

LOVE LEARNERS



A letter from our Executive Director...

In December, Love Heals marked a milestone, having educated 400,000 young people about the realities of HIV/AIDS. This remarkable accomplishments would not be possible without our loyal supporters.

The New York Women's Foundation recently renewed its \$50,000 support and **The M·A·C AIDS Fund** renewed its \$25,000 support of Love Heals' Leadership Empowerment and Awareness Program (LEAP) for Girls.

LEAP for Girls alumnae will further their work as community educators and activists in 2010 thanks to a renewal of our contract with the **New**

York City Council Communities of Color Initiative and a grant award through **Advocates for Youth's** Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project.

Love Heals also recently received several general operating support grants, including a very generous, one-time \$100,000 gift from **The Richenthal Family Foundation**, \$5,000 from **The Grateful Foundation**, \$5,000 from the **Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation** and \$5,000 from **Bloomberg**.

We could not do it without you!

-Jasmine

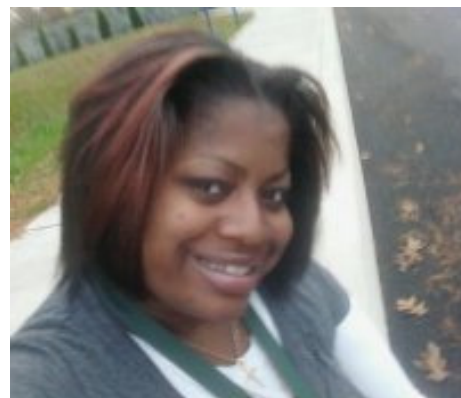
LEAP into Fashion at the Diane Von Furstenberg Studio



Eleven LEAP for Girls alumnae from the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan reunited on December 2nd to learn about careers in fashion from experts at Diane Von Furstenberg (DVF). DVF staff took the group on a comprehensive tour of the fashion house's five-story studio in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. During the tour, alumnae caught a glimpse of the just-released Summer 2010 line, got an inside look at Ms. Von Furstenberg's personal office and design space, and walked through the buzzing creative department. After the tour, DVF executives offered advice about how to succeed in the industry, shared personal experiences with starting a career in fashion, and answered questions about their daily routines and long-term professional goal setting. The tour concluded with pizza and informal discussion.

Speaker Spotlight: Kimberly Canady-Griffith

Kimberley Canady-Griffith, a Brooklyn native, was born with HIV but did not learn of her status until the age of ten. Kim was raised by her grandmother after both of her parents succumbed to AIDS-related illness. She started her HIV activism at the Health and Education Alternatives for Teens (HEAT) Program at SUNY Downstate and later had the opportunity to talk about her experience with HIV and see first-hand the impact of the epidemic abroad when she traveled to Africa with UNICEF. Kim is extremely open about her status and is a vocal advocate in New York City and in Albany for people living with HIV and AIDS. She has been a health educator and HIV-positive speaker with the Love Heals Speakers Bureau since the fall of 2008, reaching nearly 7,000 young people from all five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester County and Worcester, Massachusetts.



LEAP for Girls – Fall 2009



Another impactful LEAP for Girls cycle came to a close in December at the Academy of Urban Planning (AUP) in Bushwick, Brooklyn. The ten young women from AUP reached over 200 young people with HIV prevention messages through street outreach, peer education workshops, and the publication of a newsletter. On December 14th, they were joined by friends and family for a graduation celebration hosted by Rose Live Music in Williamsburg. With eloquence and humor, Glendalis Ortiz, a graduate and keynote speaker, talked about the positive impact LEAP for Girls had on her and her peers, and vowed to remain an advocate and catalyst in ongoing community improvement initiatives. Currently, LEAP for Girls is gearing up for the Spring 2010 cycle, renewing our partnerships with W.E.B. Dubois High School in Brooklyn and The Young Women’s Leadership School of East Harlem.

LOVE HEALS’ MISSION STATEMENT

Love Heals empowers young people in the fight against HIV. Our HIV-positive speakers are putting a face to the epidemic and our youth empowerment programs are training a new generation of community educators and activists. Love Heals also creates and distributes educational materials, shares its expertise, and advocates for young people’s right to HIV/AIDS education. We do this in partnership with hundreds of schools and community groups throughout New York City and the surrounding areas, reaching both young people and those individuals who impact their lives, and placing a special emphasis on outreach to high-risk communities.