



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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**ADAP Advocacy Association Seats Two More PLWHAs to Board of Directors;
Addition of Michelle Anderson & Duane Malone further Diversifies aaa+ Leadership**

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 19, 2009) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today announced that it has seated two community leaders living with HIV/AIDS to its Board of Directors. The **aaa+** Board of Directors voted unanimously to seat both Michelle Anderson and Duane Malone, both known for their AIDS activism in their respective communities.

"With Michelle and Duane helping to diversify our organization, **aaa+** is now one step closer to representing the community for which its advocates," said Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. "Last year, we were reminded of the important role community activists play in our communities nationwide, and who better than Michelle and Duane to be the faces of AIDS activism in America representing our young organization. Now our Board of Directors includes eight HIV/AIDS activists and leaders and two disability rights leaders - six who are living with HIV/AIDS."

Michelle Anderson is an African-American woman who has been living for HIV since 1999. She currently resides in Dallas, Texas and is a resident of AIDS Services of Dallas, where she sits as the Activities Chairperson, as well as on their board of trustees. She is also an active member of Campaign to End Aids Dallas, The Afiya Center Peer Educator and volunteer her time as a public speaker in the Dallas Area. Michelle has dedicated much of her personal life to educating others on HIV/AIDS throughout the greater Dallas area.

Michelle considers herself very religious and speaks passionately about her relationship with God. She self-proclaims "to have a love affair with God that consumes me." She plans to finish her degree in Social Work where she will be able to continue to spread the message, and educate people regarding HIV/AIDS.

Duane Malone, a forty-year-old man and an HIV/AIDS survivor of ten years, born in Vicksburg, now resides in Jackson, Mississippi, after living in Orlando, Florida for twelve years. Duane's work ethic has been that of a "Go Getter" not letting anything hold him back, when diagnosed in May 1998, then unable to care for himself in January 2001, where he was ready to give up, throw in the towel, but evidently "God was not done with me yet", he would tell you. Thus started his recovery and work in the field of HIV, knowing that he did not want to see anyone suffer with AIDS the way he did. Duane is a strong outdoorsman, taking yearly camping, hikes, rafting and road trips with his life partner and beloved church community, Safe Harbor Family Church.

Duane is determined to make a difference by reducing the staggering number of people that are HIV positive in the Deep South, who are not receiving even a standard level of care. Duane is actively involved with the MS Community Planning Group and the Ryan White Care and Services Council. This past year, Duane co-founded

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A Brave New Day, an organization that is a peer driven community support system, which taps into the power of peer counseling, online interventions, and social networking, all, of which Duane manages as the organization's Chief Administrator. Duane's typical day includes making and being visible for literally hundreds of online contacts, organizing support group meetings, and related events, taking HIV-related phone calls, making in-person one-to-one counseling visits, and personally accompanying someone into a care setting or testing site. Duane is a passionate advocate in the lives of and for the well-being of ALL HIV positive persons. His health, his outlook, and his activism define his philosophy -- that no one living with HIV should be left alone without a peer that could help maneuver them to HIV self-management education and access to proper medication, especially through crucial programs like ADAPs.

aaa+ is governed by a dedicated, diverse volunteer board of directors. The organization now benefits from the combined experience of six HIV-positive members, two ADAP recipients (plus two former ADAP recipients), one physician, one attorney, one religious leader, eight influential AIDS community activists and leaders, and two lifelong disability rights champions. The board of directors includes: Elmer L. Cerano of Lansing, Michigan, James Albino of Washington, DC, John D. Kemp, Esq. of Washington, DC, Arch-Bishop Joyce Turner Keller of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Keita Simmons of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Philip A. Haddad, MD of Shreveport, Louisiana, and William E. Arnold of Washington, DC 20009.

aaa+ promotes and enhances the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. aaa+ works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to assure that access to services recognize and afford persons living with HIV/AIDS to enjoy a healthy life.

For more information about aaa+ please visit www.adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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