

# LET THEM HEAR!

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

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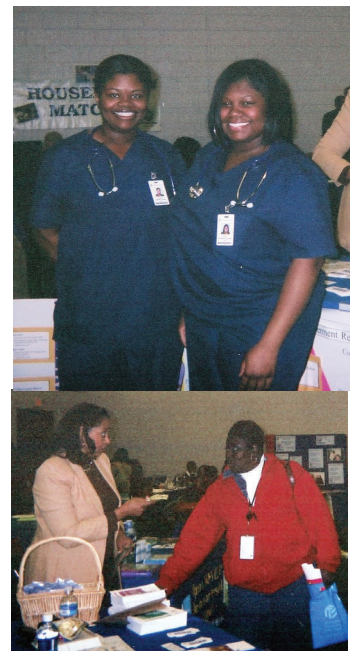
- Condom Dealin' Skillz™ Program
- Silence Is Sinful
- SAFE Project
- VOICES Program
- National HIV Testing Day Event

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH HEALTH FAIR = HIV PREVENTION

This year's Black History Month Health Fair at Atlanta Technical College was another success. The fair, organized by the Department of Allied Health, was held on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Atlanta Technical College Auditorium. A record 400 students attended the Health Fair and ERC was there to provide one-on-one HIV prevention discussions and prevention packets.

Thanks to our contributors and sponsors, ERC staff distributed over 100 HIV prevention packets to health fair attendees. The packets included HIV and AIDS education, prevention, and testing literature, condoms, snacks and brochures from our sponsors. Sponsors for this event included Wachovia Bank

(Dunwoody Branch), Target (Norcross Location), and Publix (Norcross Location). Georgia Department of Human Resources and Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness provided literature and condoms for the event. We couldn't have done it without our sponsors, and we look forward to participating in the 2009 event.



2008 Black History Month Health Fair, Atlanta Technical College Department of Allied Health.



## CONDOM DEALIN' SKILLZ™ AT EVERY WOMAN WORKS

Condom Dealin' Skillz™ workshops are held bi-monthly at the Every Woman Works (EWW) facility in Roswell GA for participants of the EWW 8-week job training and education program.

February 2008 marked the fulfillment of a spiritual journey

between ERC and Every Woman Works. Although some may suggest that the Condom Dealin' Skillz™ workshops are the result of a chance meeting/seating at the Zion Missionary Baptist Church's 2007 Women's Conference, our Executive Director describes it as nothing short of "Divine Inter-



Condom Dealin' Skillz™ Workshop February 2008

vention". Condom Dealin' *(Skillz Continued on page 2)*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One in 4 girls have an STD, according to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The impact is even more devastating for African-American girls, where one in two had at least one STD.\*

Teenaged participants were tested for HPV, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, and Herpes Simplex virus. The CDC suggests that results from the

analysis of the 838 girls are representative of the national prevalence among adolescent females and reflect current rates of infection.

The CDC touts vaccines, medical treatments, and screenings as preventative remedies. Conversely, the American Academy of Pediatrics cited the underuse of these methods due to doctor's perceptions of patient behaviors and fear of paren-

tal disclosure. Intervention is a critical element in the equation to reduce the infection rate. However, if not doctors and parents, then who?

Often times mentors offering support, information, and guidance in these sensitive issues are few to non-existent. In my experience, young people are willing to talk about traditionally un-

(ED Continued on page 4)



2008 Black History Month Health Fair  
Atlanta Technical College  
Department of Allied Health

## THE COLLABORATORS

Spashed across a television screen and put to the tune of a 1960's theme song, *The Collaborators* would be movie featuring a dynamic group of fighters and advocates for truth, justice, and the common good. The Collaborators here are nothing less than that.

ERC has teamed up with the Southern Christian Leader-

ship Conference/Southern Christian Leadership Foundation (SCLC/SCLF), Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Roswell), Women In Combat Ministries Incorporated, COMZIA Care, Ponce de Leon Counseling Services, Central DeKalb Probation, Saint Joseph Mercy Care Services, and AIDGwinnett to provide an array of HIV prevention education and awareness services during the coming

fiscal year.

The SAFE (Substance Abused Focused HIV Education) project and the SCLC's *Silence Is Sinful* program are two intervention projects in the developmental stages.

Please stay tuned!

...duna duna duna...



**"1 in 4 girls have a Sexually Transmitted Disease."**

## NEXT

Upcoming Events at ERC...

**April 25**—Condom Dealin' Skillz™ Workshop • Every Woman Works • 183 Norcross Street, Roswell GA

**May 10**—Roswell Coalition's Spring Health Fair • Roswell High School.

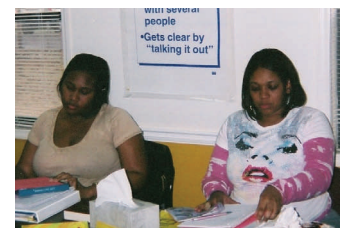
**June 27**—ERC, SCLC, and Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services' National HIV Testing Day Event • SCLC • 320 Auburn Avenue N.E., Atlanta GA.

**June (TBD)**—Condom Dealin' Skillz™ Workshop • Every Woman Works • 183 Norcross Street, Roswell GA



(Skillz Continued from page 1)

Skillz™ participants receive HIV prevention education, correct condom usage instruction, and engage in role playing to bolster partner negotiation skills. If you ask ERC, it's a match made in Heaven!



Condom Dealin' Skillz™  
Workshop  
February 4, 2008

## NOW SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR WOMEN

ERC staff participated in the Summit on Economic Justice for Women, held April 11-12, 2008 in Atlanta. Our ED presented “Barriers to HIV Prevention in African-American Female Populations”, one of four topics discussed during the “Stopping the Spread of HIV by Empowering Women” workshop. This five-panelist discussion generated much

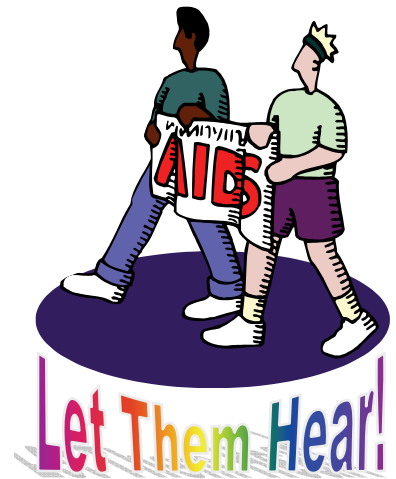
interest and sparked a lively question and answer period.

The common thread to the HIV prevention workshops was stigmatization, silence, partner negotiation, condom usage, barriers to HIV prevention, resource constraints, funding focus, and at-high-risk populations.

In addition to HIV workshops, the summit focused on empowering women in health

policy development, wealth generation, activism, social justice, workplace equality, and a host of other areas.

Held at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, conveners included the National Organization for Women’s Foundation, Institute for Women’s Policy Research, and the National Council of Negro Women. Women from across the country attended this worthwhile event.



## VOICES/VOCES INTERVENTION PROGRAM

As usual, increasing our capacity to serve the community is always exciting at ERC. So it is with pleasure that we add another tool to our repertoire of offerings in the VOICES/VOCES intervention program.

Our HIV Prevention Educators attended the VOICES/VOCES training on March 19-20, 2008. The training was sponsored by the Centers for

Disease Control and the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

The VOICES (Video Opportunities for Innovative Condom Education & Safer Sex) focuses on heterosexual African-American and Latino men and women. Participants, grouped by gender and ethnicity, view an English or Spanish video on HIV risk behaviors and condom use

and take part in a facilitated discussion.

This evidence-based intervention is 45 minutes in duration and is ideal for ERC participants in temporary and transitional housing programs and community outreach efforts at Central DeKalb Probation.



“VOICES/VOCES intervention program focuses on heterosexual African-American and Latino men and women.”

## VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS

Volunteers provide much needed services to support and reach our desired outcome—healthier and safer women. ERC empowers and educates scores of women by heightening the awareness of the perils of HIV and AIDS. ERC is consistently successful in increasing knowledge and

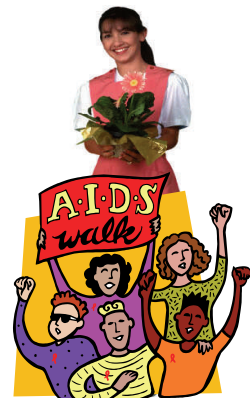
awareness, supporting participant willingness to act on this awareness, and providing opportunities, activities and skills that allow participants to make safer, healthier behavioral choices.

Each year, volunteers and sponsors donate thousands of hours of in-kind service. Again, we couldn’t do what

we love and achieve this level of passion without you.

### Our Sponsors

- Publix (Norcross)
- Target (Norcross)
- Wachovia (Dunwoody)
- Every Woman Works
- Goodwill Industries
- Women in Combat Ministries





**SPOTLIGHT**

ERC would like to recognize a few extraordinary individuals this quarter. We couldn't have done it without you.

- Raul Banda
- Alexia Clark
- Bernice Frazier
- Tillie O'Neal Kyles
- Officer Michael Thomas
- Mary Watson\*
- Renee Williams
- Dexter Wimbish

\* Mrs. Watson is the inspiration for the title of this Newsletter.



Empowerment Resource Center for Women, Incorporated (ERC) is a peer-led, community-based, grass-roots organization that develops policies and strategies, directly delivers programs, and generates solutions to societal and community issues that increase HIV transmission, such as sexual abuse, literacy, domestic violence, substance abuse, and general health conditions.

The primary focus of ERC's 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.

ERC seeks to educate through HIV prevention awareness which promote abstinence, partner negotiation skills, and encourage correct condom use.

**ERC**

Empowerment Resource Center for Women  
 Incorporated  
 PO Box 888104  
 Atlanta GA 30356  
 Phone: 770-234-9902  
 Fax: 770-234-9501  
 E-mail: emallory@EmpowerYoungWomen.com

**EMPOWERING HEALTHIER, SAFER WOMEN**

**¡SI SE PUEDE! YES WE CAN!**



Spanish-speaking individuals.

*(ED Continued from page 2)*

Mr. Banda's direct ties to the Latin American Association allow ERC to broaden its HIV prevention efforts and develop more culturally-specific materials for this increasingly at-risk group.

comfortable topics, if I am willing to listen and empathize.

STDs are preventable. I invite each of you to talk with a young girl today. You will be changed by their candor, openness, and eagerness for knowledge and idea exchange. "Let Them Hear"! No, let us all hear and reverse the trend of this startling endemic .

ERC would like to express a special thanks to Mr. Raul Banda for providing his expertise in Spanish interpretation. Raul has translated our intervention programs and literature into Spanish to augment our existing services and reach limited English and



Gracias Raul, for all you do!



\* Source: © 2008 The Associated Press (March 2008).



Let Them Hear!  
Empowering Healthier, Safer Women



ERC Volunteers Rock!