

AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO



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Record Number of Participants Turn Out for 2008 *AIDS Run & Walk*

CHICAGO - Under bright blue skies, more than 7,000 people showed their support for the fight against HIV/AIDS at the 2008 *AIDS Run & Walk Chicago* in Grant Park on September 20. Benefiting the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) and over 70 local AIDS organizations, this year's event doubled its participation and is projected to net \$400,000 for AIDS-related services. AFC will continue to collect donations and fulfilled pledges in the next couple of weeks.

The race kicked off with a warm welcome from Dr. Damon Arnold, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, which served as the event's presenting sponsor. Cook County President **Todd Stroger**, State Representatives **Greg Harris** and **Toni Berrios**, and Congressman **Danny Davis**, honorary chair of the 2008 *AIDS Run & Walk*, urged participants to step up effort against the epidemic. Congressman Davis started the 5K race and cheered the thousands of walkers as they cross the walk's start line.

Chicago-based dance group the **FootworKINGZ**, who twisted their bodies into the shape of an AIDS ribbon for the event's print advertising campaign, entertained the crowd with an energetic performance of the fast-paced style of hip-hop street dance called "footworkin."

The *AIDS Run & Walk* also provided a stage for AFC to unveil its latest public education campaign called "Love the One You're With" (see: aidschicago.org/condoms). Volunteers conducted condom education and distributed—with the help of "Captain Condom" and the "Condomettes"—more than 2,500 safe sex kits in an effort to promote correct and consistent condom use among sexually active individuals. AFC also collected individual comments from participants to urge the future U.S. president to make development of a National AIDS Strategy a priority.

For pictures from the event, please visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/aidschicago>

For video from the event please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/AIDSchicagoNPO>

Founded by community activists and physicians in 1985, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is a catalyst for local, national, and international action on HIV/AIDS.

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aidschicago.org | aidschicago.org/community | aidsrunwalk.org