

World AIDS Day honored in Brooklyn at Borough Hall ceremony

Borough President Marty Markowitz, along with the Church of the Open Door and the Names Project, honored World Aids Day in Brooklyn at a Borough Hall ceremony today. A number of panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt are on display at Borough Hall. The quilt is recognized as the premiere AIDS awareness education tool in the nation. It provides a moving illustration of the human impact of AIDS, and it helps viewers understand the need to take direct, personal action for their own well being and the well being of their families and community.

"Each year, we remember and honor the many family members, friends and loved ones whose lives have been lost to the tragedy of AIDS and reaffirm our commitment to preventing the spread of HIV through educational programs. Brooklyn residents continue to represent a disproportionate share of AIDS cases compared to the city, state and nation," said Borough President Markowitz. "And Brooklyn has more African-Americans, more women, more children and adolescents, and more

orphans diagnosed with AIDS than any other part of New York City. Brooklyn's community based health care providers, youth centers, churches, schools, and other Brooklyn organizations- along with all of our parents - can be the most effective messengers in teaching Brooklynites - and especially our kids - how to stop the spread of AIDS. It is not enough to know - in the abstract - how to prevent a deadly disease. We must do everything we possibly can to make it common knowledge, and to encourage everyone to

act on that knowledge. And I promise you, I will be one of the loudest voices."

The borough president will be urging that Congress provide a more equitable funding formula for federal AIDS-prevention dollars, so that Brooklyn organizations receive funding in proportion to the need here in the borough. He will also strongly urge that significant New York City funds for AIDS prevention be allocated directly to Brooklyn-based organizations.



From left: Pat Caltabiano, Brooklyn representative from the Names Project New York City; Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham; Dr. Ruth Brown, director of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health at SUNY Downstate Medical Center; Borough President Markowitz; Joyce McDonald from the Church of the Open Door; and Bobby Watts, assistant executive director, Care for the Homeless. (Photograph by Sarah Liriano)