



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 11, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome all those attending the second annual Stepping Up in Faith for HIV and AIDS, hosted by the NYC Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Education Coalition.

New York City remains the epicenter of the AIDS crisis in the United States, with more than 100,000 New Yorkers living with HIV and thousands more who do not know that they are infected. But we have also worked hard to become a leader in the development of effective programs for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease. By expanding voluntary HIV testing, introducing rapid testing, strengthening HIV education in public schools, and providing free HIV treatment to all those who need it, we have been able to significantly reduce new HIV infections, progression to AIDS, and AIDS-related deaths.

We're incredibly grateful for the efforts of community partners like the NYC Faith in Action for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Education Coalition, which does such important work raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of the disease. On behalf of the City of New York, I commend everyone involved with the coalition for organizing this week's events and for their ongoing commitment to stemming the tide of this terrible epidemic. My best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor