



# RED RIBBON TIMES

Summer 2017



Orange County, Florida

Serving Orange, Lake, Osceola and Seminole Counties

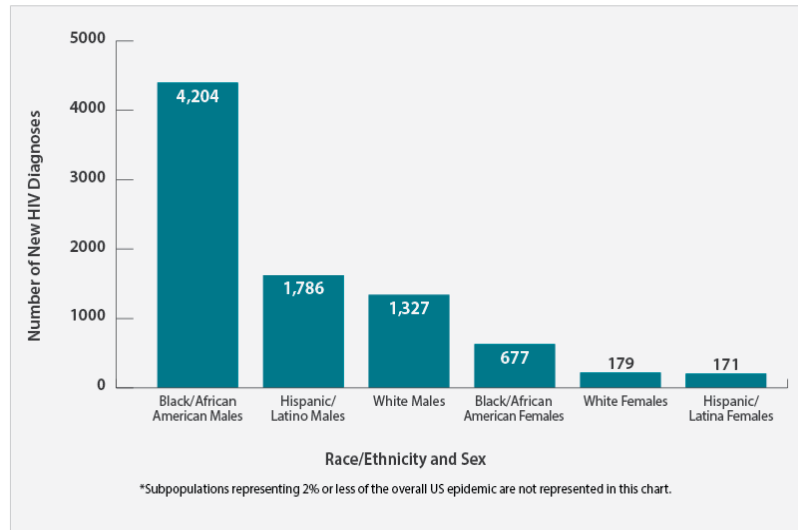
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## National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

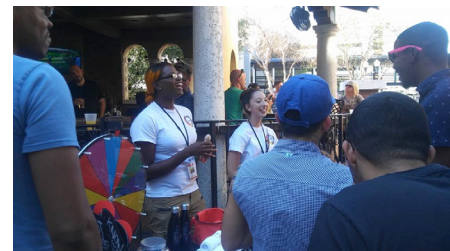
Each year, National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD) is recognized on April 10 to educate and raise awareness on the impact HIV has on the youth, people between age 13 and 24. According to the CDC, 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses in 2015 were among youth with a majority of those new cases among Black MSM.

New HIV Diagnoses Among Youth Aged 13-24 in the United States, by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, 2015

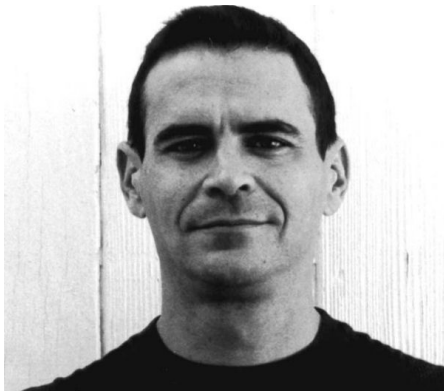


Source: CDC. [Diagnoses of HIV infection in the United States and dependent areas, 2015](#). *HIV Surveillance Report* 2016;27.

To honor this day, a group of individuals from The Center, Miracle of Love, Area 7, Hope and Help, and UCF Wellness and Prevention Services got together at Ember for Sunday Funday. Sunday Funday attracts a lot of younger people from the LGBT community, and was a great opportunity to raise awareness, have fun, and meet the community where they are at. The event was very well received and many people came to the table to take pictures with props, participate in condom demonstrations, and get condoms and prizes. The group determined that this would be a great way to outreach at quarterly events and continue to raise awareness!



## BRIAN SMITH'S RED RIBBON BIO



**Dr. Brian A. Smith (retired) was appointed to the Planning Council for the Orlando EMA in January 2016 after 30 years involvement in the HIV+ community in Los Angeles.**

He received his doctorate (chiropractic) in 1987, finished post-graduate studies to become a certified internist in 1996 and qualified as a naturopathic physician in 1999. His formal introduction to the HIV+ community began in 1984 with participation in a small support group run by the Reverend Louise Hay, which blossomed into the Hayride, a weekly support group with more than 700 people in attendance by 1987. Reverend Hay founded Hay House Publishing, which still publishes many inspiring works by and for PLWHA. He attended the first professional presentation by Robert Gallo, M.D., at UCLA. In 1988 he became the owner and director of "The Health Affair" on Sunset Boulevard at the border between Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, one of the first private practices to focus on HIV management. It was founded by Donald Dickenson, Ph.D. (Nutrition), and Gary Zimmerman, D.C., in 1978. Dr. Dickenson authored the first book detailing the impact of nutrition on

the immune system with a focus on HIV. Published in 1984, *How to Fortify Your Immune System* provided some hope at a time when there were no treatments available — some readers may recall the days of AL-721, SPV-30, dextran sulfate, concentrated aloe vera extract and hydrogen peroxide-based therapies, and the p24 antigen/antibody tests and B2M levels, before testing for the virus was invented. Dr. Smith continued the practice until 2012 at which time several of the patients that predated his involvement with the practice were living very full lives. His successor continues with these same patients who were told in the earliest days their life-span could be numbered in months.

From this start Dr. Smith's involvement grew to include being a speaker, educator, researcher, writer and dedicated volunteer at many organizations including Being Alive, AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA, founder Nutrition Task Force, 1990), Northern Lights Alternatives, the Los Angeles Center for Living (1989), Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS-LA), the Computer AIDS Information Network (CAIN) and the Nutritional Products Buyer's Club (director, 1990). In 1990, he was appointed a Medical and Scientific Advisory Board Member of Search Alliance, the forerunner of AIDS ReSearch Alliance, one of the oldest research organizations dedicated to HIV and AIDS research in the country. He became a faculty member in the HIV Nurse Clinician program (Pacific AIDS Education & Training Center, funded by Ryan White Part E) at the University of Southern

California in 1990 which lasted until 2000; he developed and taught a post-graduate program for HIV care for OMDs (Oriental Medical Doctors, 1993) as well as teaching on the same subject for several continuing education programs for medical doctors including programs at Scripps Mercy Hospital (both in San Diego) and USC. He authored the first professional article outlining a projected research project to be published in peer-reviewed chiropractic research literature (*The Internist*, 1997) and, in the mid-1990s, was the Los Angeles-based clinical investigator on two nationwide studies on HIV. One was funded by the NIH, which investigated the use of complementary and alternative therapies, and the second studied the effects of growth-hormone preparations on HIV-infected persons with wasting syndrome. He was a commentator for Pacifica Radio-KPFK, covering the 6th International AIDS Conference in June 1990, and in 1991 and 1992 produced and directed the cable television show "Your Health, Naturally."

Since being appointed to the Planning Council, Dr. Smith has become the vice-chair of the membership committee and has represented the Council at several events including the "National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in September, the "I Am a Queen Bee" and the Orange County Employees Health Fair in February of this year. He also has represented the Council before several student organizations on the campuses of University of Central Florida and Valencia College, East.

# HIV 360° Fellowship Program

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

**Ashley Young (Arkansas)**  
**The Passion Project**

Ashley is an experienced public health professional whose work is aimed at the improvement of health systems and health outcomes for underserved communities specifically geared towards women and children. Ashley currently serves as the project manager for the Passion Project, a SAMHSA funded initiative designed to expand and enhance substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health, HIV & AIDS, and viral hepatitis services to high risk African-American women who have substance use or co-occurring substance use issues and mental health disorders.

**Charlie Ferrusi (New York)**  
**New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute**

Charlie is an impassioned social justice activist, seeking to eliminate the health disparities faced by LGBTQ people as well as people living with and affected by HIV. Charlie received his MPH in Community Health from New York University College of Global Public Health. He currently serves as a Contract Manager at the NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute in the LGBT Health Services Unit. Charlie works closely with both the Columbia County Young Democrats and Hudson Pride Foundation.

**Damon Johnson (Georgia)**  
**NAESM, Inc.**

Damon is a rising public health leader dedicated to transformational social change. Damon currently serves as the Associate Director of Programs at NAESM, Inc., a community-based organization focused on the impact of HIV on communities of color in the South. Damon and his

team take a multidisciplinary approach to developing comprehensive programs and initiatives that address the complex needs of people from marginalized communities.

**Daniel Downer (Florida)**  
**Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc.**

Daniel is a budding community advocate who firmly believes in fostering unity for everyone regardless of their ethnicity, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation. He currently works as an Early Intervention Specialist for the Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc. Daniel is a well-respected leader in his community for his ability to captivate, empower, inspire, and mobilize others to erase the stigmas not only surrounding HIV, but also ethnic and gender identity, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse, race, and sexual orientation.

**Daniel Szymczyk (New York)**  
**The HIV League**

Daniel is a graduate of Appalachian State University and a rising, nonprofit professional. He is the founder and Executive Director of The HIV League, the nation's only scholarship-granting organization for students living with HIV. Daniel began focusing his efforts on HIV-related issues once he grew comfortable with his own HIV-positive diagnosis.

**Erika Usui (New York)**  
**The Ali Forney Center**

Erika is a graduate of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center's School of Public Health. Erika currently serves as Health Services Coordinator at The Ali Forney Center, a community-based organization whose



**Front Row from Left to Right:** Ashley Young, Socorro Mooreland, Erika Usui, Charlie Ferrusi, William Campillo Terraza. **Back Row from Left to Right:** Jalenzski Brown, Damon Johnson, Francisco Cortes, Daniel Szymczyk, Daniel Downer

mission includes protecting LGBTQ youths from the harms of homelessness. Erika is committed to providing LGBTQ youth with the HIV prevention and treatment tools they need and deserve.

**Francisco Cortes (Pennsylvania)**  
**Galaei**

Francisco is the Youth Program Coordinator at Galaei, a queer Latinx social justice organization based in Philadelphia. Francisco currently serves on the Board of Directors for Juntos, and he is the youngest appointed Commissioner to the Office of LGBT Affairs in the city of Philadelphia.

**Jalenzski Brown (Texas)**  
**Resource Center**

Jalenzski seeks to find peace, love, happiness, and understanding in every moment of his human experience and help those around him do the same. Jalenzski studies the world around him, seeking new truths in an effort to create a greater tomorrow. He currently works at Resource Center – North Texas' primary LGBT and AIDS service organization – as the MPowerment Programs Manager, where co-manages

HIV and STD prevention and treatment services.

**Socorro Moreland (California)**  
**APEB**

Socorro is a Puerto Rican, classically trained chef who was born in 1985 to a revolutionary family committed to social justice liberation and the Black power movement. Socorro found his calling within the HIV prevention field 11 years ago and coordinates programming and support services for transgender people of color within the Bay Area. Socorro currently works for APEB, a community-based, nonprofit organization.

**William Campillo Terrazas (Arkansas)**  
**Latinxs Revolucion LGBTQ**

William was born in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and migrated to the United States at the age of 6. Upon receiving Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, William took a job as a Disease Intervention Specialist within the Arkansas Department of Health. In 2015, William helped co-found Latinxs Revolucion LGBTQ, a queer- and trans-led, community-based organization in Little Rock that focuses on the health and well-being of Latinx immigrants.



# Condom Safety

By DR. BRIAN A. SMITH (RET)

**Dr. Brian A. Smith (retired) was The seizure of more than 40,000 “knock-off” condoms in Puerto Rico this past March, many destined for Central Florida, has raised safety concerns.**

HCompanies in China have been mislabeling substandard condoms under several well-known brand names as well as “no-name” condoms and selling them at greatly discounted prices around the world. These condoms routinely fall below the government standards set for acceptable “fail rates” which is a measure of how likely it is that any particular condom will burst while in use. More than 4 million condoms were seized before being exported from China but many more made it out of that country before the raids by government agencies.

While the effects on Central Florida are not known at this time, what could have been a huge public health disaster has appeared to have been mostly averted. Still, consumers should be prudent in their selection process. When making a purchase, take a good look at the package — if anything seems “off” or if they are being sold at a “really great price” — you may want to exercise a bit of caution. Which brings me to the next topic — types of condoms. There are two broad categories of condoms — prophylactic condoms and novelty condoms. Prophylactic condoms are designed to prevent pregnancy and reduce transmission of STDs and HIV. Novelty condoms are not. So, how do you know what type of condom you have? It’s not always easy to tell; some prophylactic condoms have the same characteristics as novelty condoms.



The most common type of novelty condoms are flavored condoms — but not all flavored condoms are novelty condoms, some are also prophylactic.

Novelty condoms are condoms that are not designed to be used for sex. They include joke condoms used for gag gifts (no pun intended) such as the “foot-long” condom. Sometimes people don’t realize that novelty condoms are just that — novelties. This lack of realization has the potential to make something that started out as a joke become dangerous. Most novelty condoms are labeled “Not for use for sex” but recent events have shown us that the mislabeling of condoms is far more widespread than previously thought.

Cost is not a good gauge as novelty condoms may be more or less expensive than regular condoms. The price depends on what the novelty condoms are made of and how they are being marketed. In general, flavored condoms don’t cost more than other condoms however price is not a gauge for how safe it is. No novelty condom should be considered safe unless it explicitly states that the condom is safe for vaginal and anal intercourse on the package. Novelty condoms should not be used as protection during oral sex.

Flavored condoms are available at many drugstores and sex shops, with many more options available online. Some businesses place novelty condoms in a different area of the store than where they shelve the condoms that can actually be used for safe sex; some businesses do not. You want to make certain the condoms are actually approved for use during sex. Novelty condoms are not always clearly marked

but a little common sense will help determine if they are being sold strictly as a novelty item. What products are next to them? Lollipops and ice-cube trays shaped like sex organs? They’re probably novelty condoms.

Oral sex is the *raison-d’être* of flavored condoms. Before using a flavored condom for anything other than oral sex, read the packaging they came in. If the box says not to use the condoms for vaginal sex, you should avoid using them for anal sex as well.

Want safety to taste good too? Consider sticking to well known condom brands’ flavored varieties, and check the box; there should be a statement about their suitability for the prevention of disease transmission and pregnancy during any sex act. Remember — once a flavored condom is put on, the only other place it is meant to go is a place that has taste buds. The chemicals used to add flavor may act as an irritant in the vaginal and anal canal. Irritated mucous membranes are much less likely to repel microorganisms of all kinds. This is an important part of sexual health, and you should never give a novelty condom to someone without telling them that it is a novelty — just because you know the difference does not mean your friend does.

Have a healthy and fulfilling sex life without placing yourself and others in danger.

## MIRACLE OF LOVE TURKEY DROP

This is another day and another year we all have come this far by faith.

Miracle of Love is having another Thanksgiving Turkey Drop. Beginning Monday, September 25, 2017, through Monday, October 30, 2017, Miracle of Love will be accepting drop offs, please read notices that will be posted so no one will be left out. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

**Ira Darnell Westbrook**



# HOPWA

## Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS

**The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program was established by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act in 1992 to address the critical housing needs of low-income Americans living with HIV infection and their families.** HOPWA is managed by the Federal Government's Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of HIV/AIDS Housing. In order for an area, called an Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA), to be eligible to receive funding from HUD, there must be more than 500,000 people and at least 1,500 cumulative AIDS cases. Orlando is considered an EMA and it includes the counties of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Lake.

HOPWA funds a number of different services that can assist an eligible individual/family with their housing needs. For example, if an eligible household gets behind in paying the rent and/or utilities, call HOPWA! If an individual is homeless, including sleeping on a friend's couch for a few months, call HOPWA! If a household who has never received HOPWA deposit assistance before has the chance to move in to a new apartment and needs rental and utility deposit assistance, call HOPWA!

In order to be eligible for HOPWA assistance, a person must present documentation providing proof of their diagnoses of HIV/AIDS and their household income cannot exceed a HUD-established amount (80 percent of the area median income). Once an individual or family is deemed eligible for HOPWA services, a housing case manager will assess the specific needs of the household and determine the housing services that are appropriate at that time.

An essential part of HOPWA is the housing case management service. Both individuals and families who are challenged with low income and high rent will greatly benefit from working with someone who can help identify the barriers to paying bills on time and help find solutions to the financial crisis. The result is that the household will learn to live within their income means and know that help is only a phone call away if a housing crisis occurs again. The specific HOPWA service categories are:

- **Case Management Services provided by a HOPWA housing specialist are required**

**for all households who receive housing assistance.** Services may include financial assistance through one or more of the HOPWA service categories, budgeting, understanding a lease, tenant rights and responsibilities, and referrals to other services.

- **Short-Term Housing Assistance provides temporary shelter for individuals/families that are homeless and need immediate housing assistance.** This is a time-limited program where assistance cannot exceed 60 days in any 6 month period.
- **Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility (STRMU) Assistance is available when the household is currently housed, with a current lease or mortgage, and is at risk of homelessness.** Utility assistance is also available as long as the eligible person can show proof of responsibility toward paying the utility bill. This is a time-limited program where assistance cannot exceed 21 weeks in a 52 week period.
- **Facility-Based Housing Assistance may provide either short-term or long-term assistance, depending upon the circumstances of the individual/family.** Those who qualify for Facility-Based Housing are homeless and may require a longer period of time to stabilize their health and establish housing options before moving back in to independent living. Clients may have to pay a co-pay of 30% of their adjusted income in this housing program.
- **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) may be time-limited or long-term assistance depending upon the circumstances of the household.** In this program, there are a few more HUD regulations that must be in place: 1) the household may have to pay a co-pay of 30% of their adjusted income, 2) the rent cannot exceed the fair market rent, 3) an appropriate size apartment is determined based on the family size, 4) a monthly utility allowance is paid by HOPWA but any amount over the allowance must be paid by the household, and 5) monthly home visits and inspections are required by a housing case manager.
- **Permanent Housing Placement Assistance is comprised of the deposit amount of a rental unit and the first month's rent.** The goal of this assistance is to help an individual/family establish permanent and stable housing.

Both HOPWA and Ryan White Part A now access consumer information from one source. This means that a person's eligibility for either program can be established by a HOPWA or Ryan White Case Manager. The Consumer can then confidently share with either Case Manager what their needs are, and together, a broader and more effective plan of care can be created.

For more information on the HOPWA services offered and to see if you are eligible, call one of the following HOPWA agencies:

- CENTAUR - Aspire Health Partners**  
Phone: 407-875-3700 x4312
- Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention (CMWP)** Phone: 407-648-9440
- Miracle of Love (MOL)** Phone: 407-843-1760



**Nathaniel Bell** of the Orlando EMA Health Services Planning Council was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his valuable contributions as the 2015-2016 PLWH Representative of the Planning Council. During his term, he increased meeting participation through the initiation of incentives, in the form of door prizes donated by community organizations.



**Imolé Akinlana** of the Orlando EMA Health Services Planning Council was presented with a certificate of appreciation because of her valuable contributions as the 2016-2017 Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness Chairperson. Ms. Akinlana's term as a Planning Council member ended in April 2017, but she still continues to attend meetings and helps to improve the life of individuals infected/affected with HIV/AIDS.

# Orlando EMA

## Standing Committees

### Membership Committee

Meeting is the first Tuesday of the month  
3:00 PM

### Planning Committee

Meeting is the first Thursday of the Month  
3:00 PM

### Evaluation Committee

Meeting is the second Wednesday of the month  
3:00 PM

### Resource Allocation Committee

Meeting is the the second Thursday of the Month  
3:00 PM

### Executive Committee

Meeting is the Thursday of the week before the Planning Council Meeting  
3:00 PM

### Planning Council

Meeting is on the last Wednesday of the month  
Meet-N-Greet (5:30 PM)  
Meeting (6:00 PM)

**Contact Planning Council Support for meeting locations or visit website**



[www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite](http://www.ocfl.net/ryanwhite)

## Planning Council Support Contact Information

### Planning Council Support

**Main Phone: 407-254-9390**

### Planning Council Support Helpline

**407-254-9383**

### Crystal Dunlap, *Sr. Fiscal Coordinator*

**407-254-9384 • [crystal.dunlap@ocfl.net](mailto:crystal.dunlap@ocfl.net)**

### Alelia Munroe, *MPH, Health Planner*

**407-836-8107 • [alelia.munroe@ocfl.net](mailto:alelia.munroe@ocfl.net)**

## Ryan White Part A Service Providers

### AIDS Healthcare Foundation

(888) 716-5889  
[www.aidshealth.org](http://www.aidshealth.org)

### ASPIRE Health Partners

407-245-0014  
[www.aspirehealthpartners.com](http://www.aspirehealthpartners.com)

### Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

407-648-9440 • [www.cmwp.org](http://www.cmwp.org)

### Dept. of Health in Seminole County

407-665-3200  
<http://seminole.floridahealth.gov/>

### FL Dept. of Health in Orange County

407-836-2680  
<http://orange.floridahealth.gov/>

### Dept. of Health in Osceola County

407-343-2030  
<http://osceola.floridahealth.gov/>

### Dept. of Health in Lake County

352-771-5500  
<http://lake.floridahealth.gov/>

### Orange County Medical Clinic Pharmacy

407-246-5356

### Miracle of Love

407-843-1760  
[www.miracleofloveinc.org](http://www.miracleofloveinc.org)

### N.E.E.D. Inc.

407-661-1300  
[www.needincfla.org](http://www.needincfla.org)

### Turning Point

407-740-5655  
[www.turningpointcfl.org](http://www.turningpointcfl.org)

### Hope and Help Center

407-645-2577  
[www.hopeandhelp.org](http://www.hopeandhelp.org)