

TRANSDIASPORA

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Annual Report 2008

In the wake of current economic challenges, the non-profit sector has been suffering several challenges and funding cuts; however, Transdiaspora Network (TDN) was able to keep its emerging initiative alive and survived its very first cycle of existence. In 2008, TDN's team of young professionals accomplished several goals.

- **January**
 - ✓ Our newsletter's first issue ever was released in [PDF format](#) with the commitment to promote health literacy and HIV/AIDS public within Brooklyn's culturally diverse community.
 - ✓ We were invited to attend the School of Global Studies' Diversity and Privilege Day.
- **March**
 - ✓ We conducted an HIV Prevention Awareness Day in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, in partnership with Columbia Community Outreach and Crown Height Community Mediation Center.
 - ✓ TDN signed a statement against hate sponsored by a coalition of community based organizations representing the diversity of the borough.
- **April**
 - ✓ TDN was officially incorporated by the New York Department of State as a non-for-profit organization.
 - ✓ TDN was one of 20 non-profit organizations selected to be part of the City Council's Communities of Color Initiative and received a grant from the HIV/AIDS Technical Assistance Fund to improve our website, to develop our own community blog as well as a confidential Youth Forum to deliver HIV prevention services online.
 - ✓ An invitation was extended to our organization by The Spirit Station, a community-based radio in Flatbush, Brooklyn, to address the need of HIV prevention in the Caribbean community.
- **May**
 - ✓ Our team participated in AIDS Walk New York 2008, the largest and most successful AIDS Walk to date.
 - ✓ YouthBridge-NY's Bridging the Gap grant committee selected TDN as the winner of their prestigious grant that promote health and diversity among young community leaders.
- **June**
 - ✓ TDN celebrated its inaugural day as a non-profit organization with its first Annual Benefit Concert featuring jazz-legend Yosvany Terry. CityKids Repertory Company was invited to perform as a special guest. The event brought together more than 50 attendees.
 - ✓ TDN's first community survey data was released in partnership with Brooklyn College's Center for the Study of Brooklyn.
- **July**
 - ✓ We launched our [community blog](#) and introduced our [newsletter](#)'s new reader-friendly format.

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- **August**
 - ✓ TDN officially hosted its first Annual Board meeting.
 - ✓ Our team organized TDN's first Annual End-of-Summer Caribbean Dance Party at the Lower East Side's swanky Boucarou Lounge. The event featured the musical styling of the world-renowned DJ Medina.
- **September**
 - ✓ TDN formalized a collaborative partnership with StoryCorps' New York City Outreach Program, and with Bailey's Café, a leadership development program located in Bed-Stuy/Crown Heights community.
- **October**
 - ✓ TDN kicked off its fall programming lineup with an Orientation Day to welcome the first group of participants to our Train-the-Trainer program (Afro-Caribbean Dance Mediation and Storytelling Dynamics).
- **November**
 - ✓ Our [inauguration video](#) was edited and released with collaboration of Travis Fox, an Emmy Award-winning video producer.
- **December**
 - ✓ Our Founder and President, Ariel Rojas, was invited by the New American Chamber of Commerce to talk at its radio show for the 20th Anniversary of the World AIDS Day.
 - ✓ TDN's Community Blog posted "On the Verge: the Local Other", the beginning of an effort to inform the general public about other HIV prevention initiative around the globe.