



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Test 1 Million Ohio join forces with Black Celebrities to end the AIDS epidemic in Black America

State of Ohio – Nearly half of the estimated 1.2 million Americans living with HIV/AIDS are Black. 54% of all new HIV infections are among Black Americans. It is because of these alarming statistics, the Black AIDS Institute and IV-CHARIS has partnered to create the Test 1 Million Ohio Movement. There are 25+ partnering agencies in the State of Ohio that have come together to create the Test 1 Million Ohio Celebrity Tour to help end the AIDS epidemic in Black America.

This 4-city tour will take place April 21-24th, 2010. This HIV educational awareness tour will take place in Cincinnati, Xenia, Columbus, and Cleveland. **Some** celebrities include: Danny Glover (“Beloved,” “The Color Purple”), Vanessa Williams (“Soul Food” – Television Series, “Melrose Place”), and Rockmond Dunbar (“Soul Food”, “Prison Break,” “Girlfriends,” “The Game”).

The calendars of events are as follows:

- **Wednesday, April 21, 2010 (Location: Xenia, OH)**
“Spring Fest – Step Up to the Test” Rally

Central State University chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc will help to host the block party/rally outside of the Student Union on campus. Free HIV testing will be conducted.

- **Thursday, April 22, 2010 (Location: Oxford, OH)**
Location: Miami University
Time: 3:00p – 7:00p

The Zeta Mu chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc will host a Physical and Mental Health HIV/AIDS Educational Awareness event at the Shriver Center. This town hall forum will help to bring about awareness to college age students about HIV/AIDS. Free HIV testing will be conducted following the forum.

- **Friday, April 23, 2010 (Location: Cleveland, OH)**

The Cleveland Department of Health has partnered with the local radio one station in Cleveland to host an educational overnight event. Students from the Cleveland School of arts will be performing a theatrical play “Secrets.” This play is an educational awareness play on HIV/AIDS and STDs. There will be approximately 300 youth involved. In addition to the guest celebrity, Miss Black Ohio, Ashley Miller will be in attendance to make an appearance and speak to the youth participants. Free HIV testing will be conducted.

Time: 4:00p – 9:00p
Location: The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland

● **Saturday, April 24, 2010 (Locations: Cincinnati, OH/Columbus, OH)**

· Host city: Cincinnati, Ohio

Host Location: Fountain square – downtown Cincinnati

Event: Cincinnati Queencity Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc will host its 4th Annual Walk

Time: 8:00a – 12:00a (8:00a – registration; 9:00a – walk begins)

snacks family event* entertainment* HIV testing*

· Host city: Columbus, Ohio

Host location: The Ohio State University

Event: African American Heritage Festival

Time: 2:00p – 7:00p

Held on The Ohio State University campus, the event traditionally brings thousands of visitors to Columbus and is a time for people of all ages and walks to celebrate African-American history and culture.

“AIDS in America today is a Black disease. Nobody wants to talk about that, and nobody wants to own that. That silence is killing us,” said Phill Wilson. “That’s why we’re calling for 1 million Black Americans to get tested for HIV in the next year...”

For a detailed listing of events, testing dates, and IV-CHARIS, please visit our website at www.4charis.com or call Camisha Chambers at 513-236-3745.

The Test 1 Million Ohio Celebrity Tour is sponsored by The Ohio Commission on Minority Health, The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, IV-CHARIS, Black AIDS Institute, and OraSure Technologies.