

# THE CHANGEMAKER

*The latest news, views and announcements*



## SUMMER GREETINGS TO ALL: MID-YEAR REPORT

*By Michelle Jackson Rollins*

Two things have been on my mind all summer - the death of Jayden Walker and the International AIDS Conference in Montreal.

Death resulting from firearm injury is entirely preventable. We must approach firearms injury as a public health crisis. It does not matter who pulls the trigger. Jayden Walker's tragic death requires all of us to step beyond our assigned roles and into the role of advocates. Let's talk about what we can do to reduce gun violence. When people are exposed to firearm violence, we can expect elevated rates of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, violence and substance abuse.

Recently, we returned from the inspiring International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada. I was accompanied by We Think 4 A Change Advocates Lynn Kidd, Naimah O'Neal and Tina Marbury. We met with many people we hope to keep in touch with and create initiatives in furtherance of our work, including Harold J. Phillips, MRP, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP). He will be joining our women's retreats.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE TO ALL**

**HIV SELF-TEST KITS**

**ANITA CREWS INTERVIEW!**

**EVENTS: CHECK THEM OUT ON OUR NEW WEBSITE**



*WT4AC hands out HIV Self-test kits during Juneteenth at Rid-All Green Partnership*

Because of COVID-19 lockdowns and closures, HIV self-testing increased over the past two years, and it has proven to be a cost-effective way to make HIV testing more accessible in regions where healthcare is often a challenge—including rural, traditionally underserved and stigmatized communities.

However, historical racial, ethnic and geographic disparities in healthcare coverage still exist, and there are many communities and populations that still do not have access to HIV testing services, including many of those most vulnerable to HIV. WT4AC is an essential partner in HIV prevention and care and will help to expand self-testing in our community.



## WT4AC JOINS CDC FOUNDATION AND WALGREENS TO IMPLEMENT HIV SELF-TESTING PROGRAMS

*By WT4AC Staff*

We Think 4 A Change joined the CDC Foundation and Walgreens to participate in the National HIV Testing Day on June 27.

Following the National HIV Testing Day, WT4AC has continued to be part of the Community-Based Organizations helping to increase access to HIV Self-testing in underserved communities and among those most vulnerable to HIV.

From the desk of:

*Michelle Jackson-Rollins*  
Executive Director

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

**Matthew 28: 19-20**

## THIS MONTH WE SALUTE ANITA CREWS!

*By Shella Beauliz*

Anita has been with WT4AC since 2020. She wears many hats for the organization, serving as a committee board member, delivering food, providing condoms, masks, and education on HIV/Aids in the community. Anita also runs her own support group, Hope Invites Victory. Its purpose is to build a strong heterosexual HIV community that teaches awareness and makes people want to live.

Anita's passion is living life and helping PLWHIVA also find their passion for living a full life, free of the shame and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. She aims to help others not to view their diagnosis as a death sentence but as something like diabetes, A condition that needs to be managed and monitored.



**Anita Crews**  
We Think 4 a Change  
Navigator

[READ MORE ABOUT ANITA](#)

## INTERNATIONAL AIDS SUMMIT (IAS) 2022

The history of the HIV response is woven into the International AIDS Conferences. Ground-breaking science and political activism at the conferences have uniquely shaped the trajectory of the response. our staff made it to Montreal and made many meaningful connections that will aide in our continued work.

Listen to the IAS Podcast

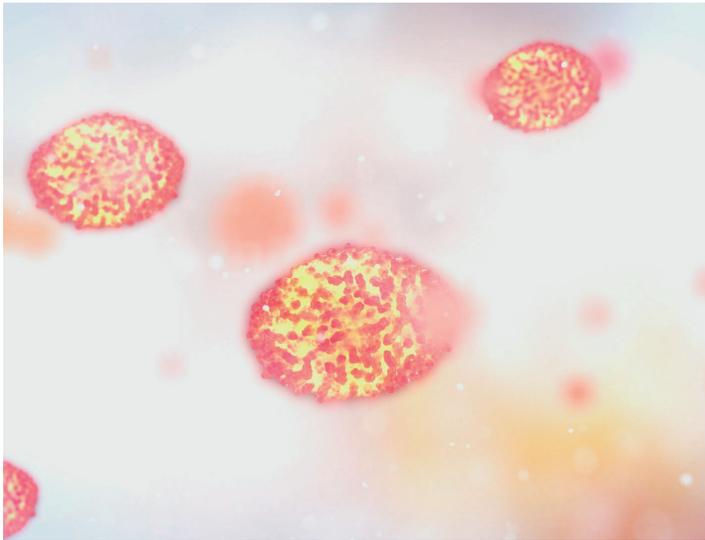


Tina Marbury and Lyn Kidd with Harold J. Phillips, MRP, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP at the IAS).

## HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DATES

- August 29, 2022: National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #NFHAAD
- September 18, 2022: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day #HIVandAging
- September 27, 2022: National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day #NGMHAAD
- October 15, 2022: National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day #NLAAD2021

[VISIT HIV.GOV TO LEARN MORE](#)



## MPV (MONKEYPOX) COMMUNITY FORUM

### *From AIDS Funding Collaborative*

As you are no doubt aware, the monkeypox virus (MPV) outbreak has been declared a public health emergency in the US. The current outbreak disproportionately affects gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) Including those living with HIV.

People with advanced HIV infection or who are not taking antiretroviral drugs might be at increased risk for severe disease if they get MPV. Treatment is available with the antiviral drug tecovirimat (TPOXX). Pre- and postexposure prophylaxis can be considered with the JYNNEOS vaccine. Although there are little data about monkeypox in patients with HIV, prompt diagnosis, prevention, and treatment might help prevent adverse outcomes and limit the spread of MPV.

**LGBT Center - MPV Community Forum**  
**Wednesday, August 17th at 7:00pm**  
**6705 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102**

The Cleveland Department of Public Health and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health have made information available regarding MPV on their websites. You are also welcome to join a community forum this Wednesday, August 17th at 7:00pm to learn more about the local response to the MPV outbreak, including resources. This is being hosted by the LGBT Center and features local public health leaders Dr. Margolius, Dr. Cooper, and Dr. Ganesh to answer questions. The conversation will be moderated by Deairius Houston of Central Outreach Wellness Center. The program is hybrid (in person and virtual) so available via zoom with prior registration.



**Register for the  
virtual option**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, join us at 55TH & STORER for fresh fruits, PPE and more. Bring a bag!



[Register Now](#)



Give your family the gift of peace. Spare them the struggle of planning your end-of-life celebration.

[Register Now](#)

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