



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Empowerment Resource Center Hosts their Second Annual Take Charge. Get Tested.™ HIV Screening Day Event

ATLANTA (GA) - - Empowerment Resource Center, Inc. is hosting their second annual Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event in observance of National HIV Testing Day, Saturday, June 27, 2009 from 9 am to 7 pm. Testing is open to the community, for males and females ages 18 and up, and will be located between Bell Street and Jesse Hill Jr. Drive on Auburn Avenue. This event is free to the public and refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

One quarter of the HIV-infected persons in the United States do not know that they are infected (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The Georgia Department of Human Resources states that as of December 2006, Georgia had the eighth highest number of cumulative AIDS cases reported in the United States.

Being informed of a person's HIV status is vital to prevent the spread of the virus and to manage it. The primary focus of Empowerment Resource Center (ERC) community outreach efforts is to educate and equip individuals with the tools to spur positive, behavioral change, and strengthen their sense of self-confidence in choosing healthier, safer alternatives. At the 2008 Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event, ERC tested 264 participants. Ninety percent stated they intended to be tested and 51 percent were males. Overall, 81.3 percent stated that their interest in HIV was increased by the Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event.

About Empowerment Resource Center, Inc.: Empowerment Resource Center, directly delivers HIV prevention programs and services that increase public knowledge about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, empower responsible, healthy-choice decision-making, establish routine HIV testing, and helps to reduce the stigma associated with HIV.

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