



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Announces Recipients for 2012 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards; Leaders to receive Awards at 2nd Annual Awards Dinner

Award Honorees Represent Mix of Long-Time Advocates and Rising Advocates

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 12, 2012) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today announced the recipients for its 2012 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards, which recognizes individual, community, government, media and corporate leaders who are working to improve access to care and treatment under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. The eight leadership awards will be presented during the **2nd Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner** being held on Monday, August 20th at 7:00 pm in Washington, DC. The dinner will be held in conjunction with its 5th Annual Conference, being held at the Westin Washington DC City Center on August 19-21, 2012.

The 2011-2012 award recipients include:

- **ADAP Champion of the Year (individual):** Eddie Hamilton (Ohio)
- **ADAP Emerging Leader of the Year (individual):** Kevin Maloney (Wash-DC)
- **ADAP Corporate Partner of the Year:** Walgreen Co.
- **ADAP Community Organization of the Year:** AIDS Alabama
- **ADAP Lawmaker of the Year:** The Honorable Jim McDermott, M.C. (WA-7), The Honorable Barbara Lee, M.C. (CA-9), The Honorable Trent Franks, M.C. (AZ-2)
- **ADAP Social Media Campaign of the Year:** *Maria's Journal* by Maria Hiv Mejia
- **ADAP Grassroots Campaign of the Year:** *Florida ADAP Campaign* by FHAAN (via The AIDS Institute)
- **ADAP Media Story of the Year:** *Iowa Insurance Pool is a Colossal Failure* by Andie Dominick, Des Moines Register

“The ADAP Advocacy Association is humbled to recognize the leadership of the award honorees because without their combined commitment to ending the ongoing ADAP crisis, we’d see even more people being denied access to life-saving care and treatment,” said **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association about the 2011-2012 award recipients.

aaa+ initiated its ADAP Leadership Awards last year in light of the escalating ADAP crisis because its Board of Directors felt that it is important to step back and reflect on the good work being done on ADAP by so many leaders – especially since during tough times it is often easy to focus on the crisis itself.

To learn more about the 2012 Annual ADAP Leadership Awards, 2012 Annual Conference, or the ADAP Advocacy Association, please contact Brandon M. Macsata at info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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About Edward “Eddie” Hamilton: Eddie Hamilton has 15 years experience working as an AIDS advocate in various regions of the country. Now living in Columbus, Ohio as of 2005, he is working with Ohio HIV+ individuals at the grassroots level with the ADAP Educational Initiative to gain their advocacy voice. He challenges and encourages them that “complacency is no longer an option.” For several years, he wore his advocacy hat in Massachusetts as a Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) President at a Cape Cod Service Organization, then he became a board member of the Provincetown AIDS Support Group on Cape Cod assisting that organization with a restructure and merger that had enabled that organization to become the The Aids Support Group of Cape Cod (ASG) The HIV and AIDS organization on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard was able to survive the financial climate of 9/11 and beyond; he was later recognized by the Massachusetts Legislature for his efforts. In 2010, he had received his Degree from Columbus State Community College in Legal Studies and will be completing his degree at Ohio University in the Bachelors of Technical and Applied Sciences in the summer of 2011. When he isn't busy “stirring the pot” by challenging state agencies and other organizations about wait lists and other cost containment measures (i.e medical criteria) that delay or obstruct access to life saving medications, he spends his spare time saving the neighborhood cats.

About Kevin Maloney: Kevin presently serves as the Deputy Director at the Community Access National Network (CANN), a position he started in January 2012. He has spent the last several years dedicated to improving access to care for people in need from lessons learned from his own experiences. In March 2010, Kevin Maloney discovered that he was co-infected with HIV-infection and non-intravenous HCV -infection. He immediately started on treatment for both infections, receiving his anti-retroviral medications through the New York AIDS Drug Assistance Program; he also underwent treatment for his HCV infection with 6 months of Interferon Reibavirin treatment, which cleared it. His passion led him to start a grassroots advocacy organization, RiseUpToHIV, whose mission is to educate, inspire, empower, advocate, network and partake in social change through unilateral and collaborative social media efforts with organizations, PLWHA, and other individuals with diverse backgrounds from all over the world. Kevin is committed to affecting positive change for people living with HIV/AIDS and the people who love them by assembling an army of compassionate individuals and organizations until there is a cure for HIV/AIDS. He is a native of Albany, New York, and a graduate of SUNY Institute of Technology. His favorite quotation is, “Voices of unity strengthening community.”

About Walgreen Co.: Walgreens (www.walgreens.com) is the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2011 sales of \$72 billion. The company operates 7,786 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each day, Walgreens provides nearly 6 million customers the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice in communities across America. Walgreens scope of pharmacy services includes retail, specialty, infusion, medical facility and mail service, along with respiratory services. These services improve health outcomes and lower costs for payers including employers, managed care organizations, health systems, pharmacy benefit managers and the public sector. Take Care Health Systems is a Walgreens subsidiary that is the largest and most comprehensive manager of worksite health and wellness centers and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 700 locations throughout the country. As part of the company's commitment to serving people living with HIV/AIDS, Walgreens launched their HIV Centers for Excellence (COE). By November 2011, Walgreens had certified more than 500 of its pharmacies as HIV COE in communities highly impacted by HIV, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Walgreens has been a corporate member of the ADAP Advocacy Association since 2010, and its Director of HIV Pharmacy Services, Glen Pietrandoni, has served on the organization's Board of Directors since 2009.

About AIDS Alabama: AIDS Alabama devotes its energy and resources statewide to helping people with HIV/AIDS live healthy, independent lives and works to prevent the spread of HIV. AIDS Alabama provides housing and supportive services to homeless, near-homeless, and low income individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Last year, the agency provided over 181,000 nights of safe and affordable housing to its clients, and its HIV prevention education efforts reached tens of thousands of Alabamians. Along with supportive housing services, AIDS Alabama provides case management and HIV prevention education outreach statewide. AIDS Alabama is also an active advocate at the local, state, and federal levels and continuously acts to ensure that the voices of HIV service providers, HIV positive individuals, and all affected by this epidemic are heard. Some of its programs and services include: permanent & transitional housing programs for low-income persons and families affected by HIV/AIDS; substance abuse treatment; residential care facility for persons dually diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and severe mental illness; free & confidential HIV testing (including 20 minute Oraquick test); HIV prevention education & community outreach; rental assistance; utility assistance; case management; transportation; health insurance continuation; and support groups and counseling. AIDS Alabama has been on the forefront of HIV/AIDS advocacy in the state for more than a decade. This year the organization activated its statewide advocacy network to educate legislators on HIV/AIDS issues and promote investment in the Alabama AIDS Drug Assistance Program. They held their 15th annual Alabama HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at the state Capitol on March 8, 2012. Nearly 275 people attended the event, including legislators, state health officials, and more than 100 advocates openly living with HIV/AIDS. As a result of these efforts, the Alabama Legislature recently allocated \$4.839 million for ADAP in fiscal year 2013. This amount represents an increase of approximately 15% from last year's allocation and is one of the only items in the budget to receive an increase. It is also one of the largest cash matches to Ryan White funding in the South. AIDS Alabama engages other ADAP stakeholders by leading the Alabama HIV/AIDS Policy Partnership (AHAPP), a statewide advocacy coalition dedicated to improving federal, state, and local policies that impact people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS. The partnership consists of representatives from AIDS service organizations, health departments, medical clinics, pharmaceutical companies, as well as advocates living with HIV/AIDS. While AHAPPs' work is generally divided among three working groups (Access to Treatment and Care, Prevention, and Legal), all members of the partnership work on ADAP advocacy. Additionally, AIDS Alabama recognizes that HIV-positive Alabamians possess the largest stake in ADAP and are often the most effective voices in advocacy. As a result, they recently launched the Positive Leadership Council. Through this project, AIDS Alabama is devoting significant resources to develop a small core group of HIV-positive leaders who actively participate in and guide our advocacy agenda. AIDS Alabama contributes to the sustainability of ADAP in two ways. First, they have trained hundreds of advocates living with HIV/AIDS since implementing a statewide consumer advocacy program over eleven years ago. Last year, AIDS Alabama collaborated with five AIDS service organizations around the state to host consumer trainings in Mobile, Birmingham, and Montgomery. More than 125 HIV-positive Alabamians attended these trainings. Further, AIDS Alabama cultivates lasting relationships with important policymakers in Alabama. For example, AIDS Alabama and the State AIDS Director recently urged Alabama's Governor to help the state achieve a more coordinated response to the HIV epidemic. As a direct result of these efforts, the Governor established Alabama's HIV/AIDS Prevention Task Force on December 1, 2011. They are currently working closely with the new task force develop a comprehensive, long-term prevention and direct services plan. AIDS Alabama has been a corporate member of the ADAP Advocacy Association since 2010.

About The Honorable Jim McDermott, M.C.: The Honorable Jim McDermott is currently serving his 12th term in Congress, representing the Seventh District of Washington State. Born in Chicago, Jim was the first member of his family to attend college. He graduated from Wheaton College and then attended the Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine at the University of Illinois. After completing medical school and an internship,

Jim moved to Seattle to pursue his specialty in psychiatry at the University of Washington Medical Center. When Jim finished his medical training, he joined the U.S. Navy and fulfilled his military obligation at the Long Beach Naval Station, where he treated soldiers and sailors returning from the Vietnam War. In 1970, Jim moved back to Seattle to establish his medical practice and involve himself in the community. Shortly after returning, Jim recognized that he could do more to help improve the lives of others as an elected official, and, in 1970, he was elected to the Washington State Legislature. He continued to practice medicine on a part-time basis, and during his time in the Legislature, Jim became an influential member – first as a member of the State House of Representatives (1971-1972) and then as a State Senator (1975-1987). After more than a decade in the State Senate, Jim decided to leave politics to serve as a U.S. Foreign Service Medical Officer in 1987. Stationed in Zaire, Jim was charged with providing psychiatric services to State Department employees, USAID staff, and Peace Corps personnel throughout sub-Saharan Africa. In 1988, Jim returned home to run for the U.S. Congressional seat representing the Seattle area. He is now serving his twelfth term, representing the 7th Congressional District of Washington State, which includes Seattle and parts of several neighboring communities. Jim is a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee – Congress' tax-writing panel ([click here](#) for more information about Jim's committee assignment). During his time in Congress, Jim has worked hard to aid society's most vulnerable populations – foster children, low-income individuals and families, unemployed Americans, and those confronting major illness or disability. Throughout his congressional career, Jim has been a fierce advocate for the interests and issues of the greater Seattle region. Flying back to Seattle nearly every weekend of the year, Jim remains deeply involved in the community and maintains close connections with the people he represents. Jim resides in the city of Seattle and has two grown children and three grandchildren. If he is not hosting or attending meetings and events in Seattle, there is a good chance Jim is reading, painting, gardening, or walking through Discovery Park. Jim is a founding member of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus.

About The Honorable Barbara Lee, M.C.: The Honorable Barbara Lee is a forceful and progressive voice in Congress, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights. First elected in 1998 to represent California's 9th Congressional District, the Democratic lawmaker has established a reputation for principled and independent stands, unafraid to take on the tough issues and speak her mind for her constituents, for a more just America, and for a safer world. As a social worker by profession, being an advocate for people in dealing with the federal bureaucracy has been a priority. She has aggressively represented the needs of the underserved and vulnerable people in her district and throughout the U.S., vigorously advocating for a wide range of social and economic concerns and bread and butter issues that affect their daily lives. In 2007, Congresswoman Lee (D-CA) joined with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representatives John Conyers (D-MI) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and Representative Joe Baca of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus to form the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus (COPC). The Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus seeks to bring together lawmakers, organizations, community leaders, and other key stakeholders to find concrete solutions to end poverty. The COPC is committed to increasing awareness about and finding bipartisan legislative solutions to eliminating poverty in the United States. The Congresswoman has been a strong proponent of safe communities, affordable housing, the homeless, low income energy assistance, job training, making health care affordable and universal, just immigration policies, the establishment of a living wage, and protection of the right of women to make decisions about their reproductive health. She is a Senior Democratic Whip, the immediate past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and former co-chair of the Progressive Caucus. In February of 2011, Congresswoman Lee introduced H.R. 589, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2011. This legislation would provide 14 weeks of compensation to people who have exhausted their benefits and are still unemployed. Congresswoman Lee understands that

millions of workers across the nation are experiencing a true state of emergency. According to the Economic Policy Institute, for every job opening, there are currently 4.7 unemployed people, many of whom need continued assistance to support their families, make ends meet, and contribute to our economy.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee opposed the extension of the Bush tax cuts for the top two percent and continues to support their repeal, believing that we should instead invest in efforts to stimulate the economy, contribute to job growth, and provide pathways out of poverty. Her accomplishments are many, including authoring or co-authoring every major piece of legislation dealing with global HIV/AIDS issues since she was elected to Congress. This includes legislation that created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. She has secured millions of dollars for HIV/AIDS prevention, education, treatment and care services in Alameda County. She is also a founding member of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus. An early and outspoken opponent of the Iraq War, the congresswoman repeatedly proposed legislation seeking early U.S. troop withdrawal. In 2007, she successfully blocked funds from being used to establish permanent military bases in Iraq. Her 2008 amendment requiring that any U.S. agreement to defend Iraq be expressly authorized by Congress or be included in a Senate approved treaty was stripped from a defense bill under the threat of a veto by President Bush. Congresswoman Lee has been a leader in the bipartisan effort in Congress to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan, including the passage of legislation she authored to allow divestment from companies doing business in the region. Congresswoman Lee began her political career as an intern in the office of her predecessor, former Congressman and former Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums, where she eventually became his Chief of Staff. Before being elected to Congress, she served in the California State Assembly and in the California State Senate.

About The Honorable Trent Franks, M.C.: Trent Franks is a conservative Reagan Republican, and he has spent most of his life working on children's issues and trying to build a better future for all children. Trent is someone who still believes that there is such a thing as the truth and that people and principles should be at the center of political discourse in America. He works very hard in The United States Congress for smaller government by cutting government waste, reducing taxes, bureaucracy, and regulation. Trent believes in personal responsibility, free enterprise and that government's first purpose is to protect its innocent citizens. Trent is a former member of the Arizona House of Representatives. While in the House, he served as Vice-Chairman of the House Commerce Committee and Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Child Protection and Family Preservation. In January of 1987, Trent was appointed by the Governor to head the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, which is a Cabinet level division of the Governor's office responsible for overseeing and coordinating state policy and programs for Arizona's children. Trent served four and a half years as the Executive Director of the Arizona Family Research Institute, a non-profit organization associated with Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family for the purpose of advocating public policy to protect children and families in Arizona. The Arizona Family Research Institute later became the Center for Arizona Policy. Trent Franks is past Chairman of the Children's Hope Scholarship Foundation and a Republican Member of The United States Congress. He has served on the [Budget Committee](#), the [Small Business Committee](#), and now serves on the Armed services Committee and the Judiciary Committee, and is now Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee. He is a member of the Republican Study Committee, the House Working Group on Judicial Accountability, House Working Group on Waste, Fraud and Abuse, the Congressional Hispanic Conference, the Liberty Caucus, the DUI Caucus, the Human Rights Caucus, the India Caucus, the Refugee Caucus, and the Education Freedom Caucus. Trent Jim is a founding member of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus.

About *Maria's Journal* by Maria HIV Mejia: *Maria's Journal*, started by Maria Mejia has leveraged social media via video blogs, blogging, public speaking, and press interviews to continually combat HIV/AIDS stigma, answer questions, and advocate for the poor and disenfranchised. During the ongoing Florida ADAP crisis, she used her online presence to spread the word to the state's Latino community, and others, to help galvanize support for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. Maria has been HIV-positive since she was 18 years old. Maria's Journal can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Mariasjournal?feature=watch>.

About the Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network (FHAAN) & its Grassroots Campaign for Florida ADAP Funding operated by The AIDS Institute: By 2011, the Florida ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) waiting list increased to over 4,000 low-income, infected individuals unable to receive available life-saving medications due to state funding shortages. This was 50% of the approximately 8,000 waiting list patients nationwide. Due to this crisis, the Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network (FHAAN) expanded its membership to 1,300 members and educated and trained these members on issues importance, like how to advocate for increased funding for the Florida ADAP program. By the early 2011 legislative session, hundreds of members wrote their legislators and the Governor for needed funds. The result was an increase of \$2.5 million in recurring General Revenue funding for the Florida ADAP program and a reduction to the ADAP wait list. There was an increasing amount of misinformation about organizations and employees roles in health advocacy and education. Since one of FHAAN's roles is to prepare for future needs in the HIV/AIDS community, they foresaw significant changes in the future of healthcare and the health systems in Florida. Many of these changes directly impacted the HIV community and FHAAN wanted to ensure that the grassroots along with top line advocates were ready to tackle the changes. FHAAN invested heavily in staff time and unfunded resources to build FHAAN into what it is today with over 1,300 members representing every region of the state of Florida. The network is a fully functioning general body with task specific committees and a convening group that ensures that consumer/client leadership is in place throughout the network. To date, FHAAN is still the only statewide advocacy organization in Florida with the capacity and reach into every county. FHAAN is a program of The AIDS Institute. Florida HIV/AIDS Take Action Day resulted in over 1,000 communications to our Florida legislators in support of funding for ADAP, AICP and Florida Medicaid. Included use of their new online Action Center system, social media communications, set of 3 email ask (initial, reminder and send to non-responders), and press release to our current media lists and Media Atlas system lists we built for this action. FHAAN crafted language for Action Day email blast and coordinated input and finalization of language in letters to our legislators. Florida HIV/AIDS Take Action Day also resulted in hundreds of new FHAAN members.

About *Andie Dominick & Iowa Insurance Pool is a Colossal Failure*: Andie Dominick is an editorial reporter for the Des Moines Register. The Register submitted monthly editorial beginning 12/25/12 (01/26/12, 02/20/12, 03/07/12, 04/18/12, 05/10/12, 06/15/12) promoting a change in the state statute and the state policy that barred third-party payee like the state AIDS Drug Assistance Program from paying premiums for the state high-risk pool and the state-run pre-existing insurance plan (PCIP). The ADAP had requested a change in policy in the PCIP, and the Register supported that position in their opinion pieces. The reporting prompted two hearings in the Iowa Senate and the drafting of legislation to allow for third-party payers in these programs. At the same time, the Register uncovered poor administration and use of funds, and a lack of transparency in the operation of the programs. Although the Republican-led House did not pass the final version of the legislation passed by the Democrat-led Senate, the stories may still have a substantial impact on how the state sets up the health insurance exchange or approaches other issues related to care of persons with HIV. The articles were remarkable in their scope and breadth, and in the action they prompted in the state Senate. They required months of investigation, and led to other articles in papers like the Washington Post (Michelle Andrews 03/19/12).