

Stepping Up in Faith for HIV and AIDS

A Call to Step Up for HIV and AIDS

Wednesday, July 8 at 11:00 am

At the steps of City Hall

On Wednesday, July 8, 2009, join people living with HIV/AIDS, clergy, elected officials, leadership of AIDS service organizations, city agencies, and supporters at the steps of City Hall.

(Subway: R, W to City Hall; 4/5/6 to Brooklyn Bridge; 2/3 to Park Place)

This is a Call to Step Up for faith communities and community-based organizations to increase partnerships in addressing the urgent issues of HIV/AIDS throughout New York City. This is also the official launch of "Interfaith for HIV/AIDS: A Call to Take Action in 2009," a citywide, interfaith-based effort starting on Thursday, July 9.

Activities include HIV testing, and workshops on HIV prevention and other health topics that will occur in the five boroughs. On Friday, July 10, clergy and representatives from community-based organizations will come together to evaluate the activities on July 9, and discuss next steps in enhancing collaborative work to decrease HIV infections and provide care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

The citywide effort is coordinated by the NYC Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Education Coalition. For more information visit www.nycfia.org or call (212) 561-1787.



"Please bring a new or gently used pair of shoes"

Each pair represents a New Yorker who has become newly infected with HIV. All shoes will be donated to community-based organizations in all five boroughs that assist people living with HIV/AIDS.

*"The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps - we must **step up** the stairs."*
(Vince Havner)

According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

- New York City remains the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S., with more AIDS cases than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, and Washington DC combined.
- HIV is also the health problem with the largest racial disparity; 80% of new AIDS diagnoses and deaths are among African Americans and Hispanics.

According to the Centers for Disease Control:

- Every 9½ minutes (on average), someone in the United States is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.
- In 2006, an estimated 56,300 people became infected with HIV, a 40% increase than was previously known.

A Kaiser Family Foundation recent study revealed that the percentage of Americans, who say they have seen, heard or read about AIDS in this country has steadily declined from 34 percent five years ago to 14 percent today.

The list of over 50 Co-sponsoring organizations can viewed at
www.nycfia.org