

# NATIONAL HIV

June 25, 2010

# TESTING DAY

## Take Charge. Get Tested. *Day-long free testing event in observance of National HIV Testing Day*

- WHO**
- Jacqueline Brown, Empowerment Resource Center, Inc.
  - Pat Parsons, Saint Joseph Hospital's Mercy Care Services, Inc.
  - Georgia State Senator Nan Orrock Senate District 36
  - Georgia State Representative Margaret Kaiser, District 59
  - Georgia State Representative Tyrone L. Brooks, Sr., District 63, and President, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials.
  - Fulton County Commissioner Nancy A. Boxhill, District 6
  - Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall, District 2
- WHAT** Kick off of a day-long free HIV testing event in observance of Annual HIV Testing Day in partnership with the Saint Joseph Hospital's Mercy Care Services and Big Bethel A.M.E. Church.
- WHEN** Friday, June 25, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.  
Free HIV testing will be available until 7 p.m.
- WHERE** Big Bethel A.M. E. Church  
Auburn Avenue, between Piedmont Road and Bell Street,  
220 Auburn Avenue N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
For more information about testing, contact 404-526-1145.
- WHY** The goal is to test at least 500 metro Atlantans with a Rapid Test that is simple to use and requires only 20 minutes to take. However, recent data underscore the need for increased testing among African American women:
- Georgia is ranked the 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the national for HIV/AIDS cases.
  - 50% of all newly diagnosed HIV cases reside in Fulton and DeKalb counties.
  - 38% of Georgians newly diagnosed with aids between ages 35 and 44.
  - In Georgia, 79% of newly diagnosed HIV cases are Non-Hispanic African American and one-thirds of new female HIV and AIDS diagnoses in 2006 were in African American females.
  - Research shows that if people become aware that they are infected with HIV, they will modify their behaviors, thus reducing the possibility that they will spread the virus to others.

