



National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Event to Raise Local Awareness About HIV in Communities of Color

For Immediate Release

Charlottesville, VA (February 6)— February 7th is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. African Americans make up 14 percent of the U.S. population but account for 44 percent of all new HIV infections. The estimated rate of new HIV infections for black women is more than 15 times higher than the rate for white women. In Central Virginia, the AIDS/HIV Services Group Community HIV Testing program has reported that over half of all newly identified HIV-positive individuals are African-American. Like many other health disparities, the disproportionate impact of the HIV epidemic on the African-American community is rooted in social and economic injustices that create barriers to affordable health care. Education, testing, and treatment are key factors in prevention and halting the HIV epidemic.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is supported by the NAACP Albemarle-Charlottesville. The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Dr. Rick Turner, President of the NAACP Albemarle-Charlottesville states that one of the most important 2012 NAACP Health Resolution is to “commemorates 30 years in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic by rededicating the NAACP to mobilize units and provide leadership in the black community on this crisis”.

ASG and the United Sisters of the University of Virginia will offer free, confidential HIV testing and risk reduction counseling from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Newcomb Hall Art Gallery on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 to mark National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. ASG educators will answer questions about HIV and help individuals understand and manage their risk for HIV. The testing event is free and open to the community.

The AIDS/HIV Services Group (ASG) offers free, confidential testing by appointment.

To learn more about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the NAACP Albemarle-Charlottesville, or the AIDS/HIV Services Group, please contact Hannah Green by phone at (434) 981.2160 or email at hannah.green@asgva.org.

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