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National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) Launches week-long education and HIV testing initiative

February 7, 2016 marks the sixteenth annual observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)**, a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative is designed to encourage Blacks across the United States and Diaspora to *get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated*, as HIV/AIDS continues to devastate Black communities.

While Blacks represent approximately 12% of the U.S. population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that Blacks account for 47% of new HIV infections in 2012. In 2012, an estimated 14,102 Blacks were diagnosed with AIDS in the US, a number that has slowly decreased since 2008. HIV was the 5th leading cause of death for all Blacks and the 5th leading cause of death for both Black men and Black women ages 25-44 in 2012. On Long Island, African Americans comprise 11.1% of Nassau County and 7.4% of Suffolk County's general populations, but represent approximately 44% of the newly diagnosed AIDS cases and 36% of emergent HIV cases, according to the Long Island Planning Council.

Unfortunately, many of those who are infected with HIV are unaware of their status and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others. It's time to mobilize and talk about this devastating disease so we can make a difference... and there's no better time than February 7th. On this **Commemorative Day**, Blacks are encouraged to *get educated on HIV/AIDS, get tested for HIV/AIDS, get involved in HIV/AIDS prevention activities, and get treated for HIV/AIDS*, if needed.

In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2016, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will promote education and testing services within the community.

For more information on LIAAC's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Initiative and for a list of open events, visit our Facebook events page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc/events>, our website at www.liaac.org or call our toll free hotline at 1-877-TO-LIAAC.

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