



SISTERLOVE'S

Love Notes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SISTERLOVE, INC.

VOLUME II ISSUE I

SISTERLOVE TURNS 22

What were you doing when you turned 22? I remember that year very well. The world looked so brand new to me. I had just finished my master's degree, and was relocating to Atlanta, Georgia to save the world through public

health. The thought of new beginnings excited me. I was confident in my education, focused on my purpose, and intrigued by what the future would hold. I was limitless!

The thought of SisterLove, Incorporated turning 22 this year brings back those same feelings. SisterLove has stood firm at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS movement, giving a voice to women of color who are infected and affected with this disease. For more than two decades we have made prevention, education, and advocacy a priority throughout the southeast United States and the Global South. As we look back over our accomplishments we are astounded at our

progress. The funny thing is, we know that we are just getting started.

In the face of the HIV pandemic turning 30 years old, SisterLove has worked diligently at creating a strategic plan that we know will continue to lead us in the direction of being a powerful leader for women in the global movement to eradicate HIV/AIDS. The organization is a leader in several innovative national and international projects that will indeed change the direction of HIV prevention, education, and advocacy. We are truly proud to be at the helm of new projects such as the 2020 Leading Women's Initiative which aims to train 2020 HIV positive women in leadership by the year 2020; the 30 for 30 project, which was created to effectively secure the proportional distribution of HIV/AIDS resources for women; and, the Infertility Prevention Project, which focuses on reducing the prevalence of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea infections in Georgia.

The most exciting part of this year is that we are working hard to find new ways to engage YOU, our immediate community in the fantastic work of SisterLove. YOU can host a Healthy Love Party with your friends or at your office and learn more



The SisterLove family is excited about the upcoming year.

about safer sex and prevention. Perhaps YOU can become a member of the SisterLove Committed 100 by pledging to donate \$100 to the organization in 2011. YOU can join us in the month of October as we honor the 2011 class of the 2020 Leading Women and our honors ceremony. More importantly, come into our offices today and YOU can get free testing for HIV or Sexually Transmitted Infections.

At 22, SisterLove Incorporated is celebrating our past and beaming at the very bright future ahead. We need YOU to act NOW so WE can ensure that the mission of SisterLove, to eradicate the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health challenges upon women is accomplished. We look forward to celebrating another tremendous year.

Happy Birthday SisterLove! 22 looks good on you!

Tiffany Pennick, MPH is the current Development and Communication Coordinator at SisterLove, Inc and is the Editor of LoveNotes. tpennick@sisterlove.org

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Healthy Loving is Healthy Living

Healthy Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living
Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Living
Healthy Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living

“ SisterLove has marked many milestones in her 22 year journey to end AIDS and its impact on women and their families. This year is particularly remarkable because of the dedicated and talented teamwork of our staff, board and volunteers. We have demonstrated effective strategies for bridging human rights and public health, and ensuring that women living with HIV are the leaders that we all need to end this epidemic. Bravo SisterLove for staying on the cutting edge and keeping innovation alive in this long struggle! ”
--- Dazon Dixon Diallo, Executive Director, SisterLove, Inc

HIV/AIDS ON THE MAIN STAGE

Positively Infected Opens in Atlanta

Playwright and poet, Nykieria Chaney opens up to LoveNotes staff member Shantrell Jackson about her new play “Positively Infected” and her hope for reducing stigma and increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS in the African American community.



Nykieria Chaney is dedicated to educating the African American community on the issue of HIV/AIDS.

SJ: What is “Positively Infected”? What are the specific goals of the project?

Nykieria: It’s an HIV awareness play, that’s used to remove the misconceptions and stigma associated with HIV and AIDS.

The goal of the play is to educate our community and get them to talk about the disease as well as encourage getting tested. I want people to be inspired to take an active stance to educate the African American community.

SJ: Why do you think it is taboo to talk about HIV in the African American community?

Nykieria: One, (HIV) was originally associated with gay people. Two, it was so deadly that (people) created stigma that still exists today. There is fear because HIV can be passed from one person to the next, unknowingly for some people.

SJ: What inspired you to write “Positively Infected”?

Nykieria: When I found out that 1 in 68 minority women were infected with HIV in Florida that was the final straw for me in 2009. Then there was growing up during the 1980’s and seeing what HIV did. The next factor was losing a close family member to AIDS related

illness. I was 18 before I found out my family member died from an AIDS related illness.

Do you have any plans for the play after the showing in July?

I would like to book “Positively Infected” within schools, churches, and ASO’s around the USA.

Story continued on page 4

PROPHYLACTIC PASSION

We all love sex. While it may be true that some believe using prophylactics can damper spontaneity, the benefit of almost decreasing risk of sexually transmitted infections or unplanned pregnancy is a wonderful trade off. Manufacturers have gone to great lengths (all puns intended) to make safe sex as pleasurable, entertaining, and convenient as possible. Case and point...the Just In Case Condom Compact.

Few things ruin the mood like deciding to use protection and fumbling through your purse to find your last condom. This compact is functional and discreet. It is 2 ½” by 2 ½” and is almost one inch deep. That’s just enough room for three condoms to be stored at once. Customer reviews are quite favorable and note that readily accessible protection makes them feel confident that when the time comes they will be prepared.

Plus you can give a last minute glance to make sure the look of love is all over your face and that you don’t have food in your



The Just in Case Condom Compact is a discrete and cute way to keep condoms near so that you can be safe when choosing to have sex.

teeth too (now that’s a definite turn off). Remember to always use Condoms CORRECTLY and CONSISTENTLY! So embrace your prophylactic and love it. Be safe sistas and brothas...

Jasmin Saville is a 2011 Intern with SisterLove. jsaville@sisterlove.org

*Do you have a favorite condom, toy, or product you would like to share with prophylactic passion?
Email lovenotes@sisterlove.org
and tell us about it!*

Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living Loving is Healthy Living Healthy Loving is Healthy Living

“I am proud that SisterLove has made it to the milestone of 22 years. We are fortunate to have had so much success in the work we do. I am looking forward to another 22 years with the organization.” -- John Crawford, SisterLove Financial Manager



THESE TESTING TIMES

SisterLove Partners for National HIV Testing Day

SisterLove Inc, partnered with the Georgia Department of Community Health, Kaiser Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Walgreens for National HIV Testing Day. Three days of testing at a local Walgreens resulted in over

70 people knowing their status. This was a very special testing event because the clients were very proactive. Many participants stated that they saw the sign for testing earlier that week and decided to come get tested. Clients left work early and rushed to pick up their children to make it in time for testing. Some individuals even returned with their partners, friends and family. Wives sent their husbands and husbands sent their wives to be tested. A client brought a new guy she's dating and planning to be serious with.

The success of the event was in the fact that the community recognized the issue and felt the need to get tested because of the effect that the epidemic is having. This was evidenced by the number of clients that sent or brought their partners back for testing. In

addition the clients were eager to develop plans or ways in which they can reduce their risk. As well as being interested in ways in which they can incorporate condom use into their relationships. Clients inquired about different types of condoms to use.

To end the week of testing for National HIV Testing day SisterLove held a movie night and testing event. Dialogue about women and the decisions we make regarding our sexual health and relationships was developed from the showing of the movie "Truth Hall." We discussed ways in which we can make healthier decisions and the barriers and issues that surround health decision making with regard to relationships and sexual health.

Shanebrae Price is the HIV Prevention and Outreach Specialist at SisterLove, Inc. sprice@sisterlove.org

If You Don't Know

You Better Ask Somebody

Hey people it's your girl Miss B the HE, Health Educator that is, coming to let you know...**If you don't know...You better ask Somebody:**

Q. Healthy Love Party Attendee: Can you contract an STD by sharing clothes or sleeping in the bed with an infected person?

A. Trichomoniasis is caused by the single-celled protozoan parasite, *Trichomonas vaginalis*. The vagina is the most common site of infection in women, and the urethra (urine canal) is the most common site of infection in men. The parasite is sexually transmitted through penis-to-vagina intercourse or vulva-to-vulva (the genital area outside the vagina) contact with an infected partner. Women can acquire the disease from infected men or women, but men usually contract it only from infected women. So the answer to your question is YES. Trichomoniasis can live on damp fabric for around an hour. That means that if you use an infected person's washcloth or towel, or share a wet bathing suit, you can catch trich in this manner. You can get crabs from sleeping in an infested bed or using infested towels. Food for thought the next time you think about sharing clothes with your bestie or having a sleep over.

Q. Healthy Love Party Attendee: Can you contract HIV from the puss of an infected person?

A. HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus. It is the virus that can lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS. According to the CDC these body fluids have shown to contain high concentration of HIV: blood, semen, vaginal fluid, breast milk, and other body fluids containing blood. So, yes, HIV can be transmitted through puss because puss sometimes contains blood. So careful, careful, and careful when caring for open wounds. Remember to protect yourself and always use gloves!

If you have a question for Miss B the HE email the LoveNotes team at lovenotes@sisterlove.org or look for us on our [Facebook](#) page!

POETRY *Corner*

Little Mama by Omi

Little Mama with the tight dress
Little Mama with the big breast
Was always told she was too fast for her age
They say Little mama think she grown
So Little Mama goes out on her own
Because her parents don't understand her rage
See Little Mama was touched by Cousin Fred
And Little Mama used to wish he were Dead
But over time he promised her she would like it
So Little Mama became confused
Because Little Mama didn't understand the word abused
And pretty soon her big T-shirts wouldn't be able to hide it
So Little Mama ran away from home
Because Little Mama felt she was alone
And no one would understand her view
So Little Mama cried out for help
And Little Mama thought God had came himself
When she met the man named Matthew
So now Little Mama is in love
And she feels that no one is above
The bond that these two share
So Little Mama is surprised
When Little Mama receives black eyes
At the hand of the one who cares
And for Little Mama it gets worse
When Mathew begins to curse
Because he is tired of being broke
So when he drops little mama on the street
And tells Little Mama to get in the car of the next man she meets
Little Mama begins to choke
So now little mama has her Hand on her hips
Little Mama sports Crimson lips
And clothes that squeeze her ass
And as little Mama get's in every car
And as little Mama turns every trick
She wonders if this will be her last
Now little Mama feels trapped
Because Little Mama cant get her pimp off her back
And often has flashbacks of her past
Cause Little Mama doesn't see
An end to her misery
And she thinks this is all that she has
But an end came to her tragedy
When she walked in her house to see
Matthew's body laying on the floor
And somehow she felt glad in her heart
Because she knew this was the start
That she was hoping for
But what she didn't know
Was that two weeks before
Matthew found out he had HIV
And after 300 tricks
And thousands of fists
It would also be her destiny
And while it may sound like Little mama lives in hell
She now disagrees because she lived to tell
Her story to other little girls in hopes that they will see
The horrors of Little Mama's life
All before the age of 16

Positively Infected, Continued from page 2

How long have you been working in the arts? What else do you have in the works?

I have actively worked in the arts for 17 years. Art has always been a part of my life, but every artist says that. I am the founder of my own radio show. I published a book "Think it, Write it, Speak it: Nothing but the Truth". I have also written, directed, and produced two other plays "Bend Don't Break", and "Behind the Rainbow". I am a member of Omicron Epsilon Pi Inc sorority, as well as a member of the NALO (Nurturing Art Loving Ourselves) Move-

ment. I also am a SLAM poet (won several poetry slam competitions).

What do I have in the works? I have a new poetry book coming out in 2011. My organization Cre8ive Nsights is still a work in progress. It is a literary and performance arts HIV awareness organization. I want to do a play about Sakia Gunn. As well as a play bringing to light the issue of child sexual abuse.

Shantrell Jackson is the Positive Connections Cyber Center Program Assistant at SisterLove, Inc. sjackson@sisterlove.org

SisterLove Upcoming Events

SisterLove Anniversary July 25, 2011

Back to School Health Fair August 6, 2011



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Contributors

Jasmin Saville - Intern

Our Mission

SisterLove is on a mission to eradicate the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health challenges upon women and their families through education, prevention, support and human rights advocacy in the United States and around the world.

SisterLove needs your help!

[Become a Member of the Committed 100 today!](#)

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BLOG



SisterLove, Inc.

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