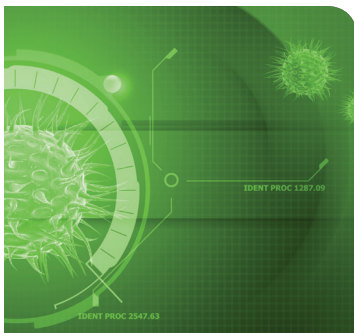
Desserts & Delights

There are some years where you need to pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. The 2015 Desserts & Delights became just that, a love fest for the amazing work the staff and Board did to find people with HCV and link them to care. We also “showed some love” to those who founded the organization, to those who left us too soon, and to our amazing current situation where we have multiple cures on the market.

Some of the hot auction items were the three-bedroom house in Oahu, dinner at the trendiest restaurants in town, and walking the red carpet for opening night of the Denver Film Festival! We are grateful to our sponsors for underwriting the event and for our volunteers and staff for their hard work making the night a success.



More photos on the back page



**We provided
HCV antibody
tests to 2,054
people – a
new record!**



Twenty Years of Saving Lives

In 1995, a small group of patient advocates, led by Ann Jesse, banded together to form Hep C Connection. The idea was simple: use current patients to help new patients understand what was happening within their body due to the hepatitis C viral infection and understand the options for cure. We learned from our patients, expanded our programs, began lobbying Congress, pushing pharma and anyone who would listen to do more. By conservative estimates, we have worked directly with 100,000 patients on every aspect of this pervasive disease through our HelpLine, support groups, educational programs, and health fairs.

Over our twenty-year history, we've grown into one of the most respected organizations in the U.S. working to eradicate hepatitis C. We decided to capitalize on that success and changed our name, logo, mission, and programs in 2016. So, stay tuned for our next chapter!



**We educated 1,137 homeless
youth and persons in
community corrections
about HCV and HIV**

Restrictions to HCV Cures Requires Strong Advocacy Efforts

New direct acting antivirals have ushered in excitement about being cured of the hepatitis C virus. However, that excitement quickly turned to frustration because the prices of treatment set by the pharmaceutical companies were out of reach for most people. To control costs, insurance companies and public payers put up significant restrictions, so that only the sickest had access to therapy. We believe that everyone deserves to be cured of HCV, so Hep C Connection went into "action" mode by testifying at public hearings, meeting with legislators, the Governor's staff, and Medicaid leadership, and by commissioning a study by the Center for Disease Analysis on the savings to Colorado by loosening restrictions so that more people in Medicaid may be cured.

We were able to make the case to the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado General Assembly that treating people earlier in the disease progression will save Colorado money on the cost of care as well as reduce the costs of co-morbidities.

The World Health Organization and World Hepatitis Alliance invited us to the first ever World Hepatitis Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, where we learned from our colleagues throughout the 84 countries represented. The second World Hepatitis Summit will be held in Brazil in 2017.

As you can see from these efforts, we are committed to working locally, nationally and internationally so that everyone has an opportunity to achieve a cure.



**We assisted hundreds
of people already diagnosed
with HCV through our
HelpLine, Help4Hep, and
in support groups**

Baby Boomer Testing



Hep C Connection staff performed antibody tests at 12 of the events coordinated by 9 Health Fair.

National Testing Day



Testing at the Webb Building in downtown Denver for National Testing Day

Political Action



Liver Health Connection Executive Director Nancy Steinfurth testifies before the Colorado Legislature's House Health Committee

Political Action



Chris Grano accepting a testing resolution from the El Paso County Commissioners



Chris Grano at our testing booth at the African-American Health Fair



The U.S. contingent at the first ever World Hepatitis Summit, Glasgow, Scotland

Financials

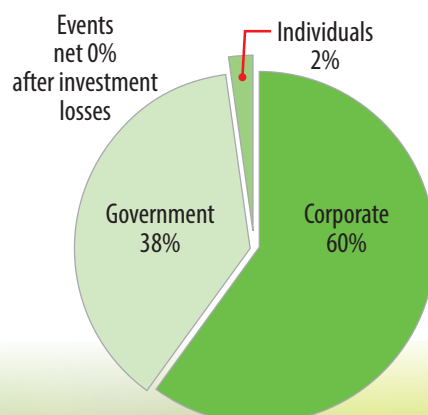
Support and Revenue

Direct and Indirect Contributions.....	\$12,679
Fundraising Event	28,185
Contracts & Grants from State of Colorado	207,374
Grants from Corporations	330,100
Unrealized gains (losses).....	(33,667)
Realized Investment Income	5,052
TOTAL	\$549,723

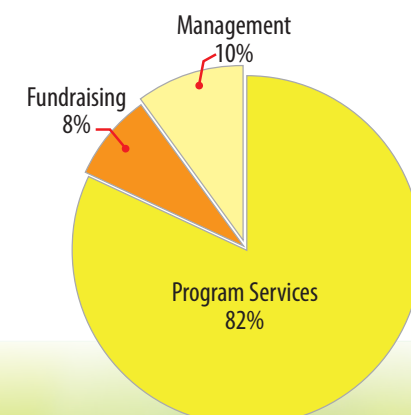
Functional Expenses

Program Services	411,090
Fundraising	40,077
Management	51,137
TOTAL	\$502,304

Revenue



Expenses



**Thank You to
our Outgoing
Board Members:**

Jolene McKenna
and **Debbie Stolz**,
who were instrumental
in our new direction.



**Welcome to
New Board
Members:**

Jack Blumenthal and
Tanya Mann



**Congratulations to
our 2016 Officers:**

Linda Pryor, *Chair*;
Denise Leadon, PhD,
Treasurer; and
Brad Young, *Secretary*

Liver Health Connection Funders

Our thanks go out to the following
corporations, foundations, and government
entities for supporting Liver Health
Connection at the \$1,000 or higher level:

- **AbbVie**
- **Evan Banker, in tribute to
Clark Kulig, MD**
- **Bristol-Myers Squibb**
- **CPR, Inc.**
- **CVS Caremark**
- **Colorado Department of
Public Health and Environment**
- **Genentech**
- **Gilead Sciences, Inc.**
- **Janssen Therapeutics**
- **Merck**
- **PhRMA**
- **South Denver Gastroenterology**
- **University of Colorado Hospital
Transplant Center**
- **Walgreens**

thank you!

Desserts & Delights



**Liver Health
Connection**

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Denver, CO 80222
HelpLine 1.800.522.4372
Fax 303.860.7481
www.liverhealthconnection.org

The mission of Liver Health Connection is to promote liver health, provide education,
and to support and advocate on behalf of those affected by liver diseases.

Nancy Steinfurth	<i>Executive Director</i>	720.917.3965
Karen Chappelow	<i>Director of Community Outreach</i>	720.917.3960
Melissa Hobkirk	<i>CHAPP Manager</i>	717.644.2741
Charlie Garcia	<i>Community Outreach Specialist</i>	720.917.3973
Robert McGoey	<i>Patient Navigator</i>	720.917.3972