



NEWS RELEASE

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Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.

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NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY observed FEB. 7 Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. launches week-long education and HIV testing initiative

February 7, 2009 marks the ninth annual observance of **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)**. This national mobilization effort, with this year's theme "Black Life Is Worth Saving", is designed to encourage African Americans across the United States and Territorial Areas to **get educated, get tested, get involved and get treated** for HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities.

Special events such as free HIV/AIDS testing, prayer breakfasts, town hall meetings and memorial services will be held throughout the country. While African Americans represent approximately 13 percent of the U.S. population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2008) reports that the group accounts for almost half (49%) of the new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the 33 states with names-based reporting. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African American women ages 25 to 34, and the second leading cause of death for African American men ages 35-44. (HHS National HIV Testing Mobilization Campaign, August 2007) On **Long Island**, while African Americans represent approximately **9 percent** of the population (Census 2000), the New York State Department of Health reports that the group accounted for **38 percent** of all **new AIDS diagnoses in 2006** and **38 percent** of all persons **living with HIV/AIDS** in the Nassau/Suffolk region.

In recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2009, the **Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.** will be launching a week-long HIV/AIDS education and testing initiative. **Starting Friday, February 6 through Thursday, February 9**, our professional staff will **bring free and confidential rapid HIV testing directly to communities all across Long Island from Elmont to Riverhead.**

For more information on **LIAAC's National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness initiative** and a complete list of testing locations and times, please visit the website at www.liaac.org or call our toll free number at **1-866-236-3448**.

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