

1528 Walnut Street • Suite 200 • Philadelphia, PA • 19102

Rashidah Lorraine Hassan
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer



"BECAUSE WE CARE..."
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH RESPONDS TO AIDS

A Symposium for the Religious Community

Since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the African American Church has been criticized for its lack of response.

During a crisis the Church could be depended upon to provide comfort and understanding, advocacy and services. HIV/AIDS, has however, brought with it issues the church was not ready to openly confront.

As the epidemic grew in the African American community, the Church had no other choice but to respond, and in 1989 a number of model programs emerged across the country. In Philadelphia; PA, Oakland, CA; and Richmond, VA, the African American Church responded.

Recognizing the need to provide the religious community with the opportunity to receive and share information, BEBASHI is sponsoring an informational symposium. During this symposium participants will meet the founders of these programs, and hear their struggles in creating some of the largest church based AIDS programs in the country.

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO YOU! Won't you join us on Friday, April 10, 1992, from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Christian Love Baptist Church, 32nd Street and Montgomery Avenue, as we endeavor to provide a forum in which ideas, concerns, and fears may be shared and addressed.



**"Because We Care..."
The African American Church Responds to AIDS**

Friday, April 10, 1992

Christian Love Baptist Church
32nd and Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, PA

**Featured Presenters:
(Confirmed to date)**

Rev. Yvette Flunder
ARC of Love
Oakland, CA

Rev. Terrie Price
Project HEAL
Richmond, VA

Vincent Hackney
Urban Clergy Leadership Ministry
Eastern Baptist Seminary
Philadelphia, PA

Registration fee: \$10.00
Please make check payable to "BEBASHI"
Registration includes all materials and lunch

NAME _____

TITLE _____

REPRESENTING _____

ADDRESS _____

Please complete and return to: Curtis Wadlington
Executive Assistant to the CEO
BEBASHI
1528 Walnut Street - Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19102

The African American Church Responds to AIDS:
An Informational Symposium

On April 10th, 1992 BEBASHI hosted an informational symposium that presented successful models of HIV/AIDS intervention programs developed by African American Churches. The symposium was held at the Christian Love Baptist Church in the Strawberry Mansion section of Philadelphia.

Approximately 100 attendees were able to hear the Founder and Executive Directors of two of the countries most successful African American HIV/AIDS initiatives relate the struggles and success of developing thier programs.

Rev. Yvette Flunder pastor of City of Refugee Church in San Francisco, California and Founder/Executive Director of Arc of Love Ministries Inc. was the feature program presenter.

Arc of Love is a HIV/AIDS education and service agency supported by Love Center Ministries of Oakland California were grammy award winning gospel singer Rev. Walter Hawkins is pastor.

Arc of Love provides HIV/AIDS education to the African American community and congregations in Oakland and San Francisco California. In addition they provide casemanagement services and housing for dual diagnosed (HIV/Substance Abuse) clients.

Also featured that afternoon was the Founder and Executive Director of Project HEAL (Help Educate African Americans About AIDS For Life) Rev. Price. Project HEAL is an HIV/AIDS education intervention of the Fifth Street Baptist Church of Richmond, Va. Project HEAL has successfully gained the active and positive support of the Black Clergy Council of Richmond and Vicinity. The council acts as host for educational seminars and workshops, provides financial support and some of his members are speakers and trainers.

The project provides educational workshops and seminars to African American congregations and there surrounding communities. Rev. Price success in gaining the support of the Black Clergy of Richmond is the most remarkable accomplishment of Project HEAL.

The support of the Clergy has given this community permission to actively develope other church based responses to the HIV epidemic. Rev. Price shared with participants how she utilized her association with other ministers to gain support of Project HEAL.

She encouraged participants to identify and recruit other ministers already involved in community outreach to utilize their associations to support HIV/AIDS interventions. The symposium also featured the Ecumenical Information AIDS Resource Center. E.I.A.R.C. is a HIV/AIDS Presbyterian Church at Broad and Diamond Street.

The project is fund by the William Penn Foundation and supported by member churches. The project provides training and education to 21 member churches from North Central Philadelphia and the communities surrounding their churches.

The project was developed in conjunction with BEBASHI 3 years ago and has successfully provided training to over 20 churches and hundreds of community members.

The project director, Ms. Liz Minor shared the importance of working with established agencies such as BEBASHI to provide Technical Assistance to identify funding, provide training and ongoing support to project activities.

Mr. Vincent Hackney, a visiting lecturer at Eastern Baptist Seminary shared with the conference attendees training available to ministers. Mr. Hackney provides pastoral training at Eastern Baptist Seminary as part of the Urban Ministries Institute.

Conference participants came from Philadelphia surrounding countries, Central Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington D.C.

Also the conference was attended by the Region III Public Health Service Minority Health Officer and the Office of Minority Health. These federal agencies were looking at the possibilities of utilizing this conference as a model to be replicated across the country. Some strategies conference speakers highlighted as successful were:

- o Intervention is easier when an important congregant dies or congregation has a fair amount of member who have engaged in high risk behavior (Substance/Abuse, Sexual Promiscuity). Many congregations have specific membership drives to recruit such members.
- o To utilize the resources and services of local state and national programs developpe by large religous denominations (Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist ect). Who have brochures and training material that can be adapted.

- o Network with local HIV/AIDS coalition for funding opportunity and program service enhancement opportunities
- o Identify the church leadership other than the pastor for program support.
- o Begin all program initiatives by educating the church leadership.
- o Allow the church to identify what they feel comfortable in becoming involved in Education/Services.
- o Let the program involve and create it's own demand for new program areas.
- o Involve program staff in as many training opportunities as possible.
- o Develop a presentation style compatible with other local programs and agencies but uniquely yours.
- o Develop linkages with community based health care providers.