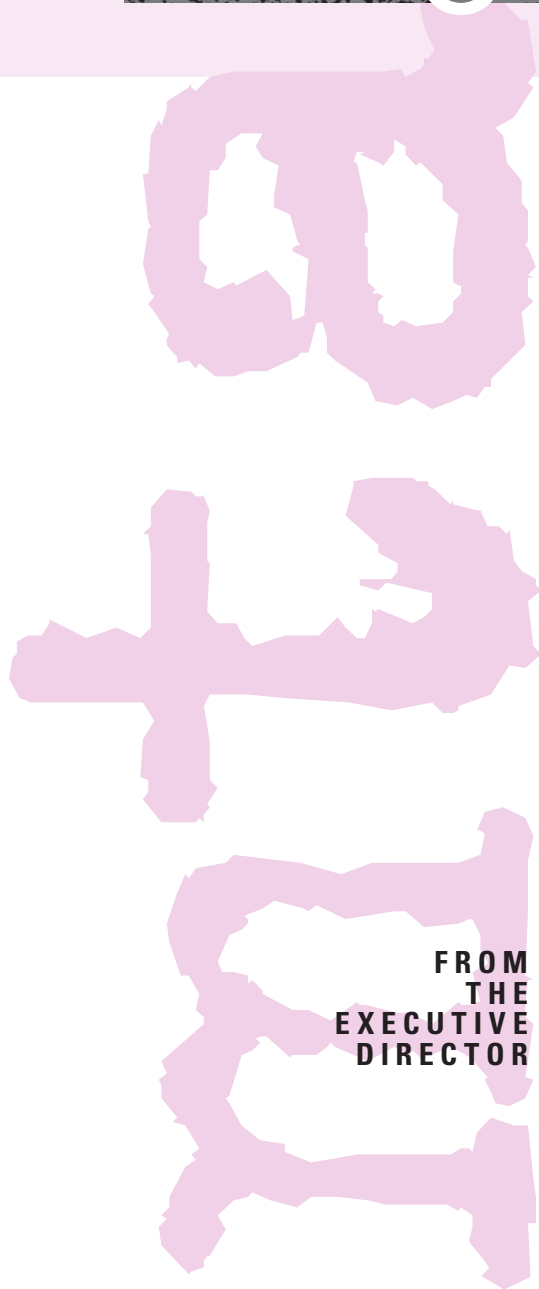


OUTREACH

Fall 2010



At the 2010 Auction, we celebrated Metro TeenAIDS' dedicated and passionate staff. Pictured are MTA staff members Nina Brown, Christopher Barnhill, Fatahma Odebe, and Carmel Pryor.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESSES: STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE HIV/ AIDS EPIDEMIC

BE THE CHANGE. THIS EXPRESSION REFLECTS MTA's efforts to work with DC schools to provide comprehensive health education and support systems. We've had many successes, but what's most exciting to me is how changes are happening at the policy level, throughout school communities, and among students.

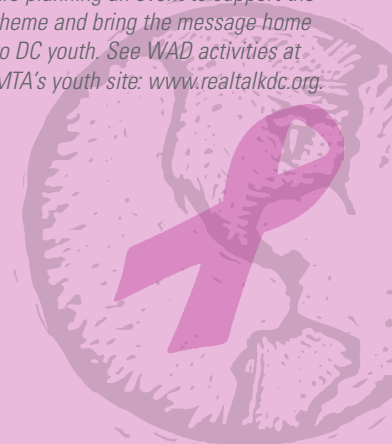
The most recent success is the Healthy Schools Act, passed and funded by the City Council in May. This legislation ensures the comprehensive Health Learning Standards that MTA helped pass in 2007 will be implemented. And, there are no longer any legislative or regulatory barriers to providing every DC student high-quality HIV education.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming EVENTS

World AIDS Day

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) started World AIDS Day (WAD) on December 1, 1988 to increase awareness and fight prejudice; today it's widely recognized and internationally observed. The 2010 theme, "Universal Access and Human Rights," was chosen as a reminder that HIV has not gone away. Social Marketing Manager Carmel Pryor reports that enthusiastic staff are planning an event to support the theme and bring the message home to DC youth. See WAD activities at MTA's youth site: www.realtalkdc.org.



Links to HIV and Metro TeenAIDS in the news can be found at our homepage: www.metroteenaids.org

y o u t h
PROFILE



Zataunia Heard

Zataunia (Za ta NEE ya) Heard has been an MTA peer educator since 2008. She says, "I enjoy the opportunity to do something good for my community." Zataunia heard about MTA from a speaker at the Teen Alliance for Prepared Parenting (TAPP), a program at the Washington Hospital Center. Zataunia is a junior at Trinity University and is planning to become a nurse. She reports that anatomy and biology classes haven't been a problem for her because she likes science!

As part of her peer education and outreach work at MTA, Zataunia is a member of the Young Women of Color Leadership Council. In addition to peer education, this group advocates for effective youth development policies. She especially enjoyed working toward this year's passage of the Healthy Schools Act for DC's public schools.

Being involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and services is a family affair for Zataunia, whose mother works in the field as well. Zataunia is a positive role model for her three-year old daughter, doing work that changes peoples' lives. Who knows... maybe her daughter will be the third generation in her family to take up the cause!

MTA's Mission

Metro TeenAIDS is a community health organization dedicated to supporting young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through education, support, and advocacy, MTA prevents the spread of HIV; promotes responsible decision making; and improves the quality of life for young people infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS.

We'd be remiss if we failed to give credit to the DC Public Schools (DCPS). Let's be real – teaching HIV prevention is not easy. The subject is personal and it's taken many battles to ensure that schools provide age-appropriate, and scientifically-based information about reproductive health. All that said, the folks at DCPS have been incredible champions of HIV education.

As the headlines indicate, the burden to ensure that children learn is being placed on teachers. But, most health and physical education teachers are never taught how to address the sensitive issues needed to ensure high-quality reproductive health education. But, DCPS leadership (specifically the Office of Youth Engagement [OYE]), have been incredible partners in MTA's efforts to support teachers' competency in sexual health education so youth learn the facts they need to stay safe. DCPS is ensuring that students learn tactics to delay having sex, how to negotiate with partners, how to use condoms, and the importance of getting regular HIV/STI tests.

MTA has been honored to provide training, co-teaching, and other professional development opportunities to DCPS teachers. In the 2010–11 school year, we are establishing a cohort of teachers to work with their peers to promote best health practices. We are creating a website where teachers and other school staff can share ideas and get support.

We are also encouraging a "whole school" approach. Health teachers, of course, are key to providing health education. But, principals, nurses, guidance counselors, coaches, and other school staff are also stepping up. We are helping them learn how to make referrals to health services, provide condoms, and offer a sympathetic ear to help youth make healthy decisions.

The Health Department has been an ally in providing STI testing and counseling, condoms, and other resources to schools. The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA) has been fantastic about embracing new ideas and leveraging partners across institutions and throughout the community.

So, what's next? While we are making terrific progress, we are not there yet. In the next few years, MTA will continue to partner with schools and HAHSTA to ensure that every health teacher can teach sexual health. We are also partnering with OYE to evaluate sexual health education to ensure students achieve the curricula's goals. We will expand our capacity-building activities with all school community members (including nurses, guidance counselors, principals, and coaches) so every school has a team of professionals to whom youth can turn. Finally, we are pleased to expand our partnerships with charter schools this coming year so that the 35% of DC students who attend charter schools also receive sexual health education. Stay tuned, as schools communities unite to end the HIV/STI and unplanned pregnancy crises in DC.



THIS JUST IN!

MTA Executive Director Adam Tenner was selected by the Meyer Foundation as one of its 2010 Exponent Award recipients, given to visionary non-profit leaders in Washington DC.

—Adam Tenner, Executive Director

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

MTA Builds Capacity in Area Youth Serving Agencies

During Washington's sweltering summer, Isaiah Webster, Director of Capacity Building, and Angel Brown, Director of Community Outreach and Partnerships, generated their own heat about our HIV Prevention Capacity Building Symposium. All that energy came together on August 11–12 at George Washington University's Marvin Center, with over 70 youth-serving professionals attending the two-day learning experience.

Keynote speakers Dr. Donna Futterman, Director of the Montefiore Medical Center's Adolescent AIDS Program in the Bronx, and Dr. Caitlin Ryan, Director of the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco University, shared their expertise in the field. The Symposium's 18 sessions addressed adolescent health promotion, the needs of sexual minority youth, using new media in youth services, conducting evaluations, motivational interviewing techniques, and more. The DC Department of Health (DOH) underwrote the symposium, enabling participants to attend free-of-charge.

The symposium is one component of MTA's capacity-building work. In 2008, DOH funded MTA to establish a robust HIV capacity-building assistance (CBA) program. The grant helped institutionalize work that MTA had been doing informally for some time, as non-profit youth serving organizations sought MTA's expertise in how they could better communicate about HIV/AIDS with their youth clients. DOH's support enabled MTA to develop a three-pronged approach to institutionalize capacity-building assistance:

1. Training: MTA provides formal training workshops that last one or two days, and address a specific topic, intervention, or curriculum. In addition, MTA offers a Brown Bag series, a mini-training designed to help community partners who work with youth to network and share ideas. The free lunch-and-learning opportunities are held at noon on the second Wednesday of each month in MTA's office.

2. Technical Assistance (TA): MTA provides individualized technical assistance to organizations that want long-term capacity building tailored to their own specific needs. This TA takes place over a longer period of time than training workshops. Organizations can get help with peer training and supervision, board development, new staffing patterns, or other infrastructure issues.

3. Resources: MTA provides a wide range of CBA materials on HIV programming (such as how to create Internet outreach protocols) as well as other capacity development training materials that are non-HIV-related (available at <http://www.realtalkdc.org/about/4providers> and <http://capacitytalk.blogspot.com>).

To date, MTA has served over 65 organizations and expanded their ability to address adolescent HIV, ensuring that local youth have even more resources for getting information and services. Hats off to MTA's capable crew of capacity builders!



COLLABORATIONS

MTA and 3DB Go-Go for HIV Prevention

MTA gets much more than great music from collaborating with the Third Dimension Band, known as "3DB". When the go-go band headlines an MTA event, a great crowd is guaranteed, meaning more youth will hear HIV prevention messages and get tested by our trained counseling and testing staff. The band also serves as HIV/STI testing advocates through PSAs and other efforts.

Band leader Jason Lewis values collaboration. He's helped in many ways, not least by opening the door for MTA's use of the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, where he works and which has become a great venue for our youth events. Jason is glad to help because he is passionate about youth development in general. Another connection in this lively collaboration stems from the fact that some of 3DB's members used MTA's Freestyle Youth Center when they were younger!

MTA's collaboration with 3DB has led to increased attendance at Turkey Thicket and exposed the band to a new audience with a unique platform: combining music with HIV prevention. 3DB deserves a standing ovation for partnering with us!

EVENT REPORT

Annual MTA Auction

MTA's annual Auction raises critical funds for our work. The current economic downturn has forced many foundations to scale back their grant-making; some foundations have temporarily halted giving, or even closed their doors. So, it was more important than ever for the 2010 Auction to raise funds to sustain MTA's programming for vulnerable youth in DC.

Our amazing supporters really came through and the Auction was a huge success – with more sponsors and more tickets sold than ever before. The event benefitted from the generous patronage of the honorable Pekka Lintu, Finland's Ambassador to the U.S., and the incredible support of the Embassy staff. NPR's White House correspondent Ari Shapiro was an able and inspiring MC. The participants were enthusiastic and generous – helping us raise over **\$137,000**... \$30,870 in direct donations to MTA.

At the Auction, MTA honored some key partners in the fight against AIDS. The Third Dimension Band (3DB) was honored as an outstanding partner that is committed to DC youth and culture (see "Collaboration" for more about these efforts). We also honored Ward 3 Councilwoman Mary Cheh, who drafted, introduced, and shepherded passage of the 2010 Healthy Schools Act. And MTA honored the Embassy of Finland, which has supported MTA over the past five years. Thank you to everyone for making the evening so special. To see photographs, visit: <http://metroteenids.org/auction>.

At the MTA Auction, peer educators presented our amazing sponsors with a framed photo of MTA youth and staff as an expression of our sincere appreciation for their support. Here, peer educator Ladera Ellis thanks Scott Royal, Division Vice President, Domestic Health, and Victoria Child, Project and Communications Manager for the CEO. Abt Associates, Inc. has been an Auction sponsor for several years and we are very grateful for its support.

Key Staff

Adam Tenner
Executive Director

Molly Singer
Deputy Director

Chrissy Balz
Director of School Services

Angel Brown
*Director of Community Outreach
and Partnerships*

Nina Brown
*Evaluation and Program
Development Manager*

Isaiah Webster
Director of Capacity Building

Lamar Anderson
Youth Center Manager

Pearlina Boyd
Policy Manager

Carmel Pryor
Social Marketing Manager

Arnita Wilson
Client Services Manager

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Craig Langford – *Vice President*
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Booz Allen Hamilton

William A. Smith
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Richard P. Virgin
George Mason University

Jeff White
Environics Communications USA



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MTA NEWS BRIEFS

MTA Welcomes Public Allies

Drumroll please... MTA is proud to announce the arrival of five powerhouse Public Allies: Tiara Brawner, Jerome Jenkins, Jehiah Cundiff, Chiquita Reid, and Anthony Knight. These young people will facilitate the "Making Proud Choices!" health curriculum in DC Public School 7th and 10th grade classes in 2010-11.

The Allies survived a four-phase interviewing process before being 'matched' with MTA, a process Nakeisha Neal, Public Allies' Executive Director calls: "part speed dating, part job fair." MTA's executive director, Adam Tenner, is glad to work with Public Allies because of the support available from its staff. "It's too easy for community-based organizations to get caught up in the little 'bubble' we live in. Public Allies

introduces us to a different community. Having Allies as part of our staff is a win-win for everyone involved." The Allies will work with MTA until July, 2011.

Lamar Anderson, MTA's Youth Center Manager, and Nicole Styles, Outreach Coordinator, are both Public Allies alumni, so we know we're getting the best of the best. Welcome Allies!



MTA Has Its Own Angel

Angel Brown, MTA's Director of Community Outreach and Partnerships, knows her way around the world of HIV/AIDS prevention, having first become a peer educator when she was just 16 years old. A native Washingtonian, Angel has already logged almost 15 years in the field. She's been at MTA for 18 months, before that, she led Advocates for Youth's initiative for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth.

Although her work at the national level was rewarding, Angel is happy to be at MTA, working

more directly with youth—both on staff and in the community. About her role at MTA, Angel says, "I'm very clear about what it takes to do this. I know what it's like to be a young person in the city, and that helps me connect well with our partners that are working with youth." Angel helps connect the dots between MTA and churches, schools, District government agencies, other community-based organizations, health fairs, and even local block parties.

Because of MTA's reputation in Washington for doing great work, Angel gets daily requests to partner in some way. Angel loves that. "If there's no buzz, there should be some concern." As long as Angel's forging relationships with partners, there won't be any cause for concern!

Angel's passion for youth and MTA's work are obvious immediately. She loves the challenge of integrating partners' interests with MTA's expertise and organizational goals, to get a good 'fit.'

The name "Angel" is loaded with expectation. Angel says she got her name because she was born prematurely and her parents weren't sure she would survive. Lucky for MTA that she has survived and thrived so far!

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