



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE      MARCH 5, 2010**

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**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) Celebrates  
NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY, MARCH 10, 2010**

**Hauppauge, New York – The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC)** is joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in celebrating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. Families, health organizations, businesses, communities, the government and individuals come together to provide support and educate women and girls about practicing safe methods, getting tested, and encouraging the community to talk about HIV/AIDS prevention. The theme for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2010 is “Every 35 minutes a woman tests positive for HIV in the United States: It’s time to get tested”.

According to the New York State AIDS Advisory Council’s report, *Women in Peril*, the proportion of **newly reported** AIDS cases among **New York women** over the past 20 years has more than **tripled, rising from 12% to 34%**. The most recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that women represent **33.8% of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk Counties** and **30% of all new HIV infections on Long Island**. When we look at how women on Long Island are being infected with HIV at such alarming rates, we find that the overwhelming majority of women-across all racial and ethnic groups-report heterosexual contact as their primary risk factor.

During the week of **March 8 through March 14 and on March 18 and 25**, in recognition of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness, and in support of the health and wellness of all women on Long Island, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will deploy our mobile outreach team of prevention specialists and HIV test counselors into the streets of Nassau and Suffolk counties. At that time, LIAAC will provide **free of charge** the following service to Long Island women: confidential HIV rapid tests, facilitation of Hepatitis C testing, substance abuse screenings and nutrition education and distribution of pantry bags.

For more information about LIAAC’s National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness initiative and a complete list of testing location and times, please visit our website at [www.liaac.org](http://www.liaac.org) or call our toll free hotline number at **1-877-865-4222**.