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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Empowerment Resource Center Hosts Its Third Annual Take Charge. Get Tested.™  
Event (National HIV Testing Day)**

ATLANTA (GA) - - Empowerment Resource Center (ERC), in collaboration with Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services and Big Bethel AME Church, will host the third annual Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event on Friday, June 25, 2010. The Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event is open to the public, and will be held on Auburn Avenue, between Piedmont Road and Bell Street from 9 am to 7 pm. In annual observance of National HIV Testing Day, participants will receive free HIV testing, test results in 20 minutes, refreshments, and entertainment. Once again, Radio One Atlanta and WSB-TV Channel 2 are the media sponsors for the 2010 Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event. Other supporters for this campaign include key Georgia legislators Senator Nan Orrock, Representative Margaret Kaiser, Representative Tyrone L. Brooks, Sr., Fulton County Commissioner Nancy A. Boxhill, and Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one quarter of the HIV-infected persons in the United States do not know that they are infected. The Georgia Department of Community Health estimates that Georgia had the eighth highest number of cumulative AIDS cases reported in the United States as of December 2006.

"Early diagnosis continues to be paramount in better health outcomes," said Jacqueline Brown, Executive Director of Empowerment Resource Center. "We are encouraging all Atlantans to get tested during National HIV Testing Day. It is our goal to increase public knowledge about the epidemic, make HIV-testing routine, and promote an open dialogue about HIV in our communities." The primary focus of Empowerment Resource Center community outreach efforts is to equip individuals with the tools to spur positive, behavioral change, and strengthen their sense of self-confidence in choosing healthier, safer alternatives. Through the Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event, ERC strives to provide linkages to care and access to vital resources for those who are HIV positive.

**About Empowerment Resource Center, Inc.:** Empowerment Resource Center directly delivers HIV and STD prevention programs and services and generates solutions to community issues that affect HIV transmission. For more information contact Empowerment Resource Center at (404) 526-1145 or visit the ERC website: [www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org](http://www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org).