Spotlight on Black HIV and AIDS Advocacy

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March 27, 2023 By Joe Mejía

Since 1999, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) has been observed each February 7. Although African Americans make up only 13% of the U.S. population, they account for 42% of HIV cases. This year's NBHAAD theme, "Together, We Can Make HIV Black History," emphasized the collective effort required to remedy this inequity and underscored that February is also Black History Month.

On NBHAAD 2023, advocates staged actions, tested via mobile units and paid tribute to fellow advocates. By lucky coincidence, on the eve of NBHAAD (during an unrelated event), Tony-winning Broadway actor (most recently for Hadestown) and long-term survivor André De Shields, a self-described Afro Queer man, was honored for his longtime HIV advocacy by friends and fellow thespians at a GMHC cabaret and auction event held at Joe's Pub in New York City.



A week in advance of GMHC's 10th Annual Cabaret & Howard Ashman Award, journalist Frank DiLella interviewed honoree André De Shields for NY1. A Tony and Emmy winner, De Shields has been living with HIV for more than 40 years.GMHC/Instagram

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