

“Quality First, the Growth.”

2019 Annual Report

“IT’S A ‘WE’ MOVEMENT!”

THRIVE SS

Table of Contents

[Mission](#)

[Vision](#)

[Budget](#)

[Funding](#)

[Board](#)

[Staff](#)

[Programs](#)

[Media Coverage](#)



Mission

To improve the health equity of Black gay men living with HIV through direct support, advocacy and building collective power.



THRIVE SS
Inc.

Vision

To end death, stigma
and shame for Black gay
men living with HIV.



2019 Budget

Projected: \$674,444

Final: \$875,678

542% increase

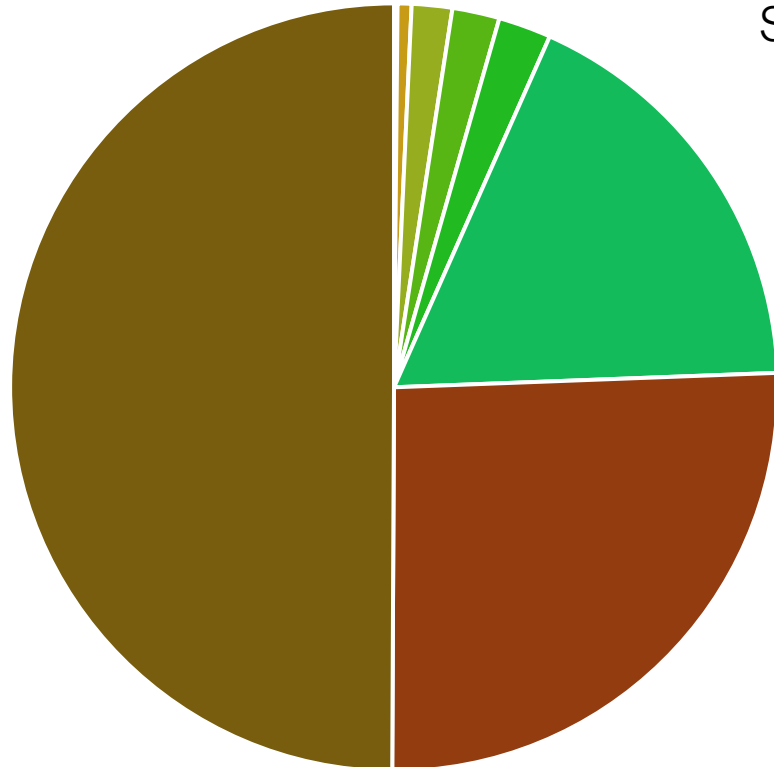
2018 Budget:
\$161,403





Funding

Revenue: \$849,463



Source by category

- 2500 Board
- 10000 Sponsorship
- 29000 Savings
- 33865 Donations
- 37798.3 AIDS Walk
- 302000 Foundation
- 436800 Pharma
- 849463.3 Total



TOP 4 funding sources

Pharmaceutical grants: \$436,800

Foundation grants: \$302,000

AIDS Walk : \$37,798

Donations: \$33,865



New Funding

- Gilead Transcend (fiscal sponsorship for ABC's of Advocacy)
- Gilead Compass Transformative (Demonstration year)
- Partnership with Rutgers University
- Partnership with Office of HIV Elimination (Ryan White)





Board of Directors

It was established at THRIVE's 2018 strategic planning session that new members and talents were needed.

With one board resignation and the addition of 4 new members, THRIVE ended 2019 with a total of 8 board members.



Board of Directors



Jerome Hoskins
Chair



Ernest Walker
Vice Chair



Neena Smith-Bankhead
Secretary



Nathan Townsend



Lamont Scales



Jon Gabriel Ortiz



Damion Evans



Carlos Rivera



Ernest Walker

Chair

Ernest Walker is the Director of the SoCal Club, Los Angeles for Men's Health Foundation. Ernest has over a decade of accomplishments addressing the health and social needs of people impacted by HIV/AIDS. He started his public health/human services career here in Seattle as Program Coordinator of People of Color Against AIDS Network and Manager of Prevention Programs at Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles. From 2003 through 2017, Ernest worked in various capacities at Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc in the Washington, D.C., including serving as Director of Programs and Chief Operating Officer. Most recently, Ernest served as Co-Executive Director of Lost-N-Found Youth, an Atlanta-based community based organization focused on addressing the needs of homeless youth, and Interim Executive Director of NAESM, INC., another Atlanta-based organization addressing the health and wellness issues confronted by Black gay men through advocacy, services, and education. Ernest holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from University of Washington and a Master of Public Health at Catholic University.

Lamont Scales

Vice Chair

Primarily, Mr. Lamont Scales serves as a Public Health Analyst in the Office of Health Equity, Office of the Director, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Scales is responsible for coordinates and monitors the Division's activities related to reducing health inequities among men who have sex with men.

Mr. Scales has extensive experience and training in local and national efforts to reduce health disparities among racial, sexual, and gender minorities; including program management, organization and project coordination, communication and facilitation, research and program implementation, and professional counseling



Neena Smith-Bankhead

Secretary

For more than 28 years, Neena has served in numerous roles in public health, ranging from direct services to research to her current role providing capacity building services and grant making. Neena has focused the majority of her career on helping to reduce the number of new HIV infections and supporting access to quality care for people living with HIV, particularly within black and brown communities, among women, and within LGBTQ+ communities. Neena spent 18 years leading HIV prevention, education, volunteer, and research activities at AID Atlanta, Inc., and served as a consultant to local and national organizations, including capacity-building providers, healthcare systems, and state and federal service providers. Neena has served on the Board of Directors of 3 local Atlanta-based non-profit organizations, and currently works at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and serves on the advisory board and as a part-time instructor in the Healthcare Management Program at Clayton State University.

In Neena's spare time, she enjoys vacationing with her husband and son, watching movies, listening to music, writing, and volunteering in her community with local organizations including the Lupus Foundation of Georgia and is a member of the Women of Clayton County





Jerome Hoskins

Jerome Hoskins is a highly energetic learning and development professional with an established background of more than 12 years designing and delivering learning and performance solutions across various industries. Originally from Trinidad & Tobago, Jerome spent his early years in North Carolina where he remained until adulthood. In 2013 he uprooted his life again and relocated to Atlanta where he currently resides. Jerome's understanding and deep connection to communities of color has allowed him to advocate on behalf of those greatly impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This understanding combined with his professional background drives Jerome's commitment to building the skills and capacity of individuals and organizations that serve and support persons living with HIV.

As the Chair of the Board of Directors for Transforming HIV Resentment Into Victories Everlasting Support Services (THRIVE SS) from 2016 - 2019, Jerome began his tenure in the public health and human services ecosystems by providing mentoring, leadership development, curriculum development, program delivery, and peer support to over 900 members of the THRIVE SS network in the metro Atlanta area. Additionally a master trainer, Jerome has facilitated training programs such as the Building Leaders of Color (BLOC) Program for the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Building Leadership Bootcamp for the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), as well as Trauma Informed Care for People Living With HIV Curriculum for the National Center for Trauma Informed Care (SAMHSA - NCTIC).

In his down time (yes it exists), Jerome loves to spend time with his 12 pound puppy Charlie – who is half Terrier and half terror. He also loves trying new foods and traveling to fun places; he has even found the time to join Toastmasters to enhance his public speaking and leadership skills.

Nathan Townsend

Nathan Townsend is a singer, songwriter, motivational speaker, creative director, and social advocate based in Fulton County, Georgia. He has been involved with HIV advocacy since 2005 and works with THRIVE SS to support people living with HIV, using art and music to tell his story and combat the stigma people living with HIV experience.





Jon Gabriel Ortiz

Jon Gabriel Ortiz is a New York native that has been living in Atlanta since 2004. Jon started getting involved in HIV work in 1988 after his mother passed away of AIDS-related complications. Jon has been living with HIV since 2000. In 2012, Jon earned a degree in fine arts concentrating on Graphic Design which he uses to support various HIV initiatives in ATL. Jon Gabriel currently divides his time building his graphic design business, JGO Graphix and working closely with THRIVE SS and Impulse Group Atlanta.



Damian Evans

Born in Kingston Jamaica to English parents; Damion S Evans is an American trained attorney and business man. An avid traveler, Damion is committed to the eradication of the HIV Aids epidemic across the globe. A father of one, Damion believes that “together everyone achieves more helping other people endure.”

Carlos Rivera

Carlos Rivera brings more than 20 years of external and internal audit experience to his role on the Board of Directors. His background includes auditing in the beverage manufacturing, healthcare, healthcare manufacturing, and financial services industries. Carlos is currently an AVP for Synchrony, an international credit card processing company, and performs SOX 404 Testing to ensure controls surrounding financial reporting are effectively working. Carlos has also performed financial and operational audits for Coca-Cola Enterprises, CompuCredit Corporation, and Alere Inc. His background also includes serving as a board member for GAY-SHA, an Atlanta networking group for black gay men. Carlos is a CPA, earned a B.S. in B.A. with an Accounting concentration from the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and earned a Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Virginia.



More
Staff

Greater
Capacity



Went from a staff 1 to 11
between 2018 - 2019

1000% INCREASE





Executive Leadership



Larry Scott-Walker

Cofounder/Executive Director



Dwain Bridges, MBA

Cofounder/Director of Operations & Finance



Larry Scott-Walker

Executive Director

Larry Scott-Walker, Baltimore native, is an author, poet and proud black gay man living with HIV. Shortly after coming to grips with his sexuality, Larry was introduced to the works of James Baldwin, Marlon Riggs and Essex Hemphill. He fell in love with their passion, persistence and their use of language to call attention to the injustices faced by Black people. Larry's passion for community would land him working at various community based and AIDS service organizations (ASO) before cofounding Transforming HIV Resentments into Victories Everlasting Support Services (THRIVE SS Inc) in 2015. THRIVE has cultivated the largest support network for Black gay men living with HIV in the country and has made tremendous strides in redefining what support, linkage to care and HIV stigma reduction looks like for this vulnerable community. Larry often states, "there is no pill to rebuild will" meaning that no biomedical intervention can reverse the damage done by stigma and hate and it is the community's responsibility to love, heal and fortify itself.



Dwain Bridges

Director of Operations and Finance

Dwain Bridges Jr, is a Detroit native, business owner, real estate agent, and Co-founder of THRIVE SS Inc. Dwain developed a passion for helping people at a young age and in 2007 he obtained an Associate's Degree in Human Services. Mr. Bridges has worked at organizations such as The Michigan AIDS Fund, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Wayne State University, the Detroit Health Department, AID Atlanta and AbsoluteCARE Medical Center and Pharmacy. In 2011, Dwain received his Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Administration and his License to practice Real Estate.

Having years of experience working in Community Health, Dwain has had the opportunity to serve on several Community Advisory and Planning boards. In 2013, Dwain moved to Atlanta, Georgia to live out a dream of his deceased sister. While in Atlanta he struggled to find a sense of community, support and healthcare. After finding out his HIV status he decided to go back to school. In 2015, Dwain happily received his Master's Degree in Business Administration and vowed to utilize his skills to save his community. Dwain is one of three co-founders of THRIVE Support Services and currently serves as the Director of Operations and Finance.

Management Staff



Lorenzo Lewis
Programs Manager



Tyson Evans
Linkage Manager



Malcom Reid
Silver Lining Project Manager

Lorenzo Lewis

Programs Manager

With a passion for the improvement of marginalized lives, Lorenzo commits himself to advocacy through support and service. A Jamaica native and former NYC resident, Lorenzo brings his experiences to his service for community in effort to improve the holistic well-being of every person he meets in whatever capacity he's able to assist in. Volunteering in an outreach aspect for years revealed to Lorenzo the depth of the need in the community of black same gender loving men and women. It was upon realizing the severity of health disparities that inspired Lorenzo to commit himself to tackling them. Using his passion and continuing education in psychology and sociology, Lorenzo aims to heal with words tailored to increase self-acceptance, communal love, forgiveness and all aspects that frees one to live the most fulfilling life they're able to. Service is not new to Lorenzo, while serving as a Marine Corps Sergeant, he came to understand that his purpose is to help people and have since internalized it as a source of motivation that themes his every day.

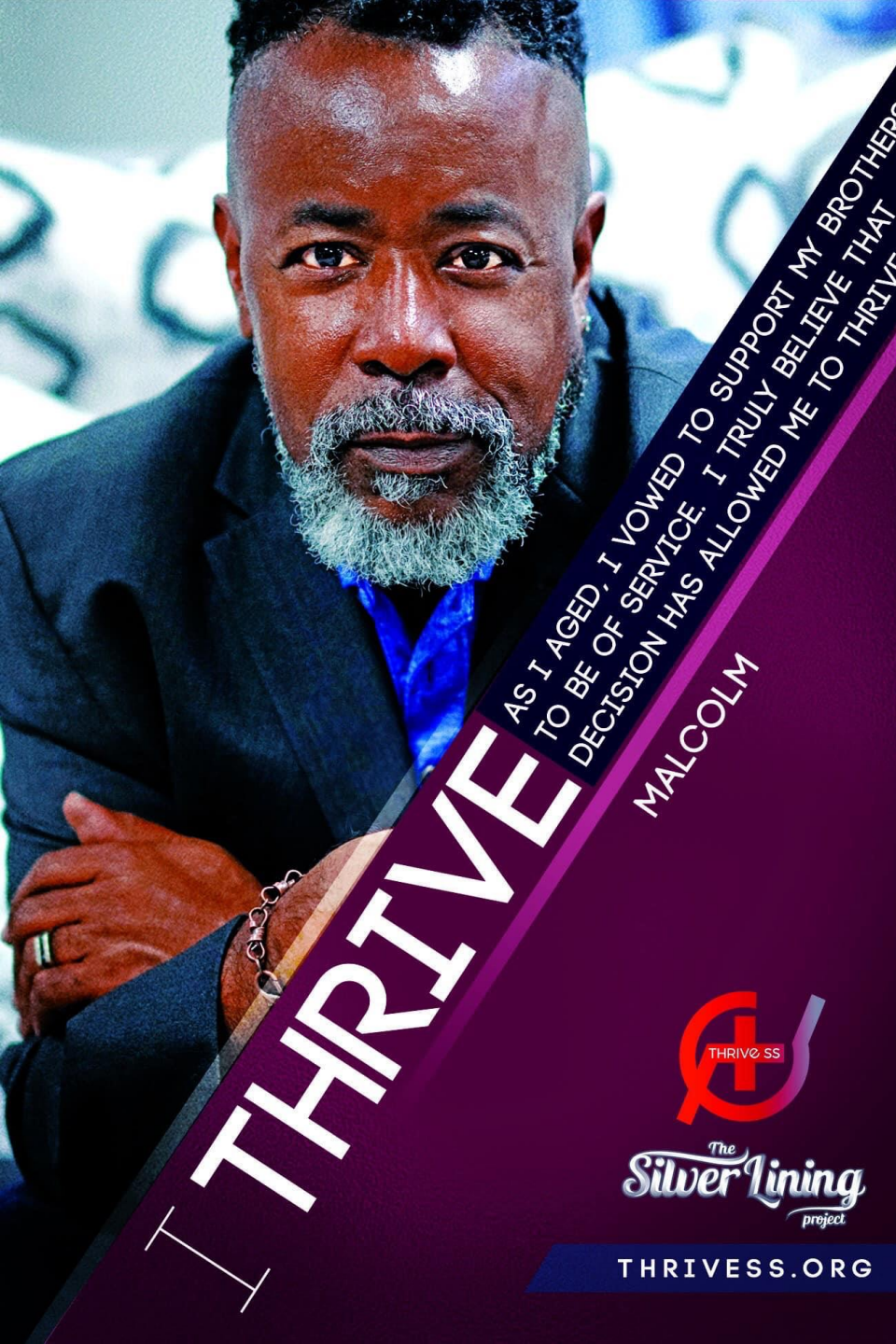


Tyson Evans

Linkage Manager

Tyson Isaiah Evans, has been a community advocate, entrepreneur, and creative strategist for 10 years. After attending Oakwood University, he spent several years gaining experience in the entertainment industry in various positions from background vocalist to executive producer of one of the largest Black Independent Theatre Productions in DC and Atlanta. This unique experience and background informs Evans' approach to his community work addressing the HIV epidemic, health inequity, and economic disparities. Since formally coming to work in HIV in 2015, he has served as Outreach Coordinator for START, Senior Program Manager for DC Care Consortium's Ryan White Program, Online Community Manager at HIV.gov, and now proudly serves as the Linkage Manager at THRIVE SS. Tyson has a life-long commitment to helping others discover and build their power with a philosophy of love and affirmation.





Malcolm Reid

Silver Lining Project Manager

Malcolm Reid has been working with THRIVE SS to support black men living with HIV for the last 4 years. He is the founder and Program Manager of the Silver Lining Project, and co author of the Silver Skills Curriculum, an intervention designed to support and assist black gay men over the age of 50 living with HIV to deal with the effects of Aging with HIV, as well as PTSD, Trauma, Loss and Stigma while living with HIV. In this role he represents THRIVE Support Services on the SAGE's HIV and Aging Policy Action Committee.

Malcolm is also very passionate about Policy. He is the co-founder and co-director of PASAN, the Political and Social Action Network. He represents THRIVE SS on the USPLHIV Caucus Steering Committee, where he is co-chair of the Federal Policy sub committee. He also represents County district 2 on the Fulton County HIV/AIDS Care Prevention and Policy Advisory Committee

Staff



Michael Morris
Program Coordinator



Darriyhan Edmond
Linkage Coordinator



Joe Robinson
Program Coordinator



Darryl Branch
Program Coordinator



Claude Bowen
Group Facilitator



Michael Morris

Program Coordinator / Executive Assistant

A native of Bakersfield California, Michael has lived in Georgia for fifteen years. Michael started as a volunteer with THRIVE SS and developed a close working relationship with the staff through active participation and an eagerness to learn. His education is in IT but his passions include philanthropy, human rights, and ending the HIV epidemic.

Darriyhan Edmond

Linkage Coordinator

Darriyhan Edmond, a 24 year old person living with HIV, is community leader, HIV advocate, Linkage to Care Coordinator for THRIVE SS and Executive Director of Project RED Paint, Inc. His journey with advocacy began shortly after he was diagnosed with HIV in 2013. Since becoming an advocate he has been a great person of empowerment, encouragement, and support for those also living with HIV in our community. Darriyhan is a voice for many of his peers and always seems to be extremely positive and uplifting



Joe Robinson

Program Coordinator

A native of NYC (born and raised), Joe has lived in Oakland California, Tampa Florida and now presently in Atlanta Georgia. He has an Associates of Science in Business Administration degree and have actively been involved with HIV advocacy and policy for over 18 years. During this journey he has served as Chairperson of the Sacramento EMEA HIV Ryan White Planning council, served as a Board member with the Center for AIDS Research, Education and Services, Co-Chairperson of National Community Advisory Board/NIH Adult Clinical Trials Group, Chairperson UC Davis Adult Clinical Trials Group Consumer Advisory Group, a fellow of the Black Aids Institute/African American HIV University, attended various NMAC trainings (People of Color Training-San Diego, Regional Training – Washington, DC), the recipient of Northern California Grantmakers – Community Planning Leader's Summit, and served as an American Red Cross African-American HIV Education & Prevention Trainer/Sacramento Ca. Currently, he is one of the Project Coordinators with the THRIVE SS' Silver Lining Project since April 2019 where extra care is paid to maintaining safe spaces for mature African American men living with HIV over 50 to share information, engage in community outreach and advocate for issues impacting their community.



Darryl "D.C." Branch

Program Coordinator

16 years living with HIV, one day at a time.

In Sept., 2004 my life changed.

10 years later, in 2014 I decided I wanted to make change in my life and the life of men 50 +

First let's change the face of what a man living with HIV looks like, especially those men 50 plus. So in Sept 2018 I asked men I knew to come to a photoshoot. "Let's take pictures and fellowship." What happened after that was phenomenal.

We started Mature Sexy Men chat group and that became The Silver Lining group

I want men 50 plus to understand this battle is not a fight they have to fight alone.

I attended BLOC (Black Leaders of Color) training and it really lit a Fire in my Soul.

Learning Policy and Laws for people LWHIV.

I want us to support each other and make sure we are reaching out and getting each other into care.

I am the Program Coordinator for the Silver Lining Project and my journey has just begun.

I plan to take my place at the table and be heard.



Claude Bowen

Group Facilitator

“An innovative and cutting edge spiritual leader”, the Reverend Elder Claude E. Bowen credits his deep roots of Liberation Theology and extensive involvement in Social Justice to the many “parents” that nurtured and promoted his undying quest for a spiritual renaissance. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Reverend Bowen pledged an early commitment to serve the disenfranchised and voiceless of the community. In the time of great political uncertainty, he enlisted into the United States Marine, only to serve four years in the Viet Nam War. After an Honorable Discharge from the Marines, Reverend continued his public service as an employee for the City Clerk’s Office of Los Angeles and the United States Postal System.

Working in the HIV arena from 1996 to the present, at the he has worked diligently to address the disparities in access to health care within the communities of color as a Peer Educator, Community Outreach Worker and Director of Human Resources for the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles California.

Currently, on the staff of THRIVESS as co-author and facilitator of the Silver Lining Project, President of Ubuntu a consulting firm founded with Kevin Williams to continue his work in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education and Life Coaching. He is a Scholar from the Center of Disease Control HIV Learning Institute. He holds a Bachelor of Psychology (focus on Human Behavior Analysis) and a Masters of Divinity.



Programs

Programmatically, THRIVE met or exceeded all program deliverables by 50% in most cases.



R3 (ReEngage, Retain & Reduce)

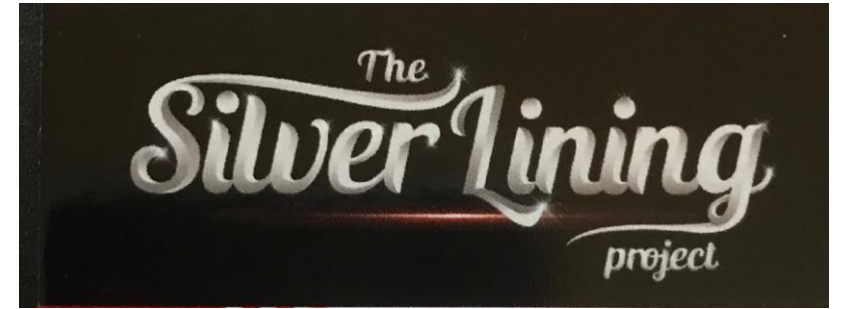
Linkage to care program

	Deliverable	Completed
ReEngage	150	329
Retain	162	157
Linkage Events	4	4
iTHRIVE	25	25
Membership	100	100



Silver Lining Project

Homegrown intervention for and by Black gay men living with HIV over the age of 50.



	Deliverable	Completed
Train	11	18
Membership	25	30
Conference	2	5
Campaigns	25	30
Oba's Roundtables	4	8
Retreat	1	1

Project Griot

Digital Storytelling project for and by Black gay men living with HIV.

	Deliverable	Completed	Remainder
5 BGMLH 50+	5	5	0
contract film crew	1	1	0
In-person convening	1	1	0
Individual Hometown shoot	5	5	0



"Outrun the Sky" Tour



16 Screenings:

Atlanta, Miami, Birmingham, DC,
Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Ft. Walton Beach

4 Conferences:

- Empowerment Conference: N.O.,
- USCA (United States Conference on AIDS)
- Ujima
- Positive Living

Data Findings

98% - Enjoyed watching the film

98% - Learned something about the lives of
Black gay men living with HIV

98% - Motivated to take action

968 Attendees!

Events & Engagements

- 12 Open Mics
- 50 Emotional Wellness groups
- 20+ community events
- 100+ members only events/groups



HIV Policy Brunch

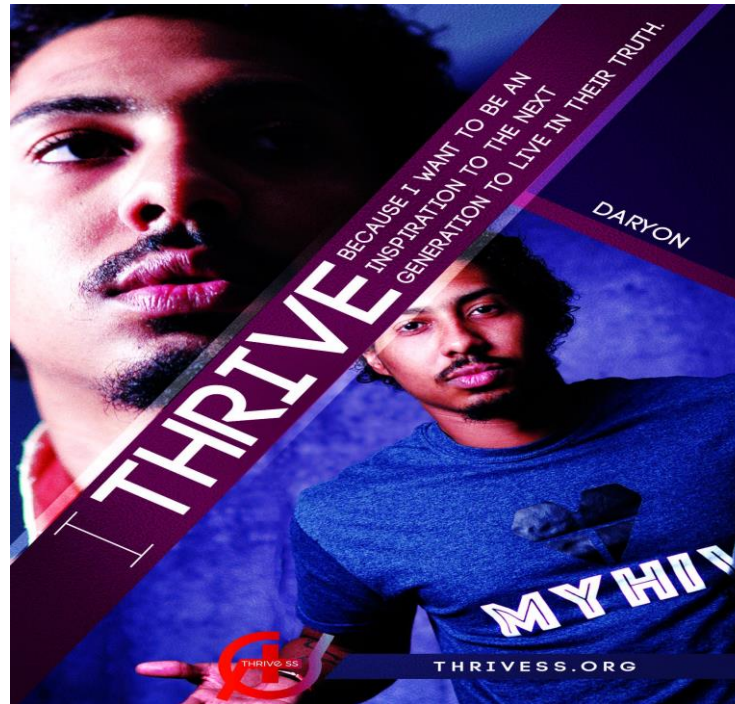
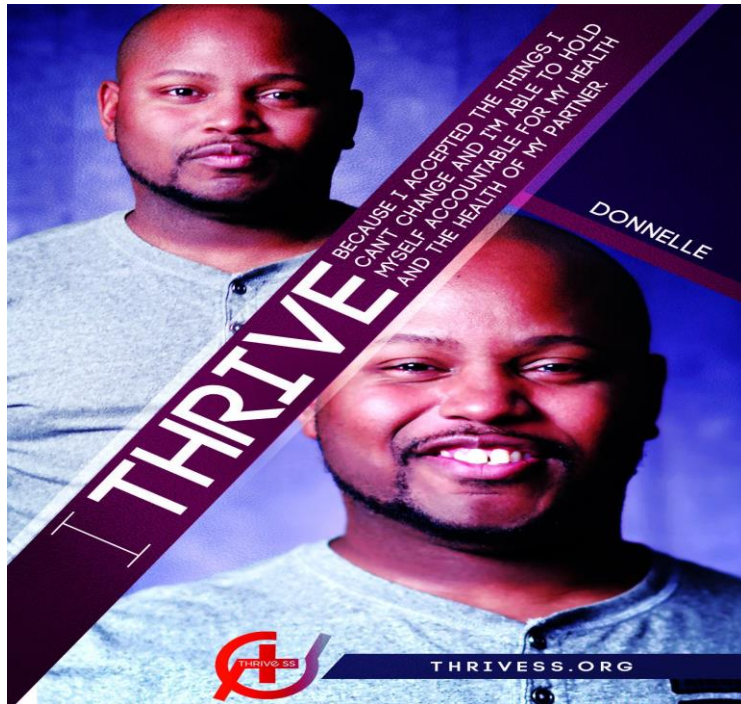
80 Attendees trained on:

- HIV related policy issues
- Locating/Engaging Elected Officials
- Voters registration



300 Black Gay Men Living
with HIV TRAINED since
2016

iTHRIVE Photo Campaigns



-Release 35 Campaigns on Natl. HIV Awareness Days

Conference attendance

THRIVE believes firmly that people living with HIV should be at all the tables that interface with our lives, thus we are intentional about creating as many opportunities for learning and participation as possible.



96

Supported 96 members in attending conferences and convenings

5600 Sq. Ft

THRIVE
Community Enrichment Space
2038 Stanton Rd., East Point, GA. 30344

- Safe space for Atlanta's Black LGBTQIA to organize
- Support meetings
- Trainings
- Computer lab
- Thrift Store
- Food pantry



THRIVE TOASTMASTERS

- Winners of District for Table Topics
- Participated in Intern. Speech comp
- Beginning a speaker's bureau
- Advancing to the district level for 2020





THRIVE Ambassadors

- 26 BGMLH (Black gay men living with HIV)
- Roles that bring greater efficacy, input and buy in
- Building transferrable skills



Media Coverage

- NPR – Undark – Cortz Mag – TIME
- CBS – NBC – Black Queer Power
- Rolling Out – Poz Mag – Plus Mag

Upcoming:
Nightline (8 min segment)



Question & Answer