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

## NATIONAL

## THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IF YOU ARE INFECTED WITH HIV IS TO GET TESTED.

Each year, JUNE 27th is recognized as National HIV Testing Day.

Everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 should get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care, and people with certain risk factors should get tested more often. People with more than one sex partner, people with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and people who inject drugs are likely to be at high risk and should get

tested at least once a year. Sexually active gay and bisexual men may benefit from even more frequent testing, depending on their risk. To protect your own health, you should also get tested if you have been sexually assaulted.

To schedule a confidential/free HIV test, contact WNCAP at **828-252-7489 ext. 311** or email wncap@wncap.org.

You may also contact the **Buncombe County** Department of Health at 828-250-5109

## **NEWEST ADDITIONS TO OUR** SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Idania Garcia is WNCAP's new Case Management Supervisor. Idania was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the United States in 1967. She first encountered HIV in the early nineties when she lived in Las Vegas and began hearing about friends and former partners who'd been diagnosed with HIV and had ultimately died as a result of AIDS. She began volunteering as a hotline operator for the local HIV/AIDS service organization and was ultimately hired as an

HIV educator and outreach worker. She eventually became the Program Manager and Case Worker. When asked why, she commits her work to HIV services, she says, "Like most people who become involved in a social issue, HIV/AIDS affected and took the lives of many people I cared for. As a child of the seventies, I am lucky to have dodged that bullet". Idania received a BA in psychology from Rollins College in 2013 and will receive her MSW from the University of Southern California this August.

New WNCAP Medical Case Manager Kanesha Whitworth will provide client services in the Shelby/Cleveland County region. Kanesha assisted with HIV/AIDS research at UNC-Chapel Hill and was a peer educator for one of the CDC's HIV prevention programs called SISTA (Sisters Informing Sisters about Topics on AIDS) during her undergraduate studies. Kanesha is currently completing her MSW in Health Education & Promotion with a concentration in Health Advocacy & Policy. Kanesha says, "Ever since undergraduate studies at North Carolina Central University, I've grown to love the field

of HIV/AIDS. Seeing how it affects my community (African American community), I wanted to see a change. I had to do something about it. I've been advocating since sophomore year and I plan to keep going until the numbers are low or there are no new cases of HIV. Fighting stigma and educating the community is my number one goal. HIV will LOSE!"

Emily Duberman is a new WNCAP Medical Case Manager. Emily holds a BS in Health Education and a MSW from Appalachian State University. She has previously worked for the American Sexual Health Association, Wilkes County Health Department, and Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) in Charlotte, NC. Emily works in HIV service provision because she, "...wants to be an advocate for those who are affected by social injustice and advance sexual health for individuals in

WNCAP's new Accounting Manager Helen Powell-Busch has over eighteen years of accounting and nonprofit management experience including seventeen years with the Dogwood Alliance which advocates for the protection of Southern forests. Helen has a great commitment to conservation, community and equal rights. She is also a passionate world traveler. Helen dedicates her work at WNCAP to one of her closest college friends, Jeff, who lost his life to AIDS in the early nineties.

New Development Director, Brent Wyatt, was employed twenty-one years with the McDonalds Corporation in marketing and human resources. Subsequently, Brent was an HR Director in Philadelphia before coming south and working six years at CarePartners as Director of Retail Operations. Brent feels a deep commitment to HIV/AIDS service as he lost five friends to AIDS in the early nineties.

