

A.C.C.E.P.T.
ANNUAL REPORT
2008

Connecting **Youth and Families**
to
Healthy, Positive Choices!

A.C.C.E.P.T.
580 West 5th Street, Suite 1A
Reno, Nevada 89503
775-786-5886

Info@acceptonline.org
www.acceptonline.org

Will you be a Sustainer?

Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by health problems and disease in Nevada and throughout the nation. We have more illness, shorter survival times, and more deaths for many diseases and health-related issues.

Minorities often have higher rates of infectious and chronic diseases due to a variety of reasons including the following factors: socioeconomic status, access to care, disparities in access to care, lack of diversity of physicians who understand cultural differences with minorities, environment, culture and tradition, language and cultural barriers, discrimination, genetics, and education. *In Nevada, African Americans represent 7% of the total population. However, we rank the highest for many health problems.*

- African Americans had the highest age-adjusted rate of **heart disease** mortality in Nevada, and the highest rate of deaths due to stroke. African Americans are more likely to be told they have been diagnosed with high blood pressure, and stroke ranked as the 3rd leading cause of death for African Americans.

- African Americans have the highest death rates from **cancer** in Nevada, Black men die faster from prostate cancer and Black women die faster from breast cancer.

- The fourth leading cause of death for African Americans is **unintentional injuries**. Unintentional injuries are linked to alcohol use, alcohol related deaths, deaths from firearms, poor mental health, and suicides.

- African Americans have the higher asthma rates than any other racial/ethnic group nationwide. In Nevada, African Americans have the 3rd highest rate for **chronic lower respiratory disease**.

- In Nevada, African Americans and Hispanics have a higher age-adjusted mortality rate from **diabetes** among all ethnic populations.

- In Nevada, African Americans have the third highest rate of **bloodstream infections** among all ethnic populations.

- **Homicides** have a profound effect on minority groups and disproportionately decimate the youth and young adults of these communities. African Americans have the highest rate of homicides in Nevada.

- In Nevada and nationwide, African Americans have higher rates of **influenza and pneumonia** among all ethnic groups.

- Of all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, **HIV and AIDS** have hit African Americans the hardest. African Americans in Nevada have a disproportionate number of new AIDS cases compared to the percentage of the overall population. African Americans make up 7.5 percent of Nevada's population and 25.6 percent of the reported new AIDS cases. HIV is the 10th leading cause of death for African Americans in Nevada and the 7th leading cause of death for African Americans nationwide.

*(Rogerson, S. (2007). *Minority Health in Nevada*. Bureau of Community Health. Carson City: Nevada State Health Division.)

In order to decrease these rates of infection and mortalities, the essential ingredient needed is the continual flow of monetary support from concerned citizens as you to support our education and intervention programs. Please join us in this work by becoming a sustainer. Sustainers allow us to increase the quality of programs to the highest risk group in the United States, African Americans (CDC, 2007).

Please send your donation to 580. W. 5th St., Suite 1A, Reno, NV 89503.

We are a **United Way partner**, 501(c) (3) Non-profit organization and every donation is tax deductible. Please check out our website for more updated information regarding A.C.C.E.P.T.

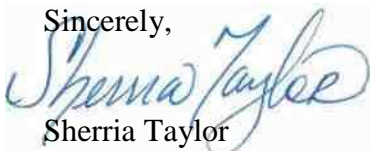
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The **Mission of A.C.C.E.P.T.** is to *creatively enhance and empower individuals, families, and organizations of underserved communities through the strategic implementation of civic services that promote public safety and public health.*

A.C.C.E.P.T. (Advancing Community Cultivation & Enhancing Progressive Transformations) is the only community-based organization targeting African Americans in the State of Nevada through direct prevention education and supportive care services. Founded in 1995 by Pastor Glenn E. Taylor Sr., as an outreach ministry of the Greater Light Christian Center, A.C.C.E.P.T. was created to fill the gap in services in the State of Nevada for African Americans who have been disproportionately affected and infected since the epidemic's beginning. In 1999, A.C.C.E.P.T. acquired its own 501c3 and became a separate organization. African Americans account for more HIV/AIDS cases than any other ethnic group. Although being only 12% of the U.S. population, African Americans account for more than 50% of all AIDS cases. In Nevada, African Americans have the highest rate of HIV infection, and often times do not get into care due to lack of knowledge and resources. Although our focus is the African American community, we do not discriminate in our provision of services. In response to the growing needs associated with the epidemic, our services now include HIV/AIDS prevention education, substance abuse prevention education, family communication training programs, parenting education, support and care services for men and women of color living with HIV/AIDS, and much more as they relate to healthy and positive choices.

Our organization has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two years, and a definite need for our existence has remained established. The families of Nevada are diverse, growing, and have many needs-one need is a voice of change. A.C.C.E.P.T. is one of those voices impacting our community since 1995, and with your help we can decrease the epidemics that are impacting our families and youth. Grant funds focused on human services are trendy, and with the state of our national economy, can be expected to continue to be cut short. Our current goals are to expand our services into Southern Nevada, making A.C.C.E.P.T. a statewide organization and create family resource and development centers in both Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada. These family resource and development centers will provide the underserved populations in of Nevada with a "one-stop" shop for counseling, health care and screenings, life skills training, job skills training, prevention education, after-school programs, and employment opportunities. The populations of Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada are constantly interacting, and share in the many issues that are taking our families and youth by storm. We need your support in order to make this happen... help us connect our families and youth to the healthy and positive choices that will save their lives.

Sincerely,



Sherria Taylor
Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS AND HISTORY

- 1995.....A.C.C.E.P.T. was organized.** Our focus was to educate the African American Community about HIV/AIDS and to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention classes culturally specific to the African American population in Northern Nevada
- 1999....** Received our own **501c3 non-profit status** separate from the Greater light Christian Center Church
Received our **first State of Nevada Health Division Grant** (funded by CDC (Center for Disease Control) to build infrastructure
- 2000** Major **increase in outreach** by including Job Corps as a venue for HIV Prevention Education and joining NNOT (Northern Nevada Outreach Team) of Washoe County District Health Department. Became a **member of the Northern Nevada Planning Council on HIV/AIDS.**
- 2001.....**Received first Federal Planning Grant from **SAMSHA** (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) entitled **“Targeted Capacity Expansion Initiatives for Substance Abuse Prevention in Minority Communities”** Organized the First African American Health Fair- Block Party held at Jean’s Barber Shop in Northeast Reno.
- 2002.....**Completed the **first African American two-year HIV/Substance Abuse Prevention Plan** for Washoe County. Awarded agency’s first Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA) grant to implement Substance Abuse Prevention and family communication program targeting African Americans families- **Creating Lasting Family Connections** Program. **5 instructors trained to implement program.** Became a **member of the Join Together Northern Nevada Coalition.**
- 2003.....**A.C.C.E.P.T. trained to do **HIV Testing-ORASURE, New Deputy Director, Sherria Taylor, M.A.**
- 2004.....** Received funding from S.I.G. (State Incentive Grant) to implement the **Parenting Wisely Program.** Created **A.C.C.E.P.T. Northern California-** received funding to present “Community Feud” (a game similar to Family Feud) to educate the community about HIV/AIDS.
- 2005.....**Received **Ryan White Title II Funding to provide HIV/AIDS intervention services. 2 new instructors** trained on CLFC (Creating Lasting Family Connections)
- 2006.....****Sherria Taylor is promoted to Executive Director, New Board members** Glenn E. Taylor Sr.-GLCC, and Kenya Murchison, Community Member, **Fiscal Policy Manual Approved,** Meth training for Executive Director. Received **SAMHSA Faith Partners Initiative funding** to support HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse prevention services.
- 2007.....****Hosted the first Federal SAMSHA/CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention) Grantee Meeting** in Nevada. Acquired an **increase in Ryan White Title II** funding to additionally provide support and care services to men and women of color living with HIV/AIDS. A.C.C.E.P.T. moved into our **new downtown office** with the support of Bill Fullenbach, Executive Director of HOPES, allowing us to increase our client base. **Two new employees,** Deputy Director Gwen Taylor and Executive Assistant June Duenas. Helped to **establish a new coalition NIAH (Northern Nevada Initiative for African American Health)** and was voted in as Fiscal Agent for NIAH. Changed our name to **Advancing Community Cultivation & Enhancing Progressive Transformations** to provide services and prevention to other areas of health and well being affecting and affected by the epidemic of HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse in the African American Community. Applied for and received **technical assistance through the National Minority AIDS Council** for Northern Nevada community and faith-based organizations to receive capacity building training on topics such as grant writing, strategic planning, and board development. Received **funding through the NV CDC** to encourage HIV testing among African Americans. Received **funding through the Washoe Community Events Grant and National Take Action Health Grant** to implement our first **Annual Father’s Day Health Walk** in collaboration with NIAH in 2008.

2008.... Hosted the second Federal SAMSHA/CSAP (Center for Substance Abuse Prevention) Grantee Meeting in Nevada. Hosted first **Annual Father's Day Health Walk** in collaboration with **NIAH** and **Washoe County District Health Department**. Continued Funding for **SAMHSA/CSAP Initiative** Continued Funding for Ryan **White Title II** to provide care and support services to men and women of color living with HIV/AIDS. The groups are open to all races, but men and women of color are our target audience. Received finding from **JTNN (Join Together Northern Nevada)** to implement Positive Action Substance Abuse Program for Middle and High School students. Received second funding from **Reno AIDS Walk** to cover cost for bus passes and safe sex kits for HIV Positive Support Groups.

Collaborated with the following organizations: **Boys and Girls Club** Health and Resource Fair, **Truckee Meadows Community College** Health Fair, **Rehoboth Holy Temple Church** Women's Fellowship, **Juneteenth Celebration** in collaboration with **NNBCAS**, **AIDS Candlelight Memorial** in collaboration with **Northern Nevada Outreach Team**, **SAMHSA** Town Hall Meeting at **Greater Light Christian Center**, **UNR- Center For Student Cultural Diversity Minority** Health Fair, **Job Corps** ongoing HIV/AIDS Prevention classes and testing by **HOPES** and **Washoe County District Health Department** for World AIDS Day Program. Ongoing partnership with the pharmaceutical companies, **Abbot Virology**, **Tibotec**, **GlaxoSmithKline** and **Gilead**.

Highlights of Accomplishments for years 2007 & 2008

During Grant Year 2007, A.C.C.E.P.T. programming achieved outreach to **2,023** contacts. Of this number **1,057** were unduplicated clients. This included the following numbers from each racial/ethnic group, by gender: **514** African American males; **413** African Americans females, **209** Hispanic males; **101** Hispanic females; **53** Native American males; **12** Native American females; **35** being male mixed race and **24** being female mixed race; **13** males were and **3** females "other" race, **327** White males, **202** White females, **72** Asian-Pacific Islander males, **45** Asian-Pacific Islander females. **A.C.C.E.P.T. ratio of grants applied for and received: 7: 2.**

A.C.C.E.P.T. has confirmed that in 2007 at least **5 African American males and 1 Hispanic male who tested positive for HIV were encouraged into care and treatment** due to A.C.C.E.P.T.'s outreach efforts. The organization stays in constant contact with our clients who are living with HIV/AIDS to provide support and resources. These individuals have helped recruit others into A.C.C.E.P.T. programs.

In Northern Nevada, **1,494** of the people who attended the A.C.C.E.P.T. programming belonged to racial/ethnic minorities.

During Grant Year 2008, A.C.C.E.P.T. programming achieved outreach to **2,518** contacts. Of this number **1,012** were unduplicated clients. This included the following numbers from each racial/ethnic group, by gender: **404** African American males; **783** African American females **41** Asian/Pacific Islander males; **10** Asian/Pacific Islander females; **347** Hispanic males; **87** Hispanic females; **113** Native American males; **21** Native American females; **11** being male mixed race and **5** being female mixed race; **9** males were "other" race and **4** females were "other" race and **471** Caucasian Males and **212** Caucasian females. A.C.C.E.P.T. has confirmed that at least **5 African American males, 1 Caucasian male, and 1 African American female were encouraged into care and treatment.** The organization stays in contact with these people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) to provide support, and these individuals have helped recruit others.

In Northern Nevada, **1,835** people who attended the A.C.C.E.P.T. programs belonged to racial/ethnic minorities.

A.C.C.E.P.T. partnered with HOPES and Washoe County District Health Department to test a total of **166** people. Seventy percent (70%) of those tested were racial/ethnic minorities of which 43% were African Americans. **HOPES reported a significant increase in their African American HIV positive clientele due to the partnership with A.C.C.E.P.T.** With the dramatic change in the economy in 2008, **A.C.C.E.P.T.'s ratio of grants applied for and received: 6:1.**

A.C.C.E.P.T. would like to thank the following individuals for **740 collective volunteer hours for 2008.**

TJ Allen

Breanna Baker

Wanida Black

James Blackford

Sheila Brown

Stevonna Crosby

Jonathan Drayton

Dione Edwards

Carolina Elder

Debra Grant

Napoleon Haney

Kimberly Harding

Mylan Hawkins

Keiland Henderson

Mary Hill

Muzetta Thrower

Olivia Hill

Shante Hill

Tiffany Hill

Kitty Jung

Jerone Andrea Lopez

Jim Martin

Kyle Miller

Doreen Montablo

Maurice Pelt

Adralene Rememgesau

LaQuita Stewart

Rev. Glenn E. Taylor, Sr.

Aliyah Wrights

Trevonne Wrights

Cheryl Yearnshaw

A.C.C.E.P.T. Programs and Services

Our existing programs include:

Prison Re-Entry Collaboration –We offer the below programs free of charge to clients of other agencies and provide culturally specific training in HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse, Family Cohesiveness, etc.

RAPP Program– Responsible AIDS Prevention Program. A program which strategically addresses the impact of HIV/AIDS on the African American male population 19 years of age and older in Northern Nevada, targeting men who have sex with men which includes men who do not identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual and intravenous drug users. This program includes the use of gender and culturally-specific strategies for condom use. The program emphasizes intervention strategies to promote individual and community empowerment for effective prevention, advocacy, and public awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS/STDs, enhancing the overall quality of life in this population. This program utilizes small groups to present information, motivate behavior change, teach problem-solving, communication, and assertiveness training skills. A.C.C.E.P.T. uses V.O.I.C.E.S (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex) for the sessions. The participants relate to the people in the video in many aspects.

SIIS Program –Sistah to Sistah Program. A program which strategically addresses the impact of HIV/AIDS on the African American at risk female population in Northern Nevada. The program provides information about risk factors for HIV and the active steps that can be taken to prevent HIV infection. This program includes the use of gender and culturally-specific strategies for condom use. The program emphasizes intervention strategies to promote individual and community empowerment for effective prevention, advocacy, and public awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS/STDs, enhancing the overall quality of life in this population. This program utilizes small groups to present information, motivate behavior change, teach problem-solving, communication, and assertiveness training skills. A.C.C.E.P.T. uses V.O.I.C.E.S (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education and Safer Sex) for the sessions. The participants relate to the people in the video in many aspects.

Creating Lasting Family Connections- An award-winning, research-validated, Family-tested, comprehensive family enrichment and Alcohol and Substance Prevention Program. The parent(s) and children attends 15 two-hour sessions to promote better communication, family management, resolving family conflict, family bonding/cohesion, family empowerment, drug abuse prevention for children and refusal skills, how to effectively handle peer pressure)

Parenting Wisely -- [Parenting Wisely \(American Teen\)](#) is an interactive CD-ROM program designed for parents of adolescents and pre-adolescents (ages 8-18). Parenting Wisely (American Teen) has been the subject of many research studies by its creator, Dr. Donald A. Gordon, and also by independent researchers. Strong empirical evidence exists that using Parenting Wisely (American Teen) reduces child behavior problems, delinquency and substance abuse among adolescents, improves parenting knowledge and skills, and strengthens the relationship between adolescent and parent. Parenting Wisely (American Teen) has been designated an Exemplary Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

Positive Action – A substance abuse prevention program directly targeting youth. The *Positive Action* philosophy is that “positive thoughts lead to positive actions, positive actions lead to positive feelings about yourself, and positive feelings lead to more positive thoughts.” Positive Action teaches specific positive actions in the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional areas through six focus units that are common to all of our programs: self-concept: What it is, How It’s Formed, and Why It’s Important, physical and intellectual Positive Actions for a Healthy Body and Mind, Social/Emotional Positive Actions for Managing Yourself Responsibly, Social/Emotional Positive Actions for Getting Along with Others by Treating Them the Way You Like to be Treated, Social/Emotional Positive Actions for Being Honest with Yourself and Others, and Social/Emotional Positive Actions for Improving Yourself Continually.

Well-being Support Services for Men and Women of Color living with HIV/AIDS (weekly meetings)- Promotes the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of men and women of color living with HIV/AIDS through the facilitation of support groups, family soul nights, women’s days of beauty, educational groups, and much more.

Computer Access Program for Men and Women of Color living with HIV/AIDS- Provides participants with tools to increase computer literacy, research HIV/AIDS treatment information, and job opportunities.

WHOLE Program - The Women Healing Openly & Loving Equally program is designed to promote the mental, spiritual and, physical health of women.

H.E.A.L. Program- Healthy Ethnic Approaches to Living- promotes through education and intervention services the physical well-being of African Americans in Northern Nevada while targeting the decrease of health disparities that perpetuate illness.

Fiscal Agent for NIAH- Northern-Nevada Initiative for African-American Health- A local coalition founded under the umbrella of A.C.C.E.P.T. by community members whose mission is to improve the overall health and quality of life for persons of African descent in Northern Nevada by utilizing education, empowerment, advocacy and capacity building through a collaborative effort.

2008 Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors

Cheryl Yearnshaw
Retired-Social Worker
Board Chair

Rev. Glenn E. Taylor, Sr.
Pastor-Greater Light Christian Center
Board Vice Chair

Muzetta Thrower
Retired –Consultant

Napoleon Haney
Special Assistant to the Reno City Manager
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Mylan Hawkins
Executive Director-Nevada Diabetes Association

Kitty Jung
Commissioner-Washoe County

Wanida Black
AVP-Nevada Federal Credit Union

Mary M. Hill
Assistant City Manager-City of Reno

Carolina Elder
HIV Positive Community Member

Staff

Sherria Taylor
Executive Director

Gwen Taylor
Deputy Director

A.C.C.E.P.T.
580 West 5th Street, Suite 1A
Reno, Nevada 89503
775-786-5886
Info@acceptonline.org
www.acceptonline.org