



COVID-19 has reminded many people of the early days of HIV/AIDS. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, comparisons have been made between it and the spread of AIDS. One of these parallels is the way they both impact vulnerable populations.

The Sweet Emergency Fund is a safety net for HIV/AIDS patients to ensure they can afford medical care and expenses associated with living with HIV/AIDS. These funds are made possible by donations from our generous supporters. Several of our fundraisers have been forced to be canceled or postponed due to the pandemic. Luckily, we had a reserve, but that is now running low.

KU School of Medicine-Wichita Medical Practice Association treats approximately 1,400 HIV patients at the Midtown Clinic in Wichita, along with at satellite clinics in Garden City, Salina and Pittsburg.



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The Sweet Emergency Fund



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE WICHITA
MEDICAL PRACTICE
ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas

Patients at a glance

Approximately 1,400 patients, with more than 170 at satellite clinics in Garden City, Salina and Pittsburg.

- Over **90%** of our patients are virally suppressed, meaning they cannot spread HIV
- **13%** Hispanic, **29%** Black/African American, **22.3%** female
- **53%** have income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level
- More than **50%** are over the age of 50
- **93.2%** of newly diagnosed patients were linked to medical care within 30 days
- **75%** of patients seen in 2020 were retained in care, a decline attributed to COVID-19
- **99.5%** of current patients are prescribed antiretroviral therapy
- Patients range in age from 2-86 years



We add an average of 133 HIV-positive patients each year to the clinic. These patients are new to the area, returning to the practice or newly diagnosed. Of the new patients the past three years, 184 were newly diagnosed.

Cost at a glance

The standard of care for HIV patients involves four routine appointments annually, which include office visit charges, labs and medications. One of the most used HIV medications costs around **\$3,400** a month or **\$40,800** annually. Some patients are prescribed several HIV medications or other medications for diabetes, high blood pressure and other comorbidities.

HIV patients are living longer, and this makes the cost of lifetime medical care increase. Many of Dr. Sweet's patients have been in her care for more than **30** years. KUSM-W MPA Midtown Clinic currently has **162** people who were diagnosed in or before 1996. **11.5%** of HIV patients at KU have been positive for over 25 years. Dr. Sweet saw her first HIV patient in 1983.

The Sweet Emergency Fund can help alleviate these elevated costs for our patients.

- First appointment costs prior to enrolling in Ryan White services
- Copays for medications
- Copays for treatments rendered by other specialty providers
- Meds when someone is new to clinic, newly positive or unemployed
- Transportation to medical appointments
- Emergency housing-related expenses
- Specialty medical appointments when patient does not have insurance
- Durable medical equipment
- Expenses that are not eligible to be covered through a Federal grant

How can you help?

Typically, our fundraising efforts throughout the year bring in roughly \$50,000. While we hope to be able to plan something again soon, until that time the need is still there. Please consider a donation to support the Sweet Emergency Fund and help care for our patients in need.



My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

OR

Please charge my credit card:

MC VISA DISC AMEX

for the amount of \$ _____

Name on card _____

Card number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____ CVV code _____
(3-digit code found on back)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT TO:

THE SWEET EMERGENCY FUND

1010 N. Kansas, Suite 3034
Wichita, KS 67214

IF YOU PREFER TO MAKE A DONATION BY
PHONE, PLEASE CALL **316-293-3595**.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CALL **316-293-3595**
OR EMAIL **GWARD3@KUMC.EDU**.

