

## Center for African-American Health: Providing culturally appropriate health care

The Center for African-American Health is a community-based organization providing disease prevention and management programs to African Americans living in the Denver area.

The center partners with a variety of health-education and health-delivery organizations to develop and provide culturally appropriate disease prevention and disease management programs to thousands of African Americans each year. They offer programs on diabetes, cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colon cancer, as well as a wellness program for seniors, and health literacy training.

“Our concern is the well being of the African-American community who suffer from health disparities,” says Grant Jones, founder and executive director. “What makes us unique is our on-the-ground engagement within the community, the ability to provide a culturally proficient form of health and wellness care.”

**It's this instrumental community work that has earned the center The Denver Post's Strength in Health Community Outreach in Health Care Award, presented by Kaiser Permanente.**

Under his leadership, the work of the center has been featured in a number of publications, including USA Today, Better Homes and Gardens' special interest publication on diabetic living, and a recent book by Dr. Andrew Billingsley: *Mighty Like a River*, the Black Church and Social Reform.

Jones has received a number of awards and commendations,

including the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. He is a distinguished graduate of Regis University and in 2005, Regis presented him with their highest honor, *Civis Princeps* (First Citizen). In 2006, he received the Lifetime Champion in Health Care Award presented by the Denver Business Journal and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

“The center emerged out of our initial work with African American churches in metro Denver area,” he adds. “Eventually increasing our collaboration between churches as well as a broad range of community organizations.”

The center also acts as the voice for African-Americans in the public policy arena, advocating for system reforms that improve health care access and quality of care. Their vision: an African-American community healthy in mind, body and spirit; filled with individuals taking responsibility for their own health and contributing to the enrichment of the community.

“We have an outstanding staff to be sure but partnership and collaboration with community organizations, volunteers and faith based organizations are what help to make us unique,” says Jones. “Moving forward we hope to create even more productive partnerships between community organizations and larger institutions.”

Congratulations to the Center for African-American Health and Grant Jones, winner of the 2015 Denver Post Strength in Health Community Outreach in Health Care Award.



### Center for African-American Health

**Grant Jones, Founder/Executive Director**

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**Center mission:** Committed to improving the health and well being of the African-American community.

**Vision:** An African-American community healthy in mind, body and spirit; filled with individuals taking responsibility for their own health and contributing to the enrichment of the community.

**Nominator Comments:**

*“(Provides) outreach to underserved population.”*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PRESENTED BY:

