Dear Amida Care Members,

With this new, shortened member newsletter format, we are reaching out to you with clear, simple messages that cut right to the chase.

Whether we’re standing up for diversity and human rights at the LGBTQ Pride March, sharing success stories on the work of our Treatment Adherence team, or hosting a sizzling Summer Life Celebration 2017, Amida Care is committed to going all out for you, our valued members.

During these challenging times in our nation’s history, we are advocating energetically for health care policies that protect Medicaid and the life-saving care and resources it provides to you. To join our national online campaign, please visit the Advocacy section of our website at www.amidacareny.org, share hashtag #ProtectAmericasHealth on social media, and urge your friends and loved ones to do so, too.

Enough of us must make our voices heard to make a difference – and we need your voice. We learned long ago that Silence = Death, and we must not go back. Thank you for your continued support of these efforts to preserve the social safety net for you and millions of other New Yorkers and vulnerable people nationwide.

We hope to see you at Amida Care’s Summer Life Celebration in August and at our Live Your Life events and Town Hall meetings all year long.

Abrazos,

Doug Wirth, President and CEO
For Our Partners:

REAL TALK
ABOUT PrEP AND PEP

With partners who are HIV-negative, honest conversations about sexual pleasure naturally lead to talking about PrEP and PEP. PrEP is a non-emergency daily pill taken to keep a person HIV-negative. PEP is an emergency medication that serves the same purpose. It is taken within 72 hours of exposure and continued for 28 days.

PrEP and PEP have helped us acknowledge that there can be physical and emotional reasons why a person might want to have sex without a condom. Over the years, many have been reluctant to talk about having or wanting to have sex without a condom. However, demonizing condomless sex has not been effective in stopping the transmission of HIV. Worse, many members of our community have felt shame and stigma about our sexualities. Just keep in mind that PrEP and PEP protect against HIV, but they do not protect against other STIs – only condoms do.

PrEP and PEP have empowered the heterosexual and LGBTQ partners of those with HIV to feel in control of their sex lives. These days, we are anticipating treatments of the future, such as injectable PrEP. Here and now, we challenge our communities to ensure that PrEP and PEP reach those who are experiencing the burden of new HIV infections, including young people of color. Everyone deserves pleasure!

– Adapted from the special community magazine on Sexual Health and Pleasure, published by Amida Care in June 2017

Condoms + PrEP/PEP/HIV Treatment + Undetectable = NO HIV Transmission

HOW TO GET PrEP OR PEP IN NYC

Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/health to find the nearest NYC Sexual Health Clinic where PrEP or PEP is available to the uninsured or those on Medicaid. For more information about PrEP and PEP visit: www.amidacareny.org/for-members/health-resources/
A coordinator on our Treatment Adherence Team, **JERONIMO ROMAN** joined Amida Care’s staff more than five years ago. To help our members lead healthier, happier lives, Jeronimo builds strong relationships with them, makes home visits, explains lab results, and teaches the importance of taking medications and filling and refilling prescriptions. He supports members in gradually decreasing their viral loads and becoming “undetectable.” In these ways, Jeronimo and the members he works with are helping to End AIDS in New York State by 2020.

Jeronimo recently shared this story: “In the past few months, I’ve made progress working with a member I’ll call Steve – to protect his anonymity. Meeting Steve was a rude awakening for me. He was living in the shelter system, diagnosed with AIDS, a high viral load, and just 4 T-cells. Even in this day and age of modern medicine, HIV is still trying to claim lives! I was afraid Steve might be running out of time.

“An Amida Care member for years who’s now in his 40s, Steve recently began taking better care of himself and has come a long way. He’s seeing a dentist and working on moving to permanent housing. His new goal is to return to work, possibly as a peer navigator. Lately, Steve sometimes calls me, and we stay vigilant to get the puzzle pieces to fit together and keep practicing Amida Care’s motto by going above and beyond!”

"Meeting Steve was a rude awakening for me. He was living in the shelter system, diagnosed with AIDS, a high viral load, and just 4 T-cells. Even in this day and age of modern medicine, HIV is still trying to claim lives... Recently, Steve began taking better care of himself and has come a long way…"
BE YOURSELF... WITH PRIDE!

Showing our support for diversity and human rights, Amida Care made a big splash at NYC’s LGBTQ Pride March on June 25th in Manhattan. To play our part in one of the world’s largest LGBTQ Pride celebrations, Amida Care’s 2017 theme for our float, deejays, and marchers was “Be Yourself... With Pride!”
Amida Care’s special “Sexual Health and Pleasure” magazine came out just in time for LGBTQ Pride Month 2017. Our community publication presents practical knowledge about safer sex and takes an open, honest approach to exploring sexuality. Check it out in English and Spanish on our website at: [www.amidacareny.org](http://www.amidacareny.org)

White Party

**Wear White to Our 2017 SUMMER LIFE CELEBRATION**

Start planning now to make the scene dressed in white at Amida Care’s SUMMER LIFE CELEBRATION on Thursday, August 17th, from 5 to 8 p.m. Meet us on the 18th floor of the Hotel Pennsylvania, high atop 401 Seventh Ave. at West 33rd Street in Manhattan. **See you there!**

**RSVP 1-800-556-0689**
NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

AMIDA CARE COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. AMIDA CARE DOES NOT EXCLUDE PEOPLE OR TREAT THEM DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, OR SEX. AMIDA CARE PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

• Free aids and services to people with disabilities to help you communicate with us, such as:
  • Qualified sign language interpreters
  • Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

• Free language services to people whose first language is not English, such as:
  • Qualified interpreters
  • Information written in other languages

If you need these services, call Amida Care at 1-800-556-0689. For TTY/TDD services, call TTY: 711. If you believe that Amida Care has not given you these services or has treated you differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with Amida Care by:

• Mail: 14 Penn Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10122
• Phone: 1-800-556-0689 (for TTY/TDD services, call TTY: 711)
• Fax: 1-646-786-1802
• In person: 234 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001
• Email: info@amidacareny.org

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights by:

• Web: Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf
• Mail: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
  Washington, DC 20201
  Complaint forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html
• Phone: 1-800-368-1019 (TTY/TDD 800-537-7697)
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<td>English</td>
<td>ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-855-784-8891 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220).</td>
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<td>Bengali</td>
<td>লক্ষ্য করুন: যদি আপনি বাঙ্লা, কথা বলতে পারেন, তাহলে নিচের নামের ভাষা সহায়তা পরিষেবা উপলক্ষে আছে। ফোন করুন 1-855-784-8891 (TTY: 6-800-662-1220)।</td>
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HIV HEALTH: JOIN ACCESS STUDY

Are YOU

• 16 to 29 years old, with a detectable viral load?
• Having trouble taking your medications?

Join the ACCESS study to get live information, support and mentorship. If eligible, you will be compensated up to $150 for your time. Phone and data plan will be provided during study participation.

To learn more, call or email:
Dr. Ann-Margaret Navarra

212-998-5313
amd363@nyu.edu

Live your Life

Amida Care’s monthly series of life-enhancing LIVE YOUR LIFE events offers fun activities like karaoke singing, fashion shows, arts and crafts classes, and much more. For more information and details on all our upcoming events, visit www.amidacaren.org

YOU MENTOR

A Date with Fashion

Sing to your heart’s delight!
Join Amida Care and DJ Spade for an evening of songs, music, and fun!

KARAOKE your voice your style

YOU
MENTOR

NYU RORY MEYERS COLLEGE OF NURSING