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GBAPP GAZETTE

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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our GBAPP newsletter. In these difficult times for human services organizations, I am grateful for the opportunity to share some positive developments from our GBAPP community to the place where you live and work. In the last year, because of support from federal, state, local, and private foundations and contributions, GBAPP had expanded programs in the areas of positive youth development, supportive housing, HIV/AIDS prevention and coordination, mentoring, pregnancy prevention programs, and faith-based institutions. In the last year alone, we have touched the lives of close to 10,000

youth and families in the greater Bridgeport region. In this new fiscal year, with the state budget still unknown, we may be facing some challenges, such as the potential loss of our long-term after school program, serving youth ages 11- 16, for over 12 years. Nevertheless, with challenges come new opportunities. We are working with our partners within the greater Bridgeport community to accommodate our youth services. In addition, GBAPP has recently responded to multiple requests for proposals issued by federal and state agencies and we are hopeful to continue our after-school programming, expand our capacity for



(photo circa 1989) Rudy Feudo, PhD., President and Executive Director. Feudo celebrated 20 years as GBAPP's ED on January 1, 2009.

delivering prevention and comprehensive sexuality education services to the community.

We look hopeful to the future with your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Our mission:

The mission of Greater Bridgeport Adolescent Pregnancy Program, Incorporated (GBAPP) is to decrease pregnancy and early parenthood in adolescents and reduce HIV/AIDS among youth, women and children through direct service delivery, coordination of services, education, resource development, supportive housing, training an advocacy in the greater Bridgeport area.



Every 9½ minutes,
someone in the U.S.
is infected with HIV

09:30
MINUTES SECONDS

Get the facts

ACT
against
AIDS



- 1 in 5 teens who have been in a serious relationship report being hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.
- **Nearly 1 in 4 girls** who have been in a relationship (23%) reported **going further sexually than they wanted** as a result of pressure.
- Learning healthy relationship skills greatly **reduces your risk of violence** with other teens.

HIV Services Update

In July 2009, GBAPP received funding from Department of Public Health for a perinatal HIV prevention project targeting minority pregnant women unaware of their HIV status. Ujima Circle provides comprehensive, sustained prevention activities to bring and keep women who are pregnant and HIV+ into prenatal and medical care. HIV Counsel-

ing and testing will be offered in the Emergency rooms, community and faith-based settings.

Detecting and treating HIV infection early can make a big difference in the health of the baby.

- Perinatal transmission accounts for 91% of all AIDS cases reported among children in the United States—and an estimated 17,000 HIV infections

among children since the epidemic began.¹

- Perinatal HIV transmission rates are 2% or less when antiretroviral therapy is initiated and adhered to during pregnancy.^{4,5} The figure is 25% for women who receive no preventive treatment.^{4,6}
 - When antiretroviral therapy is begun intrapartum, the rate of transmission is approximately 10%.^{7,8}
- Source: CDC - <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/perinatal/1test2lives>

Youth Development Services Update

GBAPP was awarded a new contract from DCF on July 1st to offer a complement of services to Mi Casa/My Home and Housing for Success residents, as well as other youth in the Greater Bridgeport Area. GBAPP is now an official contractor to implement Community

Housing Assistance Program (CHAP). CHAP will serve youth ages 17 and older who are committed to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The purpose of this program is to assist youth in transitioning to self-sufficiency within their community. The pro-

gram offers case management services along with a comprehensive curriculum developed in conjunction with a life skills inventory. A strong emphasis will be placed on developing and achieving independent living goals and lifetime community resources with the youth.

GBAPP Spotlight: Nia Alliance

The NIA ALLIANCE now includes the 5th cohort of women and the 2nd cohort of men who have graduated from the program. **WAY TO GO, Nia Volunteers!**

The Nia Alliance is an initiative to develop a volunteer network of men and women

who are dedicated to learn and respond to the growing HIV epidemic among people of color. In August 2006, GBAPP developed a training curriculum to prepare men and women to serve as volunteer liaisons to faith-based organization.

CHECK OUT NIA LIVE!

The 30 minute radio show hosted by Rev. Hill airs on Thursdays at 4:00 on WDJZ 1530am. Rev. Hill is the host of the show with a listening audience of over 1 million. We are also global www.wdjzradio.com.

Welcome to the GBAPP Team!

We are happy to welcome the following new GBAPP staff hired between January—July 2009

- John Rindos — Property Specialist (FT)
- Edward Gregory — Property Specialist (PT)
- Marie Sistrunk — Per Diem Resident Worker
- LaChelle Davis — Youth Coach, Housing for Success

Become GBAPP’s Employee of the Year and receive a \$200 cash award! Quarterly winners receive \$100.

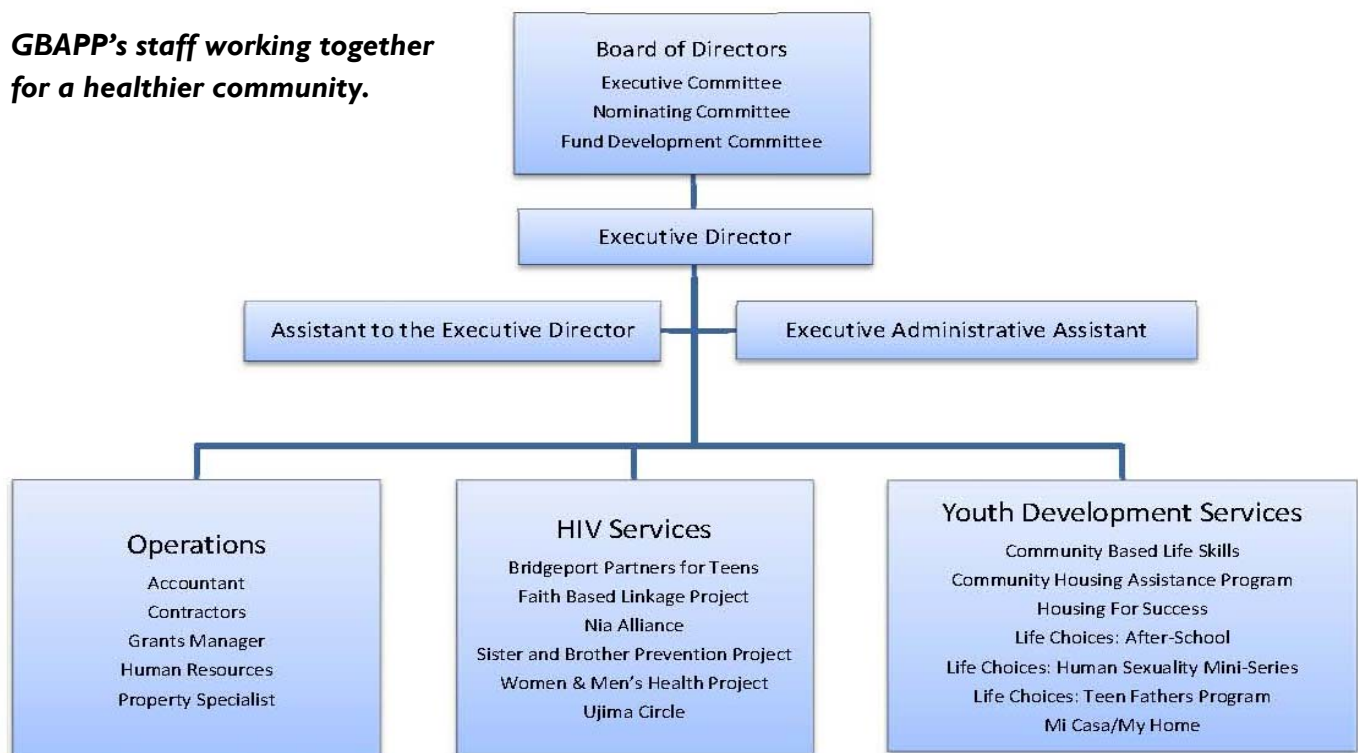
Management selects winners on criteria:

- Client/Public First
- Consistent, Reliable Client Service
- Positive Attitude
- Teamwork
- Going Above and Beyond



Executive Director Rudy Feudo presents Mi Casa /My Home Case Manager Blanca Lamourt with 1st Quarter 2009 Employee of the Quarter Award.

GBAPP’s staff working together for a healthier community.



Upcoming Events

- **9/12/09**—National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month Event; "There is a Plan!" (12pm-4pm); Victory Temple Church, Apostle Cheryl Jones, Senior Pastor, 2335 E Main Street, Bpt
- **10/3/09**—20th Annual AIDS Walk (9am—3pm), start @ McLevy Green, Downtown Bridgeport
- **10/15/09**—National Latino AIDS Awareness Day
- **11/29/09**—World AIDS Day—details to follow

Happy Birthdays to GBAPP Staff

July

7/6—Mary Clarke
7/7—Saleh Hanaif
7/10—Brenda Hernandez
7/16—Lisette Villada
7/22—Veronica Jones
7/22—Shanika Rucker
7/25—Virginia Dileo
7/28—Joyce Lewis

September

9/4—Dana Wikander
9/6—Gabriela Vera
9/14—Amanda Harmon
9/16—Kathleen Conroy
9/30—Trina Barnes

August

8/1—Annie Hernandez
8/18—Gladys Nunez
8/18—Yadira McLaughlin
8/19—Victoria Dicks
8/21—Tim O'Meara
8/27—Leatha Bennett

October

10/1—Sheilyan Santiago
10/3—Mieshie Jenkins
10/16—Carmen Garcia
10/25—Lela Brodie
10/25—Blanca Lamourt



City Kidz Got Skillz 2009

Thank you to all the staff and community support who helped make the 2009 City Kidz Got Skillz Event on May 8th & 9th a great success.

With hip-hop as the impetus behind the showcase, this two day event focused on positivity and empowering youth to express themselves through the arts. Over 60 talented youth had the courage to step into



GBAPP's Life Choices Students performing original rap, "Don't Do Drugs".

the spotlight for a chance to win cash prizes and the chance to get recognized by talent scouts in the area.

Although the aim of the event has been to raise funds for GBAPP's youth programs, the overall impact has been the kids having fun and community people to have renewed faith in our kids again.

This is to say, however City Kidz Got Skillz celebrated its 3rd year performance with the generous support of the community. Raising close to \$8000 this year, GBAPP was able to provide sponsorship to 20 youth to be able to participate in the event, to cover the event costs, **AND** sponsor 5 addi-



Art Contest winner,
Eliaser Almodovar, age 10

tional kids in a summer leadership development program in partnership with RYASAP's YouthSpeak youth group.

The goal is to make City Kidz Got Skillz a year-long program and we hope you will join us in the initiative to greatly impact the lives of more area youth.

Thank You!