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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) launches HIV testing initiative for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

February 7, 2017 marks the 17th year for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora. NBHAAD was founded in 1999 as a national response to the growing HIV and AIDS epidemic in African American communities. The theme for 2017 is “I am my Brother/Sister’s Keeper. Fight AIDS.”

The NBHAAD initiative leverages a national platform to educate, bring awareness, and mobilize the African American community. NBHAAD has four key focus areas which encourage people to get educated about HIV and AIDS; get involved in community prevention efforts; get tested to know their status; and get treated to receive the continuum of care needed to live with HIV/AIDS.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2014, 44% of estimated new HIV diagnoses in the United States were among African Americans, who comprise 12% of the US population. Additionally, according to the New York State HIV/AIDS Surveillance Annual Report for Cases Diagnosed through December 2014, 24.4% of people newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk counties were Black. Although this number has decreased from 27.8 since December 2013, there is still work to be done.

In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will be providing free and confidential mobile testing for HIV, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections.

To get involved with our efforts, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc> and follow us on Twitter at @LIAAC_inc. For more information or to schedule a test, call our toll free hotline at 1-866-236-3448.

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