



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**  
Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

**M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control  
nyc.gov/health

July 11, 2010

**40 Worth Street, CN-A/1  
New York, NY 10013**  
t 212.788.3686  
f 212.788.2273

Dear Faith in Action Partners and Community:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control commends and is proud to partner with the NYC Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Education Coalition for the second annual Stepping Up in Faith for HIV and AIDS (2010) week of events.

While New York City is the United States' epicenter of an ongoing multi-decade epidemic, it is fortunate to also be home to many thousands of places of worship. Therefore, the place that NYC Faith in Action plays in addressing issues of HIV and AIDS is of great importance. We very much appreciate all of your efforts in this mission and are eager to participate in this coalition.

As the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, addressing HIV/AIDS in NYC, we are continually looking for ways to ensure synergistic collaboration with our communities, working to prevent HIV and to help ensure that those affected are met with a prompt, supportive, compassionate response, including treatment and care. We work to bring shared visions, informed through communication and interaction with many partners including, very importantly, our partners in the Faith sector. For many, their places of worship and faith communities are a crucial point of intersection, to receive life saving, and/or potentially healing knowledge, skills, motivation and resources to address HIV and AIDS.

With the collaboration of our partners in the Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Education Coalition, we re-affirm our commitment to "step up" in partnership to help by supporting evidence-based interventions, early identification, the provision of compassion and support for people in need, the reduction of stigma and suffering in NYC communities including faith communities. May this year's events serve as a spring-board to more action, innovation, determination and renewed energy to work collaboratively and effectively towards eradicating HIV and AIDS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Sweeney', written in a cursive style.

M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH  
Assistant Commissioner