

Knowing in '09 Campaign Debuts

Young people are powerful agents of change in their immediate and extended communities. **Knowing in '09** is a call to action from gay teens to gay teens. Developed by a group of 13 young men who are participants in BAS' CODE RED program, the messages of **Knowing in '09** have been created to help reduce HIV infection and HIV testing stigma and fears by normalizing the dialogue among teens. **Knowing in '09** encourages a collective response to ending the scourge of HIV on Latino and Black gay adolescents and young adults and encourages gay teens in relationships to know each other's status by testing together and supporting each other. This campaign is first and foremost fed by the real experiences of teens living in the South Bronx with a passion for protecting their community!

CODE RED is a two week community organizing and education intensive skills building training for gay Latino and Black young men ages 13 - 24. For more information about the CODE RED program, contact the BAS Prevention Site at (718) 295-5690 or visit www.basnyc.org.



young men and HIV
from 2001 to 2006,
new HIV infections
have increased 33%
among young men
under the age of 30



KNOWING IN '09

ONLY WE CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
HIV IN OUR COMMUNITY.

CODE RED

For more info or a free HIV test
call BAS @ 718-295-5690 or visit us
on the web: www.basnyc.org



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HANDS & HEARTS
making a difference

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OUR MISSION

"Bronx AIDS Services is committed to improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to deliver consumer-centered services to people living with HIV/AIDS, to people at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS, and to people affected by HIV/AIDS. We do this through education, advocacy, outreach, direct services, prevention programs and connecting people to care. We commit to being a safe haven for clients, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, immigrant or economic status."

Newsletter Editor

Martha Jordan States

Design and Printing

Bronx Design Group

Faith Community Leaders Are Part of the Solution

Faith leaders from Co-op City and the Northeast Bronx gathered on the evening of February 7th at the Church of God's Children for a National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Faith Based Community Dialog hosted by Rev. Nancy Rosario and Archbishop Angelo Rosario of the Bronx Clergy Task Force. Six faith leaders took part in a panel discussion about how to address and respond to HIV/AIDS with their congregations, and shared different strategies for working together for a shared solution. It was an honest look at the nature of the disease and how religious institutions can work together to break down stigma and barriers by educating their communities and encouraging testing among congregants. Concurrently, BAS mobile units provided testing at the Muslim Women's Research Center and Greater Refuge Church.

Our thanks go to the following panelists: Father William Taylor, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church; Minister Vicki Rosa, Church of God's Children; Deacon Helen Atkins, Community Protestant Church; Pastor Deborah Jenkins, Faith @ Work Christian Church; Rev. Dwight Sibbles, Ebenezer United Pentecostal Church and Rev. Cheryl Williams Wells of Salvation Christian Church.

The dialogue that started on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day has been a door opener to other events at other congregations within the Co-op City area. On March 26th, the Faith @ Work congregation hosted their first Chat and Chew in observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.



Archbishop Angelo Rosario of the Bronx Clergy Task Force introduces faith leaders and welcomes the public to the faith-based community dialogue on HIV



BAS Community Services Coordinator Sojourner McCauley discussing the impact of HIV/AIDS on women of color at the Chat and Chew event sponsored by Common Ground



Why the Faith Community?

92.5% of Americans claim religious affiliation. Places of worship have a proud and important history of leading social change, helping their communities and reaching even the hardest of hard-to-reach populations.

Support BAS Today

I would like to make a gift to Bronx AIDS Services of

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Bronx AIDS Services" and send to:

Bronx AIDS Services, Inc., 540 E. Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458
Attn: Development Office

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To make a credit card donation, please call (718) 295-5605, ext 228
or to make an online donation, go to www.basnyc.org.

Students Supporting BAS

Everyone can make a difference! Elementary, middle school, high school and college students have not only held fundraisers, but have also volunteered in the Nutrition/Pantry Program, Legal Advocacy Program, Prevention, Case Management and Fundraising. BAS salutes all of these young people for their hard work and their commitment to their community. For information on how you can get involved, contact the BAS Development Office via email at development@basnyc.org.



Fordham University students with BAS Executive Director Jose Davila. The students presented BAS with a donation of over \$1,000 from the proceeds of fundraisers they have held this year.

Bridging the Gap for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Adolescent Coordinator Traci Callender welcomed conference guests at Hostos Community College



Keynote Speaker Dr. Monica Sweeney with BAS Executive Director Jose Davila



Community Health Educator Millie Ross encouraged communication between mothers and daughters.



Motivational Speaker Dawn Breedon shared her inspiration with the audience as Dr. Monica Sweeney of the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene looks on

On March 14th, over 100 women and girls gathered at Hostos Community College to take part in BAS' first conference for Women and Girls, held in collaboration with local Faith-Based Organizations in the Bronx and funded by the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA).

Keynote speaker Dr. Monica Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shared some sobering statistics. She observed that New York City continues to be the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS

epidemic in the United States, with findings suggesting that New Yorkers are contracting HIV at three times the national rate. In fact, HIV/AIDS cases in New York City are more than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Washington, DC combined. **What's more, the AIDS death rate is 14 times higher among Black women and 6 times higher among Hispanic women than their Caucasian counterparts.**

What can we do to slow HIV? Dr. Sweeney recommends some structural changes in legislation including an early integration of comprehensive sex education in schools. She also emphasized

destigmatizing and normalizing HIV testing in the community. She counseled youth to delay the initiation of sex, to consistently use condoms during sexual activities, and reduce the number of sexual partners.

In her comments about *Success in the Midst of Adversity*, motivational speaker and author Dawn Breedon inspired the audience by sharing how her faith and forbearance pulled her through adverse situations including her HIV diagnosis in 1991. Ms. Breedon first learned of her status when she was five months pregnant with her first child. A year after the birth of her child, a two-year custody

battle with her child's father began which ended up with a vicious attack on her and the murder of her son.

Another conference speaker, Millie Ross, a Community Health Educator, also shared her experience of living with HIV for the past 20 years. Like Ms. Breedon, she learned of her status when she was pregnant with her son. In her presentation, Ms. Ross emphasized on the importance of abstinence and the practice of safer sex. Ms. Ross encouraged girls to effectively communicate with their mothers about social, health, and emotional issues, and vice versa.



Go Girl program participants Crystal Stovall and Dominique Matthews listen attentively to the speakers at the event



The Wright-Worthy Praise Dance Ministry performing at the Conference.



BAS Youth Theatre Group members Brandon Diaz, Champagne Woods and Qwashawna Wirts perform



women and HIV

In NYC the proportion of females among people living with HIV/AIDS increased from 11% in 1981 to 31% in 2006 — almost three times the original rate — and 37% of new HIV diagnoses in the same year were females in the Bronx, largely women of color.



Bronx ATTITUDE program staff Lynette Ramirez, Janique Clarke Gitten, Program Coordinator Herfa Campbell, DIVA volunteer Sheri Heron and Vanessa Rodriguez.



BAS Nutritionists Laretta Gooden and Vonda da Silva joined by Brandi Perrineau (center) at the Eat Right event.



Chef Keltus

Nutrition Health Fair

On March 27th the BAS Nutrition/Pantry program celebrated National Nutrition Month with its annual Health Fair. The Nutrition/Pantry program provides fresh food and groceries to an average of 365 HIV-positive Bronx residents per month. Over 70 consumers came to hear about the latest research on nutrition and HIV, participate in cooking demonstrations and enjoy a meal together. The highlight of the cooking demonstrations came from Chef Keltus from City Harvest, who prepared Cold Pasta Primavera for the whole group:

Upcoming Events

Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day June 8

Bronx Week (June 13-20)

Sat., 6/13: Kick Off

Mon., 6/15: Youth & Senior Day

Tues., 6/16: Community Awareness Day

Fri., 6/19: Healthy Bronx Day

Sat., 6/20: Bronx PRIDE Parade

GO GIRL! Program

Summer Kick Off..... June 26

National HIV Testing Day ... June 27

3-Day HIV Testing6/29, 6/30 & 7/1

For more info, visit www.basnyc.org

From the Desk of Chef Keltus, City Harvest

Cold Pasta Primavera

Serves 4-6 people

Ingredients:

- 1 (10oz.) pkg. primavera twist
- 1 canned asparagus or 1 fresh bunch
- 1 1/2 cups sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, cut in halves
- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced medium
- 1/2 yellow bell pepper, diced med.
- 1 can sliced black olives
- 1 small head of broccoli flowerets cut into small pieces

Dressing:

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tblspns freshly chopped basil
- 2 small cloves finely minced garlic
- 1/4 tspn salt or a pinch (optional)
- Freshly ground pepper

Method:

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain, rinse with cold water. Drain olive, and asparagus and cut into desired size, e.g. medium slice. Blanch broccoli flowerets, red and yellow peppers in boiling water for 30 seconds, then shuck in cold water; drain and set aside. Cut cherry tomatoes in halves. Combine pasta, asparagus, olives, tomatoes, red and yellow peppers, mushrooms, and broccoli in a serving bowl. Combine dressing ingredients and pour over vegetables. Mix thoroughly and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.

BRONX AIDS SERVICES

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Go Girl! Programs:

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