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15 Cincinnati Organizations join forces to end the AIDS epidemic in Black America

CINCINNATI, 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. 43% of the new cases among men, 65% of the new cases among infants, 67% of the new cases among women, and 70% of the new cases among teens in the U.S. are Black. It is because of these alarming statistics, the Black AIDS Institute has issued a mobilization effort. The Black AIDS Institute’s “Test 1 Million” Campaign is a call-to-action for 1 million Black Americans to get screened for HIV by June 27, 2010. The goals of the Campaign are:

- Cut HIV rates in Black America by 50%
- Increase the number of Black Americans who know their status by 50%
- Increase the number of Black Americans in appropriate early care/treatment by 50%
- Reduce HIV/AIDS stigma in Black America by 50%

Phill Wilson, Founder and Executive Director of the Black AIDS Institute, has targeted the City of Cincinnati to be apart of this mobilization effort. IV-CHARIS is serving as the lead agency and liaison to the Black AIDS Institute for the Test 1 Million Cincinnati Campaign. IV- CHARIS has teamed with 14 other agencies in the Greater Cincinnati Area to come together to fight in this effort to ends the AIDS epidemic in Black America.

Test 1 Million Cincinnati has a goal of testing an additional 7,000 African Americans and will host 6 collaborative educational awareness events throughout the 2009 year. The Test 1 Million Campaign partners include: Inspirational Baptist Church, University of Cincinnati AIDS Education and Training Center, Central Community Health Board/EPIP, Stop AIDS, Infectious Disease Center, The Cincinnati Health Department, The Prospect House, The Center for Closing the Health Gap, Radio One, Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) of Cincinnati, People of Color Wellness Alliance (POCWA), HIV Early Intervention Program University Emergency Physicians, City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati NAACP Health Committee, Northern Kentucky NAACP Collegiate Chapter, and Cincinnati Regional Advisory Group (CRAG).

“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...”

This event is part of a mass black response to the AIDS epidemic sponsored by the aforementioned organizations in cooperation with the Black AIDS Institute.

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.