

THE NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER!

From our first African American President, Barack Obama to our first African American Attorney General, Eric Holder and who would have ever thought the first African American Republican National Committee chair, Michael Steele, African Americans are now well represented in the highest positions in this land.

As the nation moves forward breaking barriers and changing misconceptions about the image, value and contributions of a people, the Nia Alliance is no different. Off to a productive start since early January, the Nia Alliance has expanded its infrastructure, expanded its reach by launching the Nia Alliance New Haven chapter and has created the Men of Color, a 2-week training program geared specifically for men. And, we now have a newsletter to keep you informed, inspired and engaged in the trainings, events and successes of the Nia Alliance.

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

WELCOME 1

BLACK CHURCH
WEEK OF PRAYER 2

SEXUALITY
ROUNDTABLE 3

TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES 4

ABOUT NIA 5

CONGRATULATIONS 4

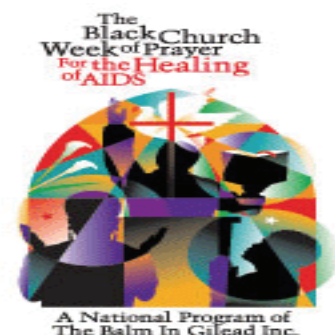
BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER

March 1, 2009 kicked off the Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. *The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS* is a powerful week of prayer, education and action. This national AIDS awareness campaign engages Black congregations to support, encourage and empower African Americans, Africans and all people of the Diaspora to take action toward stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in Black communities worldwide.

This is GBAPP's 10th year of partnering with the Balm in Gilead on the local level in Connecticut. From the kick off service, which was held at End Tabernacle Baptist Church on March 1, through the last service being held at Mount Aery Baptist Church on March 29, GBAPP will have engaged 36

churches in the communities of Bridgeport, Norwalk and New Haven!

Please join us in prayer, worship, advocacy and service for the remaining Week of Prayer events. For more information, please feel free to contact us at (203) 366-8255.



UPCOMING
EVENTS

THE BLACK CHURCH AND SEXUALITY ROUNDTABLE



THE REV. PENNY WILLIS

***DIRECTOR OF
THE NATIONAL BLACK
CHURCH INITIATIVE***

MARCH 21ST 10am-1pm

***EAST END TABERNACLE BAPTIST
CHURCH***

***548 CENTRAL AVENUE BPT, CT
DR. CL STALLWORTH SENIOR PASTOR***

For more info call Nancy Kingwood 366-8255



These funds are provided from a subcontract from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention through a contract with McFarland & Associates, Silver Spring, Maryland

REMINDER: TRAINING OPPORTUNITY...

The Women of Color 3-day leadership training has been confirmed for May 27-29th. The host location will be Mount Aery Baptist Church 73 Frank Street Bridgeport, CT – the time to be confirmed at a later date, however, these will be all day training sessions. If interested, please forward your completed application to Nancy via mail, email or fax. (See attached document). Please note that these are federal trainers! All participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Introduction

The WOCLI is designed to equip and empower a cadre of skilled leaders to understand the policymaking system, the role of advocacy and the need to find a voice in the decision-making process that impacts health for Women of color. This Institute will help Women of color to build leadership in much needed programs and health services to prevent the spread and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS and other health related diseases. Ultimately, this leadership will be instrumental in creating a healthy lifestyle and affecting quality of life for women of color.

The focus of WOCLI is more than just on one's ability to address issue of diagnosing, treating and preventing HIV/AIDS; it is about the fact that Women of color have long been disproportionately affected by chronic yet preventable diseases, which often are diagnosed too late and negatively impact longevity and quality of life. NMAC recognizes that now more than ever, strong Women's leadership in health policy is critically important.

Leadership

While these facts paint a grim picture, strength in women's leadership can turn our adversity into our ally. WOCLI aims to do this by targeting women of color in agencies and community organizations addressing health disparities and build leadership by envisioning how one's voice can change one's future and join other women in the tides that bind.

Leadership:
While the HIV facts paint a grim picture, strength in women's leadership can turn our adversity into our ally.

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES...

We are currently recruiting new Nia Alliance Participants!

2nd Men's Cohort: April 21, 28 and May 5. Classes will be held Tuesday nights at 72 George St, Bridgeport, CT.

5th Women's Cohort: June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Classes will be held Monday nights at GBAPP 158 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport, CT.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Training

Nancy is in the processing of identifying and scheduling training sessions for the Alliance. The first training is on Sexually Transmitted Diseases. The State of CT Department of Public Health will conduct the training. The training will be in the evening.

Please contact Nancy to register or make a referral for the training programs.

ABOUT US

THE NIA ALLIANCE

GBAPP
158 Mill Hill Avenue
Bridgeport,
CT 06610
Tel: 203-366-8255

The Nia Alliance is an initiative with the goal to develop a volunteer network of men and women who are dedicated to learn and respond to the growing HIV epidemic among women of color. In August 2006, GBAPP, Inc. developed a training curriculum to prepare men and women of color to serve as volunteer liaisons to faith-based organization. Objectives for participants completing the training workshop are 1) enhance knowledge of HIV, 2) develop skills to engage peers in HIV-related services, and 3) serve as community liaisons and planning body for HIV awareness events sponsored by GBAPP.

NIA ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

The Nia Alliance is a community mobilization initiative dedicated to equip people of African descent to respond effectively and emphatically to the AIDS epidemic in communities of color through education, advocacy, direct services and community collaboration. Grounded in faith, we recognize the importance of being inclusive and nonjudgmental as we empower our participants to make informed decisions.

For more information regarding the Nia Alliance and GBAPP, please contact:

Contact: Nancy Kingwood, MSHS, CHIVC
Director of HIV and Faith Based Services
158 Mill Hill Avenue
Bridgeport, CT. 06610
Tel: (203) 384-3629
Fax: (203) 367-9588
Email: nkingwood@gbapp.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!

We Welcome Our Newest Nia Alliance Graduates

4th WOMEN'S COHORT

Lori Burgess
Brittney Jackson
Selena Wright
Charmagne Vereen
Gloria Holder

INAUGURAL MEN'S COHORT

Pastor David R. Burgess, Sr.
Courtney Wright
Brenton G. Osborn
Chris Kendrick
Steve Dillon
Antoine Edmond
Elwood Vereen
Bruce Anderson

