



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

**AIDS WALK NEW YORK PROJECTED TO RAISE OVER \$4.5 MILLION AND DRAWS OVER 30,000 SUPPORTERS**

*[Photos for publication](#) must be credited to Matthew McDermott*

*Rosie Perez, Bebe Neuwirth, and other Notable Figures  
Join in Support of World's Largest Single-Day AIDS Fundraising Event*

**New York, New York:** The 31st Annual AIDS Walk New York (AWNY) projects to raise over \$4.5 million and drew an enormous crowd of 30,000 participants to Central Park. Dozens of corporate sponsors, hundreds of teams, and tens of thousands of individual walkers collectively raised critical funds to support people living with HIV and AIDS and to stop new infections. The 10-kilometer walk benefits GMHC and nearly 40 other vital AIDS service organizations throughout the tri-state area.

"While certain presidential candidates have been spreading vile messages that demean people who are most vulnerable to HIV - all while claiming to know about New York values - our participants have spoken up with their a message of their own: hate is not a New York value," said **Craig R. Miller**, AIDS Walk Founder and Senior Organizer. "The projected \$4.5 million raised today demonstrates the true New York values, and American values, of everyone who walked today: compassion for people in need, tenacity in the face of challenge, and a deep love of their community."

"Every day GMHC delivers life saving services which is made possible because of the generosity of AIDS Walk supporters who over the course of 31 years have raised over \$145 million to support people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS," said **GMHC CEO Kelsey Louie**. "Today, tens of thousands of people helped raise over \$4.5 million, which will allow us to continue serving over 80,000 hot meals a year, to test over 3,000 people a year at our testing center, to advocate at all levels of the government, to offer legal services and so much more. Every walker who participated today is paving the way for us to once and for all demand a cure and eradicate this virus."

A cutting-edge AIDS Walk subway campaign was unveiled earlier this year in response to the hateful rhetoric Miller alluded to, featuring a diverse group of New Yorkers and AIDS Walk supporters,

including actor **Alan Cumming** and AIDS activist **Peter Staley**. Defiant messages such as, "**Hate is not a New York value!**" were displayed in a banner over their heads, with the phrase, "Don't stand for it - walk!" emblazoned across their chests. Organizers credit the bold new ads with mobilizing more walkers to participate and fundraise for this important event.

**Rosie Perez (The View)** joined other notable AIDS Walk Opening Ceremony participants, including, **Bebe Neuwirth (Madam Secretary)**, **Conrad Ricamora (How to Get Away with Murder)**, **Kit Williamson (Mad Men)**, **Erich Bergen (Madam Secretary)**, **Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach (Miss Universe)**, and **Nick Adams (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert)**.

**Jay Armstrong Johnson (Madam Secretary)** performed the ballad "If We Only Have Love," and **LaChanze (If/Then, The Color Purple)** closed the Opening Ceremony with her stirring rendition of the AIDS Walk anthem, "You'll Never Walk Alone." Jay Armstrong, Nick Adams, and LaChanze were among the people featured on the new subway poster campaign this year.

Elected officials in attendance included United States Representative **Jerry Nadler**; New York State Senator **Brad Hoylman**; New York State Assembly members **Dick Gottfried** and **Jo Anne Simon**; New York City Public Advocate **Letitia James**; Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**; and Bronx District Attorney **Darcel Clark**; NYC Human Resources Administration Commissioner **Steven Banks**.

Premier Sponsors included Bristol-Myers Squibb, Delta Air Lines (the official airline of GMHC), Gilead Sciences, and Quest Diagnostics. Grand Sponsors were AHF Pharmacy and Duane Reade/Walgreens. Principal Sponsors included Barclays, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Fiona and Stanley Druckenmiller, Time Warner Cable, The Village Voice, and Williams Sonoma, Inc.

PHOTOS BY [Matthew](#)

[McDermott: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nae9mupis7oqd5q/AAAb93T7jnTnRlpFhmmXGidya?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nae9mupis7oqd5q/AAAb93T7jnTnRlpFhmmXGidya?dl=0)

Celebrity images may be downloaded at: <https://goo.gl/r52oO8>

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### **About Gay Men's Health Crisis**

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is the nation's leading provider of HIV and AIDS care, prevention services and advocacy, serving nearly 9,000 people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in New York City, the epidemic's largest U.S. epicenter. As the world's first HIV and AIDS service organization, GMHC is an expert in providing services that every person affected by the epidemic deserves. GMHC is on the front lines caring for people who are both HIV negative and positive, including: testing, nutrition, legal, mental health and education services. GMHC also advocates for stronger public policies at the local, state and federal level with the goal of ending AIDS as an epidemic in New York State by 2020. Most recently, GMHC and other HIV and AIDS organizations successfully persuaded the federal government to recommend widespread use of PrEP, a new daily treatment that is over 90% effective in preventing HIV infection. For more information, visit [www.gmhc.org](http://www.gmhc.org).

**About AIDS Walk New York:**

Since 1986, AIDS Walk New York has raised more than \$144 million for HIV programs and services in the tri-state area, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in the world. In 2015 alone, 30,000 participants, many of whom were members of more than 2,600 corporate and community teams, raised nearly \$5 million for GMHC and 40 other tri-state area AIDS service organizations. For more information, please visit <http://ny.aidswalk.net/>.

**About MZA Events:**

AIDS Walk New York was founded in 1986 by Craig R. Miller and his organization of activists, MZA Events. Miller is the AIDS Walk originator and has produced hundreds of public service campaigns and fundraising events, generating more than \$380 million for major AIDS organizations throughout the country. For more information, please visit [mzaevents.com](http://mzaevents.com)