

January 28, 2016  
Immediate Release



## NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS EVENT “TAKING IT TO THE STREETS”

-Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 -

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**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FL**– Florida Department of Health in Indian River County, in collaboration with the Indian River HIV/AIDS Awareness Network, will hold the “Taking it to Streets” event on February 6<sup>th</sup> in recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This event is an effort to help raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and help make a difference by providing an opportunity for people to get tested, treated, educated and involved in local communities.

This year’s event in Indian River County will be held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 4426 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Gifford, across from Colley’s Grocery Store from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Free HIV/STD testing will be offered and other health vendors will also be participating.

“It important to share this year’s theme “I am my Brother/Sister’s Keeper: Fight HIV/AIDS” with the community”, stated John May, Florida Department of Health in Indian River HIV Outreach Coordinator.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is an HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative for Blacks in the United States. Since 1999, February 7<sup>th</sup> has been designated as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and this day carries with it a consistent and powerful message- **Get Educated** about HIV and AIDS; **Get Involved** in community prevention efforts; **Get Tested** to know your status, and **Get Treated** to receive the continuum of care to live with HIV/AIDS. By emphasizing a consistent message, the NBHAAD initiative has been able to empower individuals to educate themselves on the basics of HIV and AIDS in their local communities, get tested to find out their HIV/AIDS status, and engage others to do the same.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports:

- African Americans are the racial/ethnic group most affected by HIV.
- Blacks make up only 12% of the U.S. population but had nearly half (44%) of all new HIV infections in the United States in 2010.
- Gay and bisexual men account for most new infections among African Americans; young gay and bisexual men aged 13 to 24 are the most affected of this group.
- According to the most recent data available, an estimated 1,148,200 persons aged 13 and older were living with HIV infection in the United States, including 207,600 (18.1%) persons whose infections had not been diagnosed.
- Approximately 50,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year.

**Get Educated! Get Involved! Get Tested! Get Treated!**

For more information about this event, contact John May at 772-794-7477 or 772-473-5268, and for more information on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, visit [www.nationalblackaidsday.org](http://www.nationalblackaidsday.org)

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