



March 11, 2024

CCD Board of Directors Honors the Life of HIV/AIDS Activist Hydeia Broadbent

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Board of Directors honors the life of Hydeia Broadbent, a Black HIV/AIDS activist, public speaker, and international health equity leader. Broadbent passed away unexpectedly at a neurological rehabilitation center in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 20, 2024.¹

Broadbent was born with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and diagnosed as HIV-positive with advancement to the acquired immunodeficiency virus (AIDS) at age three. Broadbent dedicated her life to advocacy, first appearing on television at age 6 to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS despite the significant stigma. Broadbent appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show at age 11, was featured in *The New York Times* and *Essence*, and was a popular speaker at universities. *Ebony Magazine* named Broadbent one of the Most Influential 150 African Americans in 2008 and 2011. Broadbent has also been honored with an American Red Cross Spirit Award and an Essence Award.

Broadbent's stated mission was to, "inform and create dialogue around HIV/AIDS in our homes, communities, educational institutions and church's. [Her] life's mission [was] met ... as a prevention tool for those who are HIV negative to make informed decisions to stay HIV negative, and also for those living with HIV/AIDS to find hope and inspiration to not allow HIV or AIDS to hold them back from living their best life."²

HIV and AIDS Remains Prevalent in the US and Impacts Women:

- In 2016 more than 1.2 million Americans 13 years and older were living with HIV.³
- There were 36,801 new HIV diagnoses in the US, including US Territories and Freely Associated States in 2019. Of those, 19% were women.
- Most new HIV diagnoses among women were attributed to heterosexual contact.
- Black/African American women continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV (54% of new diagnoses amongst women).⁴

People with HIV, both symptomatic and asymptomatic, are protected by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. March 10th will mark the 19th annual observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD). For more information on NWGHAAD refer to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Office of Women's Health webpage.⁵

The CCD celebrates the life and mourns the passing of Broadbent. We acknowledge her significant contributions to HIV/AIDS advocacy, and her dedication and commitment to sharing her story so that others might live.

Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Board of Directors

Carol Tyson, Chair, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

Claire Stanley, Vice-Chair, National Disability Rights Network

Dan Berland National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

Dania Douglas, National Health Law Program

Tonia Ferguson, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

Vania Leveille, American Civil Liberties Union

Sarah Malaier, American Foundation for the Blind

Brittany Owens, The Arc of the United States

Germán Parodi, The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies

Greg Robinson, Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Laura Weidner, Epilepsy Foundation

¹ Emily Langer, "Hydeia Broadbent, young activist for HIV/AIDS awareness, dies at 39." *The Washington Post*. February 23, 2024. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/02/23/hydeia-broadbent-hiv-aids-dead/>

² Mission statement from Hydeia Broadbent's website. Accessed March 4, 2024. www.hydeiabroadbent.com

³ OASH Office on Women's Health, "Facts about HIV and AIDS," US Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed March 4, 2024. <https://www.womenshealth.gov/hiv-and-aids/hiv-and-aids-basics/facts-about-hiv-and-aids>.

⁴ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "HIV and Women: HIV Diagnoses". Access March 4, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/gender/women/diagnoses.html>

⁵ <https://www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad>