



## *Milwaukee Area*

### **BESTD Clinic Celebrates Three Decades of Community Service**

Milwaukee - On October 16 the Brady East STD Clinic will celebrate thirty years of providing the Milwaukee community free STD counseling, testing, treatment and medication.

The clinic was founded in 1974 by the Gay People's Union in response to the rise of sexually transmitted diseases in gay and bisexual men and the need for competent and sensitive health care. Originally located at Broadway and St. Paul, the clinic moved to its current location on Brady Street in 1981 after Dr. Roger Gremminger, volunteer physician and board member, donated his Brady Street building to BESTD.

The clinic's progressive and proactive strategy, fueled by the efforts of a dedicated volunteer work force, was responsible for one of the nation's first "outreach clinics" for off-site testing of STDs in the 1970s. BESTD has continued to be a leader in its outreach efforts and spearheaded the nation's first large-scale outreach use of the "Rapid" HIV test at Milwaukee's Pridefest in 2003. Today, BESTD remains one of the most active and accessible HIV testing sites in the state of Wisconsin.

Recently, the clinic's community service was recognized with a grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund and a formal commendation from Wisconsin governor Jim Doyle.

"BESTD Clinic is proud to have served the Milwaukee community for the past thirty years," said Kevin Lynch, BESTD president. "And we are proud of our great volunteer staff of physicians, advisors, counselors and technicians. Their selfless dedication allows us to apply every single dollar directly toward helping our patients and continuing our mission of providing quality professional health services at no cost"

The Brady East STD Clinic is a Milwaukee based clinic whose services include: free anonymous or confidential HIV testing and counseling, free hepatitis vaccinations, free men's STD testing, diagnosis and treatment, traveling HIV testing and counseling clinics, educational programming and support groups.

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. For more information, visit online at [www.bestd.org](http://www.bestd.org).

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