



What is the Positive Youth Institute? Why is it important for young people across the country?

**Ryan White HIV/AIDS All Grantee
Meeting
August 23, 2010**

About NAPWA



- The National Association of People with AIDS, founded in 1983 is the oldest national AIDS organization in the US, and the oldest national network of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world.
- Frank Oldham Jr. President and CEO
- Michelle Lopez, Board of Trustees, Chair



Mission

The National Association of People with AIDS advocates for the lives and dignity of all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Vision

NAPWA envisions a world free of AIDS-related stigma, a world with universal access to high quality medical care, and a world in which people living HIV/AIDS serve as visionary public health leaders.

Positive Youth Institute

History of the Positive Youth Institute:

From 2002 to 2006, the Positive Youth Institute was a one-day advocacy training session held in conjunction with the Ryan White National Youth Conference on HIV/AIDS.

Beginning 2007, NAPWA expanded the Positive Youth Institute to be a separate, multi-day event to train HIV-positive young people from across the country in the life skills required for good health and help them become ambassadors and be able to tell their personal stories at HIV prevention & testing events in their communities.



Why is PYI important for young people across the country?



Positive Youth Institute Goals & Objectives:

The Positive Youth Institute engages young participants in self-expression and personal development. The Institute is designed to develop a cadre of youth ambassadors living with HIV/AIDS who can bring the knowledge obtained through their attendance at the Institute back to their communities to:

- Use skills they learned to build sustainable leadership among other community youth
- Increase their engagement in HIV prevention awareness initiatives targeting youth
- Increase their ability to manage their individual mental, emotional, and physical health
- Reduce the impact of negative experiences and related consequences resulting from HIV-related stigma within their community
- Reduce the individual impact that HIV-related stigma has on their personal lives

Positive Youth Institute Goals & Objectives (Continue):

Through their participation in the Institute, HIV-positive young people are expected to realize increased:

- Comfort & ability in self-expression (including but not limited to disclosure)
- Knowledge & utilization of quality health care
- Capacity to participate in local, regional, or national HIV prevention and health access and retention initiatives
- Ability to inform local, regional, or national dialogue on HIV-risk & responsive programs to address the needs on youth living with HIV/AIDS
- Access and usage of social networks for health-seeking behaviors

2010 Positive Youth Institute Advisory Committee

Photo from left to right:

Chris Barnhill, Washington, DC

Nate Stokes, Detroit, MI

James “Japan” Hardy, Chicago, IL

Jerry “Peacock” Broome, Charlotte, NC

Tony Ray, Bronx, NY

Kenyatta Crosby, Detroit, MI

Jonathan “Jaszi” Alejandro, Bronx, NY

(No photo)



Positive Youth Institute Panelists

- Raul Posas – Community Affairs Associate & Program Manager (DC)
- Chris Barnhill – PYI Representative & Advisory Member (DC, Age: 23 y/o)
- Tony Ray – PYI Representative & Advisory Member (NY, Age: 24 y/o)
- Tavon Vinson – PYI Representative (MD, Age: 20 y/o)



Positive Youth Ambassadors

Q & A for the panelists



Contact Information

- www.napwa.org
- www.bit.ly/PYIFanpage (Facebook Fan Page)
- www.myspace.com/hiv.aids89

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