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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month.

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is a month-long celebration of the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is held on the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month and unites the heavily impacted Hispanic/Latino community in efforts to raise HIV awareness and promote HIV testing, prevention and education.

Despite making up only 16% of the U.S. population, Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 21% of new HIV infections in 2010, three times the rate of the white population. Additionally, more than 220,000 Hispanics/Latinos in the United States are currently living with HIV with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that approximately 1 in 36 Hispanic/Latino men and 1 in 106 Hispanic/Latino women will be diagnosed with HIV in their lifetime.

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care provides free and confidential HIV testing, education, and outreach initiatives to Long Island communities. For information on events we will host this year and testing locations, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc or call our toll free hotline at 1-877-TO-LIAAC.

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