

Save the Date  
September 27, 2008



Photographer: Andrew McLeod

“As an openly gay man living with HIV, I am heartened that we now have Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. It is long past due. This awareness day brings much needed attention to the ongoing HIV health crisis in the gay community.”

—Dr. Wesley Badillo  
New York, NY

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JOIN NAPWA IN THE FIRST ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF

## *National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*

The National Association of People with AIDS proudly launches National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. 2006 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that HIV affects gay men more than any other population in the United States. Gay men of all racial and ethnic groups and across all ages continue to be impacted by HIV.

National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a call to action that comes at time of heightened complacency – leading to a resurgence of new HIV infections among gay men. Join us in observing this historic day. National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will build upon the successes of NAPWA’s National HIV Testing Day which each year raises awareness about HIV and encourages thousands of people to get tested for HIV.

### HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE

- Become an official sponsor of National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Issue media advisories on or before September 27<sup>th</sup>
- Endorse National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day via a written a statement of support
- Coordinate HIV education and HIV testing events targeting gay men in your local area
- Other ideas? Please let us know.

To become an official sponsor, contact us at 240-247-0880 or send an e-mail to [info@napwa.org](mailto:info@napwa.org). To learn more about NAPWA and National Gay Men’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, visit our web-site at [www.napwa.org](http://www.napwa.org).



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
PEOPLE WITH AIDS

To learn more go to [www.napwa.org](http://www.napwa.org)

# NAPWA LAUNCHES THE FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL GAY MEN'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

On September 27, 2008 NAPWA will launch the first National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NGMHAAD). NGMHAAD seeks to bridge community and resources in an effort to bring urgent attention to the lives of many that have long been affected by the HIV epidemic here in the United States and abroad. It is a call to action that comes at a time of heightened complacency – leading to a resurgence of new HIV infections among gay men. Throughout the year, community based organizations (CBOs), health departments, faith based organizations, corporations, labor organizations, elected officials and other individual and collective stakeholders participate in national HIV/AIDS awareness days. These days raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and often focus attention on communities or groups that are disproportionately impacted by the epidemic. The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) is proud to be the originator of National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) which has and continues to encourage HIV testing and AIDS awareness in communities across the country for more than 16 years. This year, NHTD garnered support from celebrities, seventy-nine Mayors, members of Congress, major media outlets, and literally thousands of community and government organizations who helped get the word out that people need to take the HIV test and take control of their health. NGMHAAD will build upon NHTD's success by using methods already proven to be effective in increasing HIV testing, linking individuals to care, and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

## A TIME FOR ACTION

The fact is that the HIV epidemic is far from over for gay men. Consider that:

- Fifty-three percent of new HIV infections occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM) in 2006
- From 2001 – 2006, men who have sex with men (MSM) across all racial and ethnic groups were the only transmission category with significant increases in HIV diagnoses
- HIV incidence has been increasing steadily among gay and bisexual men since the early 1990s, consistent with increases reported sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) cases and HIV diagnoses among MSM
- Gay men comprise over half of the total number HIV/AIDS cases in the United States
- More than 500,000 people have died in the United States

Despite these numbers, gay men are only tangentially represented in national AIDS Awareness Days. Even today, Ryan White legislation contains language that bars addressing same-gender sexuality from prevention initiatives. An awareness day devoted solely to gay, bisexual, same gender loving, and transgendered men fills a glaring gap in national HIV/AIDS consciousness raising efforts.



NGMHAAD's goals are to 1) raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among gay men, 2) encourage HIV testing, early diagnosis and linkage to care and HIV treatment, 3) promote better understanding of the complex factors that drive HIV transmission among gay men, and 4) obtain broad based support to acquire needed public and private resources and sound governmental policies to prevent new infections among gay men. In 2008, we simply seek to announce the initiative and begin to garner creative ideas and community support to end the epidemic among gay men. Over the course of the next year, NAPWA will establish a national steering committee to plan for expanded activities and broad based national participation in September 2009.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There are a number of ways for you to participate in the September 27, 2008 launch and first annual observance of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Advisory Day. These include:

- Officially endorse NGMHAAD
- Issue media advisories
- Host local HIV testing and educational events targeting gay men

Visit the NAPWA web-site at ([www.napwa.org](http://www.napwa.org)). You can sign-up here to be an official sponsor of National Gay Men's Awareness Day. We will also post sample media advisories, press releases, talking points and other materials to support any activities you undertake on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact Leo Rennie at (240) 247-1020 or [Irennie@NAPWA.org](mailto:Irennie@NAPWA.org).



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For more information go to [www.napwa.org](http://www.napwa.org)