



## For Immediate Release

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### OVER \$4.88 MILLION RAISED AT 30TH ANNUAL AIDS WALK NEW YORK REVERSING THE TREND IN DECLINING RETURNS ON AIDS WALKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

*Governor Andrew Cuomo, David Hyde Pierce, and Tyne Daly among notable supporters at the world's largest single-day AIDS fundraising event*

**New York, NY**--The 30th annual AIDS Walk New York (AWNY) reversed the trend in declining returns on AIDS walks across the country this Sunday by raising more than last year's AIDS Walk New York. Well over 30,000 walkers filled Central Park, raising critical funds to support the fight against HIV and AIDS. The event, a New York tradition of compassion and action, remains the country's largest and most visible single-day event in response to the AIDS epidemic. The 10-kilometer walk benefits Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) and 40 other vital AIDS service organizations throughout the tri-state area.



*Governor Andrew Cuomo Addresses the Crowd at AIDS Walk New York*

**Governor Andrew Cuomo** addressed the crowd after he was honored by GMHC for his visionary leadership in ending AIDS in New York State by 2020:

"New York has always been the progressive capital. New Yorkers always said, 'let us lead and learn from what we do.' And New York has always said, 'we stand for equality and we stand for acceptance and we stand for nonjudgmentalism, and we believe that we can come together

in one community and accept and celebrate our differences. And that makes us stronger as a people. And that is the best of this state and it is the best of this nation.' And we are going to show the nation that we are committed to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2020 and we challenge every state to join us in this crusade."

"New York is leading the country in ending AIDS as an epidemic and the 30th annual AIDS Walk New York demonstrated our communities' capacity to continue being at the forefront of the fight," said **Kelsey Louie**, Chief Executive Officer of GMHC. "By raising more money than we raised last year, we have successfully reversed the trend of declining returns on AIDS Walk events each year. GMHC will use these funds to provide lifesaving programs to thousands of people living in the tri-state area."

"We never would have gotten anywhere in the early years of the AIDS epidemic if we weren't prepared to be fierce when we had to be, and we had to be a lot," said **Craig R. Miller**, Founder and Senior Organizer of the event. "As we mark the Walk's 30-year milestone today with a \$4.88 million fundraising total, it's clear that our supporters are still fierce, still determined, and eager to see this through."

Notable AIDS Walk Opening Ceremony participants included: **Tyne Daly** (*It Shoulda Been You*), **David Hyde Pierce** (Director, *It Shoulda Been You*) **Nick Wechsler** (*Revenge*), **Kit Williamson** (*Mad Men*), **Bellamy Young** (*Scandal*), and CBS-2 News Anchor **Dana Tyler**.

**Montego Glover** (*It Shoulda Been You*) sung a stirring a cappella rendition of "True Colors," and **Victoria Clark** (*Gigi*) closed the opening ceremony with a stunning performance of "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Elected officials in attendance included Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy **Douglas Brooks**; United States Representative **Jerrold Nadler**; New York State Governor **Andrew Cuomo**; New York State Senator **Brad Hoylman**; New York State Assemblymembers **Richard N. Gottfried** and **David Weperin**; Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**; and New York City Public Advocate **Letitia James**.

Presenting Sponsor Duane Reade continued its successful pin-pad initiative, allowing store patrons to make donations through the credit card systems when making a purchase in Duane Reade and Walgreens locations throughout New York. The Duane Reade sponsorship and in-store program has raised more than \$1.3 million over the past 5 years.

Premier Sponsors included Bristol-Myers Squibb, Delta Air Lines (the official airline of GMHC), Gilead, and Quest Diagnostics. This year's Grand Sponsor was Stanley and Fiona Druckenmiller. Principal Sponsors Gap Inc., Barclays, PwC, CBS2 New York, The Keith Haring Foundation, Time Warner Cable, Seth M. Rosen and Jacob K. Goertz, Williams-Sonoma Inc., and Bloomberg.



*GMHC board co-chair Michael Harwood, Governor Andrew Cuomo, GMHC CEO Kelsey Louie and Governor Cuomo's General Counsel Alphonso David*

**About GMHC:** Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is the nation's leading provider of HIV/AIDS care, prevention services and advocacy, serving nearly 9,000 people living with HIV/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/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 \$143 million for HIV programs and services in the tri-state area, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in the world. In 2014 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 \$400 million for major AIDS organizations throughout the country. For more information, please visit [mzaevents.com](http://mzaevents.com).

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