

BESTD Mission Statement

The mission of BESTD Clinic is to provide quality professional diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases as well as HIV/AIDS prevention counseling and testing in a manner that is sensitive to the sexual orientation and gender identity of our clients. BESTD Clinic provides its services at no cost.

BESTD History

The BESTD Clinic has a long tradition of volunteers providing health services to the Milwaukee community. The BESTD Clinic arose from a rising incidence of sexually transmitted diseases in gay and bisexual men and the need for competent and sensitive health care. It was established in October 1974 by the Gay People's Union and located at Broadway and St. Paul in Milwaukee.

In 1981 the Brady East STD Clinic established it's facility at its present location. Dr. Roger Gremminger, a volunteer physician, board member and building owner, donated his property equity to BESTD.

While traditionally focusing on the diagnosis, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, BESTD, because of its entirely

volunteer staff, has been flexible and swift to respond to new challenges.

In 1983 and 1984, BESTD volunteers began preliminary responses to what we now know as a serious epidemic. The board of directors formed the Milwaukee AIDS Project as a committee of the BESTD Clinic. As the complexity and demands of HIV disease and AIDS increased, it became obvious that an appropriate Milwaukee response was far beyond the capacity of the dedicated group of volunteers. The Milwaukee AIDS Project was divested from BESTD and became an independent entity in January 1986. The Milwaukee AIDS Project later became the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Reaching out to those at risk, clinic volunteers initiated one of the nation's first "outreach clinics" for off-site testing of STDs in the 1970's. BESTD was one of the earliest pioneers in HIV testing including the state's first outreach HIV testing which began in 1987 at the Wreck Room and M&M Club and continues today at dozens of outreach sites. BESTD Clinic also led the nation with the first large-scale outreach use of the 'Rapid' HIV test at Pridefest in 2003. Today,

BESTD is one of the most active and accessible HIV testing sites in the State of Wisconsin.

Supporting BESTD

BESTD Clinic has been supported by donations since it's inception in 1974. The BESTD all-volunteer staff provides counseling, testing and treatment, as well as vaccinations and medications to our clients free of charge. The donations you generously give are what allow BESTD to continue to help the community. Feel confident in knowing that what is donated to BESTD goes towards helping our clients; not one cent goes to salaries since there are no salaries to pay!

You can help BESTD continue its work by volunteering, donating when you visit the clinic, sending a check or designating BESTD Clinic through the United Way. BESTD Clinic is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit entity, making your donations tax deductible.

BESTD
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Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic Services

Free Counseling:

- Anonymous counseling both before and after your HIV test
- HIV/STD prevention and risk reduction counseling
- Medical Early Intervention with those testing positive for HIV infection

Free Testing:

- HIV: Anonymous (no name) or confidential
- HIV results available in less than one hour
- STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) testing for men
- Hepatitis B screening
- HIV testing outreaches at sites frequented by gays and lesbians

Free Vaccinations:

- Hepatitis A vaccinations for gay & bisexual men*
- Hepatitis B vaccinations for everyone

Free Treatment:

- In-clinic diagnosis of STDs
- Treatment and follow up of most STDs for men

Free Prevention and Educational Materials:

- Condoms
- Brochures

BESTD Clinic Hours

HIV Counseling and Testing:

Mondays & Tuesdays
6:00pm-8:30pm

Men's STD Clinic:

Tuesdays
6:00pm-8:30pm
Walk in, no appointment
First come, first serve basis

BESTD Clinic Outreaches:

See www.bestd.org for this month's listing of outreach dates, times and locations

Support Groups:

See www.bestd.org for a listing of support groups and meeting times

Additional Resources on STDs:

www.cdc.gov
www.glma.org
www.gayhealth.com

STD/HIV Info Line 800-227-8922

Additional Resources on HIV:

www.aids.org
www.thebody.com

STD/HIV Info Line 800-227-8922

Please see our website for any changes in our hours or services

BESTD

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Serving the gay and lesbian community since 1974



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www.bestd.org

*Hepatitis A vaccines are supplied by the State of Wisconsin specifically for gay & bisexual men, IV drug users, American Indians and the sexual partners of the above. Hepatitis B vaccines have no restrictions.