

In recognition of

**NATIONAL BLACK
HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**

Sunday, February 7, 2010



A Message from
State Senator Vincent Hughes & Sheryl Lee Ralph

Addressing the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS represents one of the most important health issues that we have championed for nearly three decades. After 28 years since it was first diagnosed, this disease continues to wreak havoc around the world. Right here in the United States, HIV/AIDS is growing dramatically in communities of color. In Philadelphia alone, two thirds of all new infections are in African-American women.

Over the years, the collective voice of the African-American Church has grown steadily more intense in response to the impact of AIDS in our community. With this in mind we are writing to remind you that Sunday, February 7, 2010 is

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. In recognition of this important commemoration, on Saturday evening, February 6, we will join Pastor Alyn Waller at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2800-2900 Cheltenham Ave., for a special spiritual service event. The service will run from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and will include testing, information and resource sharing.

And, on Sunday, February 7, we will visit several other local churches to encourage pastors to join clergy throughout Black America's neighborhoods in the ongoing campaign to raise awareness and combat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. Fighting AIDS in our community involves four simple steps:*

- 1. GET INFORMED.** What you don't know can kill you. Knowledge is a powerful weapon against HIV/AIDS.
- 2. GET TESTED.** The vast majority of people infected with the AIDS virus don't even know it. You can't protect yourself or your partner if you don't know your status.
- 3. GET TREATED.** 70 percent of HIV-positive people in America are not in proper treatment and care. AIDS is not the death sentence it once was. Early treatment can prolong your life.
- 4. GET INVOLVED.** AIDS is spreading through our communities because not enough of us are involved in efforts to stop it. Get involved in the fight.

Enclosed is a brochure that we hope will inspire and prompt you to recognize National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in your services on Sunday, February 7, 2010 and to use your voice to address this important issue in our community. By expanding our knowledge and deepening our commitment to advocacy around the issue of HIV/AIDS, we have the power to engage a fight that can be won. Thank you!

Vincent & Sheryl

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For more information visit: www.testtogether.org or www.senatorhughes.com

*Source: Black AIDS Institute