

# HEALTH IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

*Touching one life at a time*

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- GROUP Ministries, Inc.
- AIDS Leadership Coalition
- Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo & Vicinity

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## Microbial Gel Clinical Trials in South Africa

There are 5.7 million people in South Africa that are HIV Positive, which is more than any other nation. Those facts are astonishing! That's why the introduction of clinical trials and behavioral interventions are necessary components in the fight of HIV. The clinical trials sponsored by Caprisa, a Durban-based AIDS research center, offered 889 women, in a 2-1/2 year study, the vaginal microbial gel tenofovir, which is a widely used antiretroviral medication. Of those prescribed the gel, 39% were less likely to contract HIV versus those who were given a placebo.

Traditionally, women are not in a position to make decisions relative to many aspects of their lives, especially in their reproductive health. The fact the gel can be used 12 hours earlier is a very empowering factor. The World Bank Development Research Group sponsored a separate year and a half study that paid both the families \$4-\$10 and their daughters \$1-\$5, if they attended school regularly. Of the 3,800 participants, the families that received payments were less than half as likely to be infected with AIDS or the herpes virus as the families that received no payment. Poverty plays a key role in decision making, and having a source of income, not tied to high risk behaviors, made it easier for those young women to function responsibly. Although neither of the programs will eradicate the presence of HIV in poor nations, it is a start in the right direction to the reduction of infection rates. Additional trials of the microbial gel will need to be conducted and additional funding will need to be acquired before the gel is widely available. As the HIV epidemic continues to rage, the work scientists and researchers provide, in the attempt to discover a vaccine is critical, as is the continuation of funding for those types of projects.

## National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS

On June 29, 2010, both clergy and laypersons gathered to discuss the pivotal role the Faith Community plays in the growing HIV epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Western NY. The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA) hosted its first *Interfaith Leadership Summit* at Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Buffalo, NY, where Pastor William Gillison is the Pastor and serves as Chairman of the Buffalo Affiliate of the NBLCA. In addition to sharing the statistics about the number of individuals infected with HIV in WNY and the programs and services available to those individuals, the event provided a bridge which spanned several denominations in order to keep the main objective in focus: the people. Every attendee had the opportunity to attend various workshops, which were designed to help them gain knowledge and information about how to educate the audiences they influence. Everyone has a responsibility to use the knowledge they obtained about HIV to empower others about the transmission of viruses that are preventable. Superintendent Matthew Brown of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, who led the discussion for the Clergy, captured the essence of the subject when he said, "HIV/AIDS starts out as a thief. Thieves take things from you and you don't know they're gone until you look for them."



Barbra Jemmott lecturing at Workshop during the NBLCA Interfaith Leadership Summit.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN



Rev. Arthur H. Boyd  
President /CEO  
GROUP Ministries, Inc.

Dear Friends,

I believe you will find this issue to have more of an introspective appeal. It seeks to identify the real needs of our community and illustrates how the weak can seek to meet those in a struggling economy that has multiple needs.

GROUP Ministries, Inc staff had to overcome what seemed to be insurmountable odds during the time the NY State government was in a "pause" mode. As our elected officials were taking their turn at the podium to "fight for their constituents," the day-to-day needs of our clients and their families were hanging in the balance. The combination of *passion, persistence and perseverance* are the components that fueled those who were able to maintain during a time when our funding was temporarily suspended.

It was the dedication of those "Faithful Few" that allowed the provision of services and programming to continue, despite the fact they did not receive a pay check for more than 3-months. That Faithful Few also ensured GMI met the expectations set forth by the NY State agencies that provide its funding.

As you prepare for your charitable contributions for 2010, please consider GROUP Ministries, Inc. Monetary donations in any amount are appreciated. Please note: *All contributions are tax deductible.*

*Make Check payable to: GROUP Ministries, Inc  
1333 Jefferson Avenue , Buffalo, NY 14208*

## Grants & Government



New York State Senate

The Senate is defined as *An assembly or a council of citizens having the highest deliberative and legislative functions in a government.* Their primary function is to act in the best interest of the constituents in their districts. How are Senators acting in the best interest of individuals that live in their districts when they cannot receive services because the NY State budget has not been agreed upon due to the indecisive nature and the selfishness of those who are supposed to represent them? They also do not help to provide the services

to those in the target populations that are at high risk or infected with HIV. What can you do to help? —

1. Click this link , [http://www.nysenate.gov/contact\\_form](http://www.nysenate.gov/contact_form)
2. Fill Out the Form & Selected Budget as your related issue
3. Tell your senator its time to bring this to an end and get back to the business of the Senate .....The People.

*"Each of us has personal accountability for our health, so always use a condom, limit your number of sex partners and know your HIV status."*

## Warnings About Gonorrhea

In 2008 there were 17,120 cases of Gonorrhea were reported according to the NY State Department of Health, Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Statistics & Data Department. Those cases were based on a NY State population of 19,490,297 in 2008. Why is this alarming? The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that due to improper use, the disease has developed a resistance to first-line medications. "It is imperative for new treatments or alternative treatments for Gonorrhea, improved monitoring for antimicrobial resistance and strengthening gonorrhea prevention and management to be instituted," Dr. Shin Young-Soo, the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, advised. Each of us has personal accountability for our health, so always use a condom, limit your number of sex partners and know your HIV status. For additional information about Gonorrhea or other STDs, please visit:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/std/>.

# GROUP Ministries' AIDS LEADERSHIP COALITION OF WNY

*Presents*

## 2011 HIV / AIDS AWARENESS DAYS

### February

7<sup>th</sup> – National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### March

6<sup>th</sup> — 12<sup>th</sup> National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

10<sup>th</sup> — National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

20<sup>th</sup> — National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### May

18<sup>th</sup> — National HIV Vaccine Awareness Day

19<sup>th</sup> — National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### June

8<sup>th</sup> — Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

27<sup>th</sup> — National HIV Testing Day

**AIDS Leadership  
Coalition  
2011 Meeting  
Schedule**



**Please make an effort to attend.**

**Your input matters:  
GROUP Ministries, Inc  
1333 Jefferson Avenue**

Month	Date	Time
2nd Wednesday of each month, unless noted otherwise		
Jan	12	9:00am
Feb	16	9:00am
March	9	9:00am
April	13	9:00am
May	11	9:00am
June	8	9:00am



Look for the next exciting  
edition of our Newsletter in  
Early Summer 2011

# Welcome Spring Time

Do you have news and information that  
you want to share about your organization  
or an event? YES!, Please contact use

Call: 7163883.4367

Chat: [andreab@gmibuffalo.org](mailto:andreab@gmibuffalo.org)

Come by: 1333 Jefferson Avenue



**GROUP Ministries, Inc.**  
1333 Jefferson Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14208

***Health in the African American Community***