

THE NIA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



The Nia Alliance

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2010 A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE HIGHLIGHTS**NIA LAUNCHES THE ASHE HIV FAITH PROJECTS AND MOVES INTO THE HOLLOW!**

The Ashe HIV Faith Project was launched under The Mount Aery Development Corporation (MADC) to strengthen our local community partnerships by bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to maximize local synergies, encourage program collaboration and service integration. Ashe provides referrals to substance abuse treatment, mental health support, primary health care, HIV counseling and testing, and other social services in our partner network.

As reported from Natasha Wright, HIV Intervention Specialist, Ashe has had a wonderful launch in the community. We have started to receive referrals and clients from different community agencies. The clients that we have encountered mostly have the same needs, with the primary needs being employment to housing. For employment, we have made many referrals to Green Up Bridgeport (this initiative is also under The Mount Aery Development Corp), which provides green job training for residents of the city of Bridgeport, but unfortunately, and as you can imagine, there are not enough resources to assist with the housing needs. The Ashe HIV Faith Project is located at 72 George St, Bridgeport, CT 06604, which is in the Hollow Section of Bridgeport.

Residents of the City of Bridgeport can find more information about Green-Up Bridgeport at Mount Aery Baptist Church's website: http://www.mtaerybaptist.org/PDF/Green-Up_Bridgeport.pdf

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO WOMEN IN NEED

With years of providing education and testing for HIV, what was lacking in this great, big City of Bridgeport was a support group for women who are either infected or affected by HIV, so Nia created the Sacred Women Support Group for women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The meetings are held every 4th Wednesday @ 11:00 am and every 3rd Thursday @ 5:30 pm at The Ashe HIV Faith Project. Keeping in the spirit of the holiday season, the Sacred Women Support Group held their first annual holiday dinner. The Sacred Women Support Group meetings are held at 72 George St., Bridgeport, CT 06604. For more information please contact: 203-870-0761. *Tokens are available and light refreshments are served.* All information shared is confidential.

NIA EVENTS

This year Nia hosted a number of events this year. In addition to our national campaigns for Week of Prayer, Our Church Lights the Way and National HIV Testing Day events, this year we held for the first time events for Women and Girl's Day and National Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. While we always enjoy the national events to provide access to prevention and testing to the community, Nia also took on the challenge to host our own events to engage the faith community and partner agencies to mobilize around the issues related to HIV by hosting the *Moving Families Forward: Partners in Prevention, Recovery & Health Promotion: An Introductory Congregational Care Team Ministry Training Workshop* and *Body and Soul Care: A Physician and Pastor Reflect on Living in a World Impacted by HIV/AIDS*, which was the first in a series of four. We are most thankful to our presenters, Rev. Dr. James White of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Partner in Preventions) and Dr. Richard Torres and Rev. Dr. Frederick Streets (Body and Soul Care) who did a great job of engaging and educating our attendees at their respective events.

2010 A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE HIGHLIGHTS

NIA ONLINE!

In an effort to connect with our “friends”, Nia created a [Facebook](#) page. Seeing the success from that social network, we started to Tweet. Fully understanding the value of the web and the need to spread our message of prevention, we were blessed with the Nia Alliance website in the spring, complete with an online calendar! In an effort to take the prevention message to another level, Nia wrote and started in our very own Public Service Announcement (PSA), which can be viewed on our YouTube channel! Finally, we also established standardized email addresses for Nia to streamline communication, with our general email address of: info@niaalliance.com and we utilized EventBrite for registration of our events.

Links to our pages:

Nia Alliance www.niaalliance.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nia-Alliance-for-People-of-Color/134662037173>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ashehiv>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/niaalliance>

NANCY GOES TO CONGRESS!!

Last year over 50 women from Nia and the state had the opportunity to participate in Women of Color Leadership Institute, provided by National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC.org) where we learned how to become better advocates for persons of color with health disparities. This 3 day training earned each participant a certificate of attendance, but more than that we forged relationships and partnerships that are still thriving today! It goes without saying that the training opportunity would not have been possible had it not be for Nancy's tenacity and persistence to get these national trainers to come to an unknown city named Bridgeport! A year later, the trainers where so impressed with Nancy and the success of our 3 day training, that Nancy was selected by NMAC to participate in a committee that would address congress on World AIDS Day 2010!

The goal of this special Congressional Briefing was "*Identifying HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Needs of Women of Color.*" The briefing, sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council and the Women of Color Leadership Institute, in cooperation with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), the National Women's AIDS Collective and the Positive Women's Network, included a discussion on gender-specific needs of women of color in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

As Nancy's guest in Washington, it was a proud moment for me to see that our local efforts were being recognized alongside the work of other community organizations in cities as large as Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, and Oakland to name a few. The finale of the day was the visit to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressman Jim Himes, where we had the opportunity to advocate and express our concerns on behalf of those persons in our communities who are infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. To our pleasant surprise, Congressman Jim Himes is well versed on the subject of HIV/AIDS and he gave Nia the charge to keep him informed and get his agency involved; he also asked that we create a short list of action items that will help reduce the spread of HIV in our communities.

Nia plans to meet that charge as look forward to serving the community in 2011!!

EVENT CALENDAR



Access our calendar below for information regarding our upcoming events.
Please come out and support the community as your calendars permit!

For more information regarding our upcoming events, please bookmark the following web address: <http://www.localendar.com/public/NiaAlliance>

If you're aware of a community or faith based event and would like to add it to the calendar, please submit the following information to newsletter@niaalliance.com

- ◇ Event Name
- ◇ Point of Contact
- ◇ Date and time of Event
- ◇ Description of Event

RESOURCES: WHERE TO FIND IT...

Need HIV, STD or statistical info and not sure where to find it?
See the list of resources below.

FREE LOCAL HIV TESTING LOCATIONS**GBAPP**

258 Mill Hill Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06604
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm
203- 384-3629

Optimus Health Care Incorporated

982 East Main St, Bridgeport, CT 06608
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm
203-696-0085

Southwest Community Health Center

361 Bird St, Bridgeport, CT 06605
Hours: Mon-Fri., 8:30am-5pm
203-330-6000

Yale-New Haven Hospital (AIDS Care Program)

20 York St, New Haven, CT 06651
Hours: Mon., 9am-3pm; Tues., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am-5pm; Wed., 9:30am-3pm
203-688-3298

Norwalk Health Department

137 East Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851
Hours: Mon-Fri., 9am-5pm

HIV/AIDS Statistics

Local Stats: CT Department of Public Health (DPH)

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3135&q=393048>

National Stats: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>

Other Related Information:

STD info: Fact Sheets, Statistics, STD testing Sites, etc:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

Substance Abuse: Treatment facilities, etc:

<http://www.ct.gov/DMHAS/site/default.asp>

2-1-1: referral services for the entire state of CT:

<http://www.infoline.org/>

**REFERRAL
SOURCES:**

**TESTING
SITES,
STATISTICS,
ETC...**

ABOUT NIA

THE NIA ALLIANCE

MADC
72 George Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Tel: 203-870-0761
www.niaalliance.com

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.

The Ashe HIV Faith Project

funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Faith and Community Based Support Initiative

The Ashe Faith Project aims to reduce substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in communities of color by strengthening the partnerships between local community organizations and faith groups, utilizing a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to maximize local synergies, promote program collaboration, and encourage service integration.

For more information regarding the Nia Alliance, please contact:

Contact: Nancy Kingwood, MSHS, CHIVC

Project Director

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**Would you like to
contribute to the
newsletter?**

Please email your article,
event, pictures, etc to
newsletter@niaalliance.com
by the 10th of each month.

