



Bloom - The Iris House Quarterly

Fall 2011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Theresa Mack, M.D., *Chair*
- Nick Charles, *Secretary*
- Naima Walker-Fierce, *Treasurer*
- Joy Allen Altimare
- Eboné M. Bishop
- Jennifer Klot
- Tyrha Lindsey
- Cynthia Taylor
- Ingrid Floyd, *Executive Director*

HONORARY BOARD

- Kate Campana
- Christo, Christo Fifth Avenue
- Susan "Sukey" Wagner



IN THIS ISSUE

- Following the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, Pg. 1
- Welcoming Ofelia, Pg. 2
- Celebrating Two Members of Our Team!, Pg. 2
- Recent Events, Pg. 3

Bloom is published by Iris House, © 2011. Visit us at www.irishouse.org.

Following a National Strategy...and doing it OUR WAY

By Michael Barret Jones

“The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.”

So begins the 2010 National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, and so begins a new stream of Federal level funding for prevention programs, particularly those targeting populations that have been outside the focus of much HIV policy work in the thirty years since the virus was first observed in this country. Iris House, with its vast history of working with underserved populations, is poised to take on the challenge of the NHAS through new and existing programs.



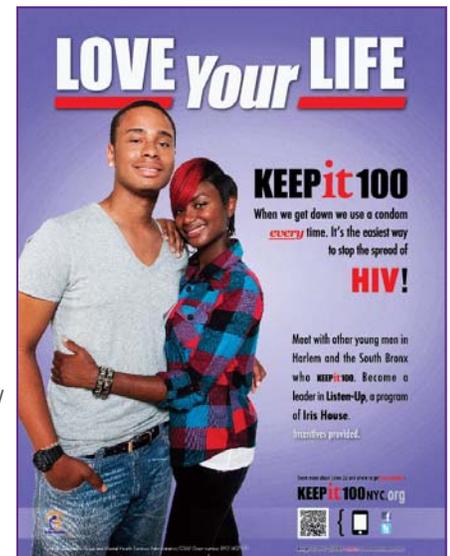
We are excited to share them with you today!

YOU! (Young, Outstanding + Unique!): Several different programs are working directly with teenagers, including our CDC funded intervention SIHLE, for African-American girls from 14-18 years old. Our outreach specialists also teach HIV101 and throw fun Parties with a Purpose, combining education and social interaction for groups of up to 150 teens at a time.

LEADING LADIES: In the Fall of 2010, we launched our program for women in faith-based organizations. Going into churches, masjids and other community groups, our team teaches women not only about HIV prevention, but gives them techniques for talking about the issues inside their congregations, and trains them how to lead interventions and workshops on their own. Iris House has worked with over 300 women at 19 organizations in New York and New Jersey in less than eight months.

LISTEN UP: Our brand new program focusing on men have gotten amazing attention from the media as we launched our Love Your Life: Keep it 100 Advertising campaign. (Visit www.keepit100nyc.org to see some of the press—local, national and international that this program has received!) Working with African-American and Latino men, both heterosexual and those who identify as men who sleep with men, this program is working to address the fact that 90% of the women that Iris House serves contracted HIV through heterosexual contact.

NEW FOR WOMEN WHO SLEEP WITH WOMEN: It’s so new we don’t even have a snazzy title for it, but we have just been awarded the only contract in New York City to run prevention services specifically for lesbians and bisexual women. We’re excited to work with the Bronx Community Pride Center on this new initiative, and look forward to sharing updates with you.



Prevention as Treatment is one of the new approaches to dealing with HIV. Join us and help!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome Ofelia Barrios!

As you read on the front page, Iris House's prevention programs are growing at an incredible rate! This has allowed us (and practically required us!) to bring in a new staff member to serve as our new Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives. We are pleased to announce that Ofelia Barrios joined our team on October 3.



Ofelia, recently of the Latino Commission on AIDS, brings to Iris House a wealth of experience in HIV program planning, prevention education, behavioral interventions, coalition building, evaluation, strategic planning, advocacy, policy, grant writing, capacity building and technical assistance. She is well known throughout the HIV/AIDS community and is tremendously respected for her diligence, efforts and work by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS as well as other community and service agencies, public health agencies and private and public funders. We are very excited to have Ofelia on our team and look forward to taking our already amazing and diverse prevention and testing programs to new levels!

Ingrid Floyd

UNSUNG HEROES RECOGNIZED

By Kimberly Richardson

On July 12, 2011, two outstanding members of the Iris House family, Ms. Antionettea Etienne and Mr. Orbit Clanton, received the NYC Unsung PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) Leadership Award. This award, presented by NYC Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS, recognizes those who work diligently to improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Etienne has been fighting the AIDS epidemic for the past 22 years; although she was first diagnosed in 1997. Her outlook on life was bleak and she was afraid people would know just by looking at her. With the help of Unity Fellowship Church of Christ in Newark, Ms. Etienne knew things would get better; she just had to keep moving forward. Her mentor, Regina Shavers was also instrumental in helping Ms. Etienne get her life together and discover her true calling. That calling was to help others, especially women with HIV and other health concerns. Ms. Etienne has worked in various social service agencies to educate women on HIV prevention and getting tested. Ms. Etienne is an HIV prevention educator, HIV tester and counselor for Iris House. She has also participated on several critical planning committees such as the NYC Planning Council and the NY State Prevention Planning Group. These committees determine spending policies and procedures for the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Ms. Etienne is truly a superstar and a proud member of the Iris House family.

Mr. Orbit Clanton, living with the disease since 1982, lives by the thoughts "To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required," and "I am the voice for those who do not have a voice". When he was first diagnosed, Mr. Clanton didn't believe the results, and didn't pursue treatment because of a severe case of denial. In 2001 Mr. Clanton went to New York Columbia Presbyterian Hospital emergency room with an unknown illness. It was at that time another HIV test was performed and the outcome of the test came back positive once again. Mr. Clanton realized the diagnosis from years earlier was correct. But now, he had full blown AIDS. At this point, Mr. Clanton became very active in taking care of himself. He also wanted to learn more about the disease and advocate for those with no voice. Mr.

Clanton is the President of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church Healing Hope AIDS Ministry. He is a member of several committees including the State of New York Department of Health, AIDS Institute, Community Advisory Council. Mr. Clanton was invited to speak before Congress during hearings on AIDS funding at February's AIDS Watch 2011 and has helped his Iris House family by developing the curriculum and teaching several computer classes at our Westside location.

Iris House congratulates both Antionettea Etienne and Orbit Clanton on winning the NYC Unsung PLWHA Leadership Award.



AWAKEN THE BEAUTY WITHIN BREAKS RECORDS!

The Fifth Annual Awaken the Beauty Within, hosted by celebrity stylist and Iris House honorary Board Member Christo on October 17th was a smashing success, raising nearly \$29,000 — nearly double what we raised in 2010!



Many thanks to Christo and his amazing staff for their generosity of time and talent in helping put

together this evening of services and performances, to violinist Gregory Harrington and his group for their beautiful music, and to all of the donors, silent



auction bidders, raffle buyers, event sponsors and supporters who made this annual event a success!



Photos: Top: Board members Joy Allen, Theresa Mack, Jennifer Klot, Naima Walker-Fierce and Ingrid Floyd with Christo; Middle: Gregory Harrison performs; Bottom Left: a guest receiving a service provided; Bottom Right: Client Casilda Rivera, after Christo Makeover, with Ingrid Floyd.

Photos of Christo and the Bronx Opening by Adam W. Woomer.

FAMILY TIME

Iris House prides itself on being a center for women and their families, so several times a year we plan events for the entire family to enjoy! In the last few months we've celebrated the end of summer with our annual Iris House Family Picnic, where in addition to food, games, awards and fun, we distribute back to school backpacks, generously donated by the High Water Women Foundation.



In Late October, Iris House hosted a Halloween Party and Haunted House and hordes of costumed kids capered as a freak snow storm closed in. Funds for programs like these are contributed by individual gifts as well as grants from the Achelis Foundation and the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation.

SOUTH BRONX OUTREACH CENTER

September 27th brought the formal ribbon cutting and opening ceremonies of Iris House's third location, our new South Bronx Outreach Center! Offering testing, support groups and case management services three days a week (at present), this space will give us an fantastic opportunity to serve clients and the community right in their own neighborhood, rather than making them travel to one of our Manhattan centers for consultation and program delivery.



What's Happening at Iris House



Thanksgiving Luncheon
November 17, 12–2:30 PM

World AIDS Day
December 1

Holiday Luncheon
December 16, 12–2:30 PM

Kids Holiday Party
December 16, 4–7 PM

2012 Summit
May 4–5

For more information on these events or to volunteer, contact Kimberly Richardson at krichardson@irishouse.org or visit our website: www.irishouse.org.

Bloom is published several times a year in this four page format and is distributed in electronic and paper versions. If you would like to switch the way you receive it, please call Michael Jones, 646-548-0100 x222.

SOCIAL MEDIA and IRIS HOUSE

The team at Iris House is ramping up its efforts to broaden the scope and widen the focus of our communications strategies including active presences on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Come see what all the fuss is about and get daily news in your feed about what we're up to!

On the Web: www.irishouse.org
www.Keepit100NYC.org

Facebook: Iris House
YOU! Young, Outstanding + Unique

Twitter: @IrisHouse
@keepit100NYC

YouTube: YOUTVatIrisHouse



Main Office
2348 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
(between 137 & 138th Sts.)
New York, NY 10030
Phone: 646 548-0100

East Side Office
2271 Second Avenue
(between 116 & 117 Sts.)
New York, NY 10035
212-423-9049

South Bronx Outreach Center
756 East 175th Street
Bronx, NY 10457
347-590-7946

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK
PERMIT #2031

Please visit our website to learn about upcoming events and new programs.