



For Immediate Release

May 16, 2019

Contacts:

Cub Barrett

VP, Communications

GMHC

212.367.1561

CubB@gmhc.org

Krishna Stone

Director, Community Relations

GMHC

212.367.1016

KrishnaS@gmhc.org

AIDS Walk New York Returns to Central Park May 19 with All-Star Lineup and 5-Mile Run

Participants can register for the Walk or Run at ny.aidswalk.net

New York, NY—On Sunday, May 19, AIDS Walk New York will bring together 15,000 people to raise millions of dollars for Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC) and other tri-state area AIDS service organizations. The day’s events will feature stars, entertainers, and elected officials including U.S. Senator **Kirsten Gillibrand**, **Billy Porter**, **Rosie Perez**, **Margaret Cho**, **MJ Rodriguez**, **Shangela** and other **stars of RuPaul’s Drag Race**, and many more.

Participants will have a choice of the traditional [10K walk](#) through Central Park and the streets of the Upper West Side, or the [5-mile run](#) contained entirely within the park. Whichever they choose, these participants will be an important part of that day’s community, said GMHC CEO **Kelsey Louie**.

“New HIV infections in New York City and New York State are at record low levels—in large part thanks to the incredible work done by AIDS Walk New York participants, who have helped turn the tide of the epidemic,” **Louie** said. “But constant threats to health care access, LGBTQ rights, and evidence-based science signal that our gains are in jeopardy. AIDS Walk New York not only raises crucial funds to help us continue our progress, but it demonstrates that 15,000 people can come together on one day to show the world that we will not rest until this epidemic is over.”

The Opening Ceremony, kicking off at 9:15 am, will feature U.S. Senator **Kirsten Gillibrand**; **MJ Rodriguez** and Tony Award winner **Billy Porter** (*POSE*); **Rosie Perez**; **Andrea Navedo** (*Jane the Virgin*); **Nico Tortorella** (*Younger*); **Selenis Leyva** and **Dale Soules** (*Orange is the New Black*); **Catriona Gray** (*Miss Universe*); and Broadway musical stars **Bonnie Milligan**, **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, and **Frenchie Davis**.

Upon their return from the route, fundraising participants will be treated to a Post-Walk Show at Rumsey Field with performances by the **New York City Gay Men’s Chorus**; top stars of *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, including **Shangela**, **Chi Chi DeVayne**, **Ginger Minj**, **Darienne Lake**, and **Milk**; and a stand-up performance by Grammy- and Emmy-nominated **Margaret Cho**.

Founded in 1986, AIDS Walk New York has raised more than \$155 million for GMHC and many other AIDS services organizations throughout the tri-state area, and is the world’s largest single-day AIDS

fundraising event. The millions of dollars raised provide vital services for people living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS.

These dollars are vital as we seek to end the epidemic in New York State by 2020 and continue to be a national leader in the local response to HIV/AIDS. Despite important progress, folks living with HIV and other chronic conditions continue to face threats to life-saving health care, as well as face a national climate that is increasingly hostile to at-risk populations.

“As one of the city’s largest and most diverse community events, AIDS Walk New York continues to bring together thousands of caring people in a powerful demonstration of compassion and action—recognizing the important accomplishments we have made over the years, while shining a light on the work we still need to do to bring the epidemic to an end,” says **Craig R. Miller**, Founder and Senior Organizer of the event.

There is no fee to join in the AIDS Walk. Participants are encouraged to raise as much as they can from family, friends, and co-workers. To learn more and to register, visit ny.aidswalk.net.

The event’s presenting sponsor is **Delta Air Lines**, the official airline of GMHC. Premier Sponsors are **Gilead** and **Viiv Healthcare**. Principal Sponsors are **Barclays**, **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, **CAM4**, **Pepsico**, the **Keith Haring Foundation**, **Choice Health Plans SelectHealth**, and **Fiona and Stanley Druckenmiller**.

More information:

What: AIDS Walk New York

When: Sunday, May 19; 8:30 am sign-in, 9:15 am Opening Ceremony

Where: Central Park; enter at 72nd Street from either 5th Avenue or Central Park West

- [Walk route](#)

###

About Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) is the world's first HIV/AIDS service organization. GMHC is on the front lines providing services to over 13,000 people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Programs include testing, prevention, nutrition, legal, supportive housing, mental health and substance use services. GMHC also advocates for stronger public policies at the local, state and federal levels with the goal of ending AIDS as an epidemic. For more information, visit www.gmhc.org.

About AIDS Walk New York: Since 1986, AIDS Walk New York has raised more than \$155 million for HIV programs and services in the tri-state area, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in the world. In 2018 alone, 20,000 participants, many of whom were members of nearly 2,000 corporate and community teams, raised over \$4.4 million for GMHC and many other tri-state area AIDS service organizations. For more information, please visit 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 www.mzaevents.com.