



WNCAP

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

ALL SERVICES
ARE FREE
AND CONFIDENTIAL
1-828-252-7489
or **1-800-346-3731**
www.wncap.org

WNCAP WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER TANGELA BALLARD-BOWMAN



"I am the mother of three wonderfully amazing kids who are five, sixteen and seventeen years old. I am also the proud wife of Harrison Bowman Jr. I work as the director of the Motherlove Program for the YWCA of Asheville where I have been working with adolescents and teen pregnancy for over eleven years. It is truly a rewarding experience. Recently, I was also ordained as an evangelist by Apostle Ron Carpenter. I attend Redemption World Outreach Center.

HIV and AIDS have impacted my life through my family and my friends. As a new board member of the Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP), I hope to build more awareness of HIV in the African-American community by collaborating with existing community resources. Although the percentage of HIV infection among African Americans

is disproportionately high, we also need to realize that contracting HIV can happen to anyone. United we stand divided we fall. I truly believe that if we come together as a community, we can save lives through HIV/AIDS prevention, education and awareness."

WHY GET AN HIV TEST?

Getting tested for HIV is a smart thing to do. Still, many people refuse to get tested. Some find the idea of getting tested too frightening, even though they will often continue to agonize about whether they're infected. Others think of testing as unnecessary and hold on to the belief that HIV can't happen to them. Many times when people get tested, they happily discover their concern was unfounded. The assurance that comes from a negative test result can provide enormous relief. For others, getting tested and learning they are HIV positive is the first important step towards staying healthy. One of the most basic truths about HIV is that gender, age, race and economic status are irrelevant when it comes to vulnerability to HIV. Anyone can become infected. Despite huge advances in treatment and a wealth of knowledge, the HIV epidemic is going to be with us for a long time to come. At present, there is no cure for HIV/AIDS, but there are medications that have proven very effective in keeping HIV-positive people alive, longer and healthier. Knowing your accurate HIV status through testing is essential to good health and long life.

Everyone Aged 15 to 65 Should Receive HIV Testing, New Guidelines Say



Clinicians are now recommended to screen all patients aged 15 to 65, and other teens or older adults who are at an elevated risk for HIV infection, according to new guidelines. The guidelines were part of the final recommendation statement on screening for HIV by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and were published online Monday, April 30th in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Additionally, they recommend that all pregnant women, even those in labor whose HIV status is unknown, be tested for HIV.

HIV is a retrovirus that harms the cells that protect the body from disease - it can take years for symptoms to develop. The virus is passed through blood, breast milk, vaginal secretions and semen. Until recently, the Task Force has only recommended HIV screening for people in high risk groups and for pregnant women. However, after an analysis of more data, evidence showed that almost 25% of people who are infected with HIV in the U.S. do not know they are infected. The task force believes that widespread early detection would "result in substantial public health benefits".

UPDATE YOUR STATUS

ACT
AGAINST
AIDS

NAPWA

WE@AIDS
greaterthan.org



JUNE 27TH IS NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

TAKE THE TEST. TAKE CONTROL.
TO FIND FREE AND LOW COST HIV TESTING:

hivtest.org
1-800-CDC-INFO

Walgreens

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE,
RAPID HIV TESTING

at Walgreens in North Asheville
841 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801

DATES & TIMES:

THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH FROM 3PM-7PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH FROM 3PM-7PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH FROM 9AM-2PM