



**Memphis  
Center for  
Reproductive  
Health**

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## **MEMPHIS NONPROFIT FEATURED IN INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS REPORT**

### **Achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls through the HIV response**

On July 17, 2011, the [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS \(UNAIDS\)](#) and [The ATHENA Network](#) launched the report, *Community Innovations: Achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls through the HIV response*. The Memphis Center for Reproductive Health (MCRH) is one of only two U.S. based programs featured in the report. MCRH's efforts to integrate HIV prevention, testing, and care into sexual and reproductive health services is detailed in the case study, *Service Providers in the United States: Leading the integration of HIV into sexual and reproductive health and rights services*.

For over 20 years, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS providers have been working on parallel, yet separate paths. Women's needs related to HIV and reproductive health care often inextricably linked. Not only do reproductive health clients need to understand their risks for HIV and take these risks into account when making decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, but women living with HIV have pregnancy prevention and planning needs as well. The integration of reproductive health and HIV works to fully meet the reproductive health needs of women, and offers them more comprehensive information for decisions making. Reproductive health providers also have access to many women who may never seek the services of an HIV/AIDS provider.

**People with HIV are living longer lives, and they don't stop being sexual beings after diagnosis. Women's desires for family or children may change after receiving an HIV diagnosis, but they don't disappear." -Jennifer Marshall, Assistant Director, MCRH**

MCRH's [Parallel Paths](#) and [Caminos Paralelos](#) projects, sponsored by the generous support of the [MAC AIDS Fund](#) and the [Mid South AIDS Fund](#), seek to increase awareness, knowledge, and collaborations among reproductive health and HIV/AIDS service providers in order to ensure the sexual health needs of women in Memphis/Shelby County are met in a comprehensive manner. Reproductive health care is an important component of ongoing HIV medical care. All PLWHAs deserve careful evaluation for and treatment of reproductive health issues. In March 2011, MCRH received funding from [Ryan White Part A program](#) administered by the [Shelby County Government Division of Community Services](#) to provide [outpatient reproductive health care for persons living with HIV/AIDS](#).

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**If you would like more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Jennifer Marshall, Assistant Director, at 901-791-9384 or [jmarshall@mcrh-tn.org](mailto:jmarshall@mcrh-tn.org).**

The Memphis Center for Reproductive Health is a non-profit health clinic founded in 1974 whose mission is to empower individuals in the Mid-South community to make informed choices for and about their reproductive health. MCRH's comprehensive approach to patient care reflects the life-long needs and experiences of women, men and teens in achieving and maintaining reproductive health. Services include general gynecological care, STI testing and treatment, free HIV testing and treatment referrals, preconception counseling and fertility services, community health education, and first trimester abortion care.