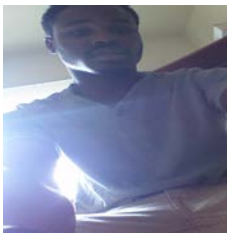


***Anthony Anderson*** is a junior at Georgetown University majoring in American Studies. He works part-time as an outreach worker for Us Helping Us, People into Living. While he currently lives in DC, he spent a majority of his life in Gary, Indiana. Anthony is a participant of the 2017 Build-A-Brother Institute held through Young Black Gay Leadership Initiative, as well as The Building Leaders of Color (BLOC) training held through the NMAC. Anthony's work mostly comes from his own experiences and struggles, one of those being housing instability. He currently is a True Fellow that is run through the True Colors Fund, an organization that works to end homelessness for LGBT youth. Through the fellowship, he is working to make an app that connects LGBTQ youth with life sustaining resources. In his free time, he loves to cook, hike, listen to music, and spend time with loved ones. Anthony, who is HIV positive himself, strongly believes in being vocal in the fight to end HIV using his experience to inform others. He is thrilled to be a part of this year's youth initiative program and hopes to gain a lot of meaningful professional and organizational skills.



***Bailey Goff***, was born and raised in the small town of Wedgefield, South Carolina. She was born to Linda Gayle and Baron Goff on the 25 of October in 1994 and grew up as if she was an only child because of the age gap of her four other siblings. Bailey comes from a large and diverse family who are situated along the East coast. In her early youth school was not Bailey's favorite place to be due to the constant bullying she faced due to being a feminine boy. Although academically successful, trouble followed her in to the home and Bailey began to close herself off to the outside world. She developed a passion for helping and making people feel better about themselves. Eventually, Bailey developed depression that she wouldn't want anyone else to experience. Through self-love Bailey found my true self and gained the courage to transition despite the opinion of others. Bailey now lives as a proud transgender woman. At the age of 22 Bailey is a successful nail tech and has the urge to reach her full potential in the impact she can make in the world.



Corey Clark is someone you might already know. At the age of 17 Corey learned he was HIV positive. When he found of the news it didn't seem like something as life threatening as the world would make it seem. This was primarily because of his ignorance of the epidemic. Sex and the crazy things it brings into one's life was one of those things never talked about in his home. Growing as an HIV positive person made Corey one of the strongest and most adaptive persons that he knows. It was when he became aware of my own ignorance and my family's ignorance about the realities of HIV that he felt the urge to want to educate others in the communities he is involved in on sexual health and preventive care. This urge to be educated forced Corey to constantly educating and advocating for himself. This work lead him to become a part of Youth initiative. Corey recognizes the need and

importance of sexual education; therefore, Corey believes it is a duty of his to bring awareness, provide reliable information to others and be a better advocate for those living with HIV.



Danne' Hughes was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and currently resides in Houston Texas. Danne' became a teen mom at the age of 17 and since then it has been her mission to strive for continuous success. As a woman of color working to break barriers, Danne' constantly works to overcome trauma that life has exposed her to. She is a young professional working for a non-profit CBO that is prevalent to the fight against HIV/AIDS. She currently occupies a position as a Community Health Education Specialist and possesses the credentials of a Community Health Worker licensed through the state of Texas. Danne's occupation allows her the pleasure of educating youth much like herself on how to prevent the spread of HIV!



Getting to know Dae'Quan means truly listening to his story. Dae'Quan, or Quan for short, is 23 years old from Newport News, Virginia and currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Growing up Quan always had a passion for music and making a difference. He loves to write poems and produce music to express himself. Quan believes some of his best work was created after he found out about my status. March 28, 2016 is a date he will never forget because changed his life not only in terms of his health but my perception on life. Finding out he was positive was a defining moment in his life. It was at that time Quan knew that telling his story would inspire people to follow their dreams and look forward to a brighter future. Quan believes that every change started with a dream and we must believe in our dreams for them to come true.



Derrell Richardson is a Political Science major at the University of the District of Columbia. After being diagnosed with HIV, Derrell decided to commit his time to helping his community and others around him to gain the necessary knowledge about the virus, its prevention, and breaking down stigmas associated with it. Derrell joined an organization called Campaign 9:30 on campus, which aims to create awareness and encourage students to get tested. In 2015 and 2016, he had the honor to be a part of NMAC's Youth Initiative Program where with he has worked together to do some amazing things such as the #60second & #DoingIt campaigns. After college, Derrell plans on attending graduate school and pursue a MAT so that he can become a teacher. **Farah is a returning Youth Scholar and this year will be serving as a Youth Ambassador.**

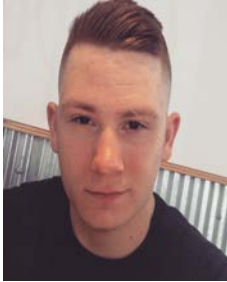


Farah Jeune is a community television producer and artist from Boston. She has been involved in the HIV community for about 3 years now and as an activist, Farah cares immensely about the health and wellness of her fellow peers. With the mass amount of stigma behind HIV in her communities and the health disparities throughout the nation, it's very important to her to be one of the voices that help de-stigmatize these issues that keep communities from staying healthy, safer, *S.E.X.Y.* One of the tools Farah uses is her artwork. She loves to illustrate pictures dedicated to informing people about HIV facts, myths, social struggles, and paying homage to those involved in the movement. Thus, as a community TV producer of *Farenheight TV*, Farah utilizes her show as a platform to help educate and connect audiences with health resources and further give a voice to Boston organizations involved in the HIV movement. She was also a part of an HIV social media campaign called *Safer is S.E.X.Y. (Sophisticated, Empowered, Xtraordinary, You)* where Farah helped educate and informed young women in Boston about the importance of their overall health. Through her volunteer work and artwork, Farah hopes to continue helping uplift and strengthen her community. She is super excited to meet all of the 2017 NMAC advocates and can't wait to attend the USCA conference again! **Farah is a returning Youth Scholar and this year will be serving as a Youth Ambassador.**



Representing the Pacific Northwest, **Isa Wrenn-Jones** is a Trans\*plant to the South. Shortly after acquiring a BA of Political Science from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, *Şé* relocated to Jackson, MS to become the health educator for the Better Sex with Latex/Focus on the Future (BSL/FOF) research study. BSL/FOF looked to shift the condom conversation towards pleasure in addition to protection, increase the sexual awareness of its target population (15-29 year old black men and transwomen who sleep with men), prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. While with BSL/FOF, *Şé* also engaged in many discussions about the importance and power of consent, cultivation of Self-Love as a healing force, diversification of one's safer sex repertoire, and the limitless possibilities of a holistic sensuality incorporated into the general practices of Self-Care. In the winter of 2015, *Şé* transitioned to Open Arms Healthcare Center to work full time as a coordinator for the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) program. As a coordinator, Isa educates individuals about PrEP, assesses risks of acquiring HIV and other STI's, and assists patients navigate PrEP related insurance and pharmacy issues.

After 5, Isa can be found enjoying poetry (page and stage), photography, and the passions of the cook pot. As an Afrosensual spiritualist, Şé can often be found engaging in activities for the evolution, illumination, and expansion of mental, emotional, and physical existences. Şé believes in the cultivation of the authentic voice and the deliberate deConstruction of language as strategies for the facilitation of freedom, emancipation, and liberation of our various peoples, now and in the future.



**Joey Gray** is a 24 years old and has been living with HIV for a little over 3 years. Joey has overcome adversity and risen to meet the challenges of being a young HIV activist. He has been blessed with the opportunity to share his story with AIDSWatch and Poz I Am Radio station. Once used to seeing HIV as a curse and somehow less valuable to his community, Joey now gives thanks for the opportunity to persevere, by turning his experiences into an opportunity to help others. No matter what challenges he gets to face, Joey knows that he gets to achieve his dreams despite his diagnosis. **Joey is a returning Youth Scholar and this year will be serving as a Youth Ambassador.**



**Jessica Zyrie** a visible black transgender model who uses her platform to advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights and racial equality. She began her transition during her senior year of high school in 2010, and began advocating after coming out publicly with her story in October 2016. Since becoming visible, she has traveled through Texas working alongside many organizations, including Equality Texas and American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU). Her visibility and dedication to ensuring equality within Texas has led to her becoming one of the top leaders for transgender and racial equality in Texas.

Jessica graduated with honors from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) with her Psychology degree. She was a supplemental instructor for Anatomy and Physiology 1 & 2. She attended the first Lavender graduation event ever held at TAMUCC.

She works as an HIV prevention specialist for Bee Busy Wellness Center in Houston. She educates at risk communities about preventative measures like Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis as Truvada (PrEP), and provides a multitude of resources for the community's health. She is passionate about ending the epidemic within the community and ending the stigma regarding HIV/AIDS.



**Jonquil C. Johnson** was born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania on April 10th in the year of 1992. She moved to South Carolina in 1994 and has lived there ever since. In 2010 Jonquil was diagnosed with HIV, one year after she had given birth to her daughter. Jonquil has been greatly involved with her community's local AIDS services and does a lot of local advocacy. She hopes to gain more knowledge and

experience by participating in the youth initiative of 2017. Jonquil is ready to expand her horizons as far as getting the word out pertaining to HIV/AIDS awareness.



**Julius Pikes-Prince**, is a native of Daly City, CA. He is currently a senior in high school looking forward to graduating in June of 2018. Julius has been working with LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a **San Francisco** queer youth resource center based in the heart of the Castro). While there he gained a lot of knowledge about leadership and how he can apply it to the world. He is motivated to make a change in the world one step at a time. Julius enjoys fashion, he loves to stand out with his style and believes that one day he will have his own clothing line. Clark Atlanta University is where Julius would like to attend in the next following years to major in fashion design. Being a person of color and someone that have been working the community since he was 15 years of age Julius believes he will bring a different perspective to USCA.



**Kahlib Barton** is a young advocate and activist from Marshall, Texas, currently residing in the Washington, DC area. He is the PrEP Program Coordinator at Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc., a community based organization, where he leads the organizations PrEP campaign and provides PrEP education and navigation. In addition to his work in The District, Barton is also the Vice Chair of Young Black Gay Men's Leadership Initiative or YBGLI (an organization dedicated to the intentional representation of young Black gay men in research, legislative, and public health processes) and an executive member of the National Youth Forum on Homelessness (a group of young people who work to change and develop homelessness policy and influence direct practice). He is both honored and humbled to be able to serve young queer and transgender people of color as we continue to strive to dismantle social constructs and dehumanization. **Kahlib is a returning Youth Scholar and this year will be serving as a Youth Ambassador.**



**Khayree Gray** is a 19-year-old Black man from Oakland California. Having lived in Oakland his whole life and thinking he knew about everything in the city, he was surprised when he found out about a local CBO called AIDS Project East Bay (APEB). Three years ago, in the summer of 2014, he found his way into HIV prevention when he did a month long internship there which eventually led to him finding a new passion. The next summer he graduated from Oakland Technical High School class of 2015. Now only two years into the adult world he has been officially working in HIV prevention for about a year. Khayree is on track to get a degree in the medical field, and is a certified HIV tester and counselor. Working in this field has helped him grow as a person and has made him want to do great things for his community.



**Kyle Rodriguez**, was diagnosed with HIV in January 2013 at the age of 18. Although he was devastated to learn of his status, Kyle wanted his diagnosis to empower him to achieve his goals. Kyle became a client at AIDS Project New Haven (APNH) which is the oldest HIV/AIDS agency in the state of Connecticut. The staff at APNH fostered an atmosphere that made him confident in being HIV-positive. Kyle also learned coping skills and the ability to love and respect himself. This newfound confidence and self-acceptance led him to become the first volunteer of Mpowerment New Haven, a social HIV prevention program for young gay, bi, and trans men. The director and Kyle spent the first few months recruiting new men to the program. He always arrived early and stayed late after events to ensure everything went smoothly because he is passionate about HIV prevention. This commitment to change granted Kyle the opportunity to become the new director of MPowerment New Haven. With the support of his colleagues and volunteers, MPowerment has become a flourishing, well respected program.



**LeAndrae D. Blackman** works in the Humboldt park community alongside the Puerto Rican cultural center as well as Generation L. LeAndrae participates in HIV prevention as well as cleaning the community. Community work is something that means a lot to him and he finds pleasure in bringing the community together. Although it feels like his communities have been knocked some steps back I will never lose hope. LeAndrae loves what he does and I hopes to see change. He fights for peace, unity, continuity, youth empowerment, strengthening our families, and setting our youth up for success. He believes that love is a given on and that people need more love than anything. LeAndrae looks forward to seeing his seeds grow into something beautiful. He just wants to love as many people as he can and work with beautiful people. LeAndrae knows its a far cry at the moment but he believes it can and will happen. Some call him a daydreamer but he is in his own class.



**Levonte Williamson** was born and raised in Memphis, TN. Learning valuable life lessons from his parents at an early age has helped to develop who he is and what he stands for today. Mr. Williamson grew up shy and timid, but had many ideas that he never expressed due to feeling of possibly being rejected or embarrassed by his thoughts. Over time, Mr. Williamson realized that he had a voice that needed to be heard and could possibly make a difference not only for him, but for many other young, black same-gender loving men. Currently he works as a Financial Manager where he is responsible for company banking accounts and the financial up- keep of the recipients' financial state at a non-profit

organization dedicated to assisting mentally and physically disabled adults. In 2016, Levonte began working with a group of community members and leaders named the Headliners after some of his close friends encouraged him to join and be an inspiration to the community. Since joining, Levonte began to realize how important HIV education and awareness is to his community and how much of a difference he and this team of community leaders could possibly make in their communities. His excitement for learning more about HIV prevention and ways to serve his community led him to applying for the Youth Initiative. He plans to continue working with the Headliners and to continue using his voice to help end stigma.



**Michael Trés Moore** is from Media Pennsylvania. Michael currently attends Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida and majors in elementary education k-6. His dream is to start a boarding school for minority boys and is also a passionate activist for HIV/AIDS. In 2013 Michael as HIV positive and now holds it a great pleasure to make another part of his mission in life to spread awareness and destroy the stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS. He is very excited to be a 2017 NMAC Youth Scholar and looks forward to all the great things that are going to happen from this program. Also, Michael is excited with what's happening in the field of HIV/AIDS research. He is grateful for this opportunity to grow in his HIV work!



**Nyjah Pringle** is 24 years young. When she was attending school at the University at Albany, Nyjah studied communications. Nyjah loves music and was a radio personality at her university. Now, Nyjah love doing blogging and vlogging on social media outlets such as YouTube. She is an activist for essential tremors and sickle cell disease. When she returns to school to finish her senior year, Nyjah want to study abroad to teach sexual education so people are more aware about STDs and STIs. She believe that part of HIV awareness comes from shutting down stereotypes and teaching the upcoming generation about sexual education. She dream of being a motivational speaker and working in television and radio productions while traveling the world. Nyjah has an adorable bunny named Poppy. Her hobbies include finding new music, blogging, going to conferences, promoting disability rights, and engaging with new people. In 2016, she went to two conferences, which was both fun and enlightening. Nyjah went to the SUNY Student Assembly Conference where she was a school leader and attended NACA as a school representative.



**Nyheme H. Sumpter** is a sophomore at Benedict College, a historically black college located in Columbia, South Carolina. His current major is Mass Communications and Journalism. He completed high school at C.A. Johnson High School and participated

in selected extra-curricular activities such as the CAJ Gospel Choir, District Honors Choir, State Honors Choir, Drama Club, C.A. Johnson Health Science Magnet Program, and the Concerned Black Men Mentoring Program. He participated in community programs such as HYPE (Helping Young People Evolve), and currently volunteers at the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council where he assists in community outreach events, and serves as a back-up receptionist during busy days of client service. During FY 2016 Nyheme was trained and now serves as a PrEP Popular Opinion Leader with other males who completed the program. The group's mission is one of educating "everyday people" about PrEP and how to make it a part of their HIV prevention plan.



**Pierre Smith** is 25 and was born in December 1991. As a child, he traveled back and forth from New Mexico back to Detroit. Pierre's father stayed in Albuquerque while his mother stayed in Detroit. He comes from a home with 5 other siblings and is the second oldest. He cares about everyone's wellbeing and has always wanted to do some work in helping people but as a child just didn't know exactly what to do. In 2007, Pierre returned to Detroit and started school and was always hanging in the wrong crowd. Eventually, he had to learn the hard way that it wasn't the road he should have been on.

While working a good job he had lost and went without working for a while Pierre finally found his way again. Early 2014, Pierre was diagnosed with HIV and it scared him for a second but after a few moments he took it head on and wanted to just focus on getting himself healthy again and back on schedule. Ever since then Pierre has been doing very well with the help of doctors and wanted to take this opportunity to help others in any way that I can by gaining more knowledge on the LGBTQ community and People Living With HIV (PLWHIV). He hopes to discover and come up with new and innovating ways to help make life easier (and much better) for those living with, or for those who knows someone that maybe struggling.



**Richard Elliott**, lives in Asbury Park NJ and graduating from Ocean County College with his Associates in Deaf Education and Sign Language interpreting and from Kean University with my Bachelors in Education.

Richard has been working in the HIV intervention/prevention field for the past 2 two years, while originally being one of his organization's, Project REAL, clients. Since starting in this line of work, Richard has grown to love what he does for his community and they have shown their appreciation for him as well. When not working, Richard can usually be found in the kitchen cooking and baking many different things. Being in the kitchen is his favorite thing, it is one of the many ways I let my creativity out. As well as being a stage performer in my free time, a Drag Queen by the name of Rhedd Rhumm. Richard got into doing drag for the reason of always loving being on stage and having a fascination with makeup and SFX.





**Syndi Gonzalez Negrón** is a young Puerto Rican woman. She has a wonderful family that adopted her when she was 14 days old and raised her as their own. Her biological mother was an intravenous drug user and lived with HIV. Syndi does not know a life without HIV / AIDS. She has lived with HIV all her life. At the moment, she is 24 years old, and in 2014 she finished his studies in Psychology. She lives her greatest passion day to day, by working for the HIV community. For 6 years she has been working as a peer educator in an organization that allows her to empower and give tools to other people living with HIV. She also works in outreach programs and does rapid HIV testing in the communities. She also works for her community as a young bisexual woman. She is distinguished by her passion in what she does, and her extraordinary and extroverted personality.



**Stacy-Ann Rowe** is an international student attending the University of the District of Columbia majoring in political science. While being at the University she became a certified Student peer educator and member of the University Track and Field team. Most of Stacy-Ann's life was spent growing up on the beautiful island of Jamaica. She then moved to the US to pursue her dreams of becoming a lawyer. She is the youngest of two siblings. Stacy-Ann enjoys running track, going to the movies, doing adventurous stuff and just hanging out with friends. She loves working at campaign 9:30 on campus helping to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse, and drug abuse. She like being a voice for anything that she strongly believe in. She also enjoys traveling, trying different foods, and experiencing different cultures. Stacy-Ann is a jovial, understanding, and caring person who is very generous to those around her and all people in general.

**Tobeya Ibitayo** is a writer, activist, and health advocate living in St. Louis, where he currently works as Federal Navigator with the ACCESS Project at St. Louis Effort for AIDS. Tobeya believes that addressing structural inequalities, including poverty, stigma, racism, homophobia and housing discrimination, is a necessary first step in reducing the disproportionate burden of HIV affecting African American and Latinx communities. Tobeya is interested in health disparities and social determinants of health broadly, with a specific focus on the disparate social, cultural, and policy implications of living with HIV in a post-HAART world. His research also focuses on improving the health and well-being of youth in communities of color in St. Louis. Tobeya holds a BA from Washington University in St. Louis in Anthropology and African & African-American Studies with an emphasis in medical anthropology and public health.



**Tiffany Marrero**, born and raised in Broward County, Florida, was diagnosed with HIV at birth. She obtained her Bachelor's of Social Work degree and is looking to pursue her masters in gender and sexuality

studies to pave the way for a more sex-positive society not just for HIV negative individuals but positive ones too. Her belief is that sex-positivity would decrease stigma surrounding sex and thus lower HIV transmission rates. Tiffany believes that allowing all communities to be honest about their own sexualities would help to improve safe-sex practices, rid victim shaming, and enhance mental and physical education. Blending her passion for the creative arts such as theater, spoken word, and music with her life story Tiffany plans to gain tools at USCA to enhance her education “tool box” and eradicate HIV/AIDS stigma



**Tapakorn Prasertsith**, pronouns they/them/theirs, is a 24-year-old, non-binary, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Thai person, and proud millennial. Moving around for most of their youth, they were raised in both Los Angeles, CA and El Paso, TX. They now call San Francisco, CA, their home. They originally moved up to the San Francisco Bay Area for work in tech (they studied Computer Science at UCSD), during which they volunteered at API Wellness as an HIV Test Counselor, primarily focusing on API MSM and trans folk. After feeling some tech burnout by 2015, API Wellness opened up a position looking to start their PrEP program, and Tapakorn hasn't looked back since. They are part of San Francisco's Getting-to-Zero Consortium under the PrEP subcommittee, with the agenda of accessibility and anti-stigma for disproportionately affected populations, specifically young queer people of color and trans women. Tapakorn is honored to be a recipient of the 2017 NMAC Youth Initiative, and is eager to connect with and learn from other youth leaders as the next generation of folks to “fight for zero”.



**Yeserash Koopman** was born in Ethiopia and came to the USA in 2007 for a better education and to help her family. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to advocate to end HIV AIDS. Yeserash is a member of the Youth Advisory Board at Larkin Street Youth Service. In the Youth Advisory Board, Yeserash helps fight to get support for youth who are facing homelessness. Yeserash is an ambitious person who loves speaking out for youth rights. She is LGBTQ and loves to support her community. Yeserash will be starting at City College of San Francisco to get her certificate for Spanish to further my education and earn her Bachelor's in Communication. When Yeserash was young she wanted to be a flight attendant and is working towards her dream.



**Zion Sylvester**, is gay and identifies with he/him pronouns. Zion is African-American, Grenadian, and Indian. He was born in Miami, Florida and currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Zion lives with his mom, sister, and twin brother. Eventually, Zion hopes to become a neurosurgeon. He is part of the National Honor Society, Student Government, People Exhibiting Awareness Creates Equality (P.E.A.C.E) club which is my school's Gay-Straight Alliance, and Health Occupations Students of America (H.O.S.A). Zion decided to be part of this HIV/AIDS prevention agency because he has two

uncles who are HIV/AIDS positive. When they shared their story with him it inspired Zion to come out. As a Youth Initiative scholar he hopes to gain vital information so that he can enhance his knowledge of HIV/AIDS and ensure that other members in his community aren't affected by it.