



# Prevention News

**ACTIONAIDS**  
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**HIV TESTING**  
**APPOINTMENT LINE**  
215.940.5515

A Newsletter of the ActionAIDS Prevention and Education Team

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## Speaker's Bureau

Individuals living with HIV/AIDS have been trained and oriented to provide training on HIV/AIDS while they share their own account of living with the virus. Members deliver community presentations to youth and other at risk populations through speaking engagements and health fairs. Presentations are made in English and Spanish. For more information please call 267-940-5509 for Marilyn Torres.

## Our Team

The Prevention team is currently staffed by 8 people. Terri Clark is the Coordinator of the team. Marilyn Torres, Ellie Moore, Lori Kerfren and Ryanne Smith perform HIV testing and counseling along with staffing community outreach and education events. Marilyn also coordinates the agency's Speaker's Bureau. Kim Abrams is the Youth Prevention Case Manager and Jennifer Pierre is our CRCS counselor on the team. Both Jen and Kim offer back up for the testers. Alex Leigh is the team's Peer Engagement Specialist. As a team we go out to various community events to provide tabling, education, and HIV testing. This newsletter contains some highlights from these events and a bit about the programs that we are involved in. This summer we have been working hard to staff as many community events as possible and have also seen a steady increase in the number of walk-ins at our 1026 Arch street location.

From June 1st-August 31st we tested 362 people and identified 3 HIV positive clients. Those tested were offered counseling on HIV risk behaviors and safer sex practices. Clients were also offered female, male, and flavored condoms as well as lubricant to help them practice safer sex.



## HIV Rapid Testing Walk-In Hours



**1026 Arch Street** M 11-1, T 10-12, W 1-4, Th 12-2, F by appt.

**William Way** Monday 4-7

**North Office** Tuesday 2-5

**Washington West** Thursday 6-9

**Maria De Los Santos** Tuesday 9-12

**Earn Center** Wednesday 10-2

**Sarah Allen House** Wednesday 10-2

**Community College of Philadelphia** Monday 2-5

We will make appointments for other days and times as needed at our testing line 215.940.5515

# Community Outreach Highlights

On July 25<sup>th</sup> the congregation of Holy Temple of the Lord and Savior took to the streets for their annual community health fair at 51st and Market. ActionAIDS was in attendance providing information and Ellie was on site conducting HIV testing. Turnout for HIV testing was high. St. Christopher's Hospital was also providing HIV testing. The health fair was lively with festive music, children activities, yummy food, and health screenings by Penn Nursing students. -Ellie

## Carnival for a Cure at Enon Baptist Church

Lori, Ellie and Jen went to a wonderful event that was held at Enon Baptist Church on August 15th. The event had a carnival theme and was to raise awareness of HIV in the community. The community was welcoming and warm. Jen and Lori tested while Ellie staffed the table at the event. ActionAIDS was joined by various other organizations such as AACO, COMHAR, and Keystone Hospice in sharing information with those in attendance. -Lori

The "Risk n Choice" program being conducted at the Achieving Independence Center in conjunction with ActionAIDS was constructed based upon a curriculum titled "Be proud Be Responsible". The curriculum is designed to "teach strategies to empower youth to reduce their risk for contracting HIV/AIDS". The program consists of six courses that tackle major themes surrounding HIV/AIDS education and prevention, specifically for at-risk youth.

The idea of Risk n Choice is based on empowering youth to recognize their options in regards to sexual health. They are encouraged to realize that they have the option to either take a risk by not practicing safer sex, not getting tested, not gaining knowledge about HIV/AIDS and engaging in risky behavior or make a choice to practice safer sex, get tested, gain knowledge about HIV/AIDS and not to engage in risky behavior. In addition to the workshops, CRCS are also offered to youth participating in the AIC program. ActionAIDS also conducts testing at the AIC on the second Tuesday of every month.

Risk n Choice is held at the AIC 1118 Market St  
Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-5pm.

**For more information contact:**  
Kim Abrams, Youth Prevention Case Manager  
267-940-5503

**CRCS is one on one, client centered counseling for adopting and maintaining healthy lifestyle behaviors. CRCS is designed to serve HIV+ and HIV- individuals who are at high risk for acquiring HIV or at risk for co-infection as well as promoting treatment adherence. Jennifer works with clients to adopt risk reduction behaviors that promote healthy outcomes. The ultimate goal of the CRCS program is to assist the client in behavior changes or modifications that will reduce the risk of HIV transmission and promote optimal health.**

**For more information contact:**

**Jennifer Pierre—CRCS Counselor  
267-940-5508**

A Peer Engagement Specialist is a peer counselor for the REACH program. REACH stands for Recovery Empowerment And Community Health. It is a collaborative project between ActionAIDS, SafeGuards and The Mazzoni Center, which works together to work within the MSM (men who have sex with men) and Transgender communities. The purpose of REACH and the Peer Engagement Specialist is to provide outreach and free support ,services, and counseling to clients within our community. around various issues, such as substance and alcohol use, safer sex methods and to link clients with resources such as mental health, physical health, relationship issues and case management.

**For more information contact:**  
Alex Leigh, Peer Engagement Specialist  
(215)940-5514