



ADAP Advocacy Association
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adapadvocacyassociation.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Announces Opening Keynote Speaker for its 10th Annual Conference

Maria Mejia to share message, "Positive Evolution: Standing in My Purpose"

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 15, 2017) – The ADAP Advocacy Association, also known as **aaa+**[®], today announced that **Maria Mejia** will deliver the opening keynote at its 10th Annual Conference on September 22-23, 2017. The conference – held in partnership with the Community Access National Network (CANN) – is being themed as "*Unchartered Water: AIDS Drug Assistance Programs in the Age of Trump.*" It is being held at the Westin Georgetown, located at 2350 M Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20037.

Ms. Mejia is the author of the book, "*From a Warrior's Passion and Pain,*" a real life account of her 29-year battle with HIV/AIDS. She is currently the co-chair of the Women and Minorities Outreach for the Dab the AIDS Bear Project. She is an Ambassador for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), as well as a board member of the Community Access National Network (CANN). She is also the Global Ambassador for The Well Project and an Ambassador for the ongoing campaign for Greater than AIDS (Empowered). Diagnosed with HIV in 1991 and infected in 1988 at the age of 16, Ms. Mejia began a long journey finding hope, pride, and passion in an undereducated society unprepared to deal with the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS. After ten years without treatment, she found herself at a crossroads; she could begin medical treatment or slide towards death. She chose to live and to fight for more than just her own health. Ms. Mejia immersed herself in HIV/AIDS advocacy, and became a powerful human rights activist and advocate for education, treatment, testing, and prevention. She has been featured in magazines, billboards, television, radio, as well as national and international conventions. She has been in four documentaries to help raise HIV awareness.

The conference will bring together all ADAP stakeholder groups for two days of programming to discuss current and emerging public policy issues, exchange ideas and develop strategies for effective patient self-advocacy. It will also showcase the **7th Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner on Saturday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm.**

To register, go to www.adapadvocacyassociation.org.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association or its 10th Annual Conference, please email info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance 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 raise awareness, offer patient educational program, and foster greater community collaboration.