



Sample letter for Faith-based leaders to include in bulletins

Dear Pastor:

HIV/AIDS remains a persistent threat to the health and well-being of Black communities. Faith based leaders all over the country are stepping up their effort in honor of the 10th anniversary of **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – February 7, 2010**. They are doing this to meet the crisis that confronts Black communities every day.

February 7th is **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**, a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative designed to encourage Blacks across the United States, Territorial Areas and Diaspora to **get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated** around HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities.

When looking at HIV/AIDS by race and ethnicity alone, Blacks have more illness (*Blacks represent approximately 13% of the U.S. population and account for 45% of new HIV infections and 46% of people living with HIV disease*); and more deaths (*Blacks accounted for 57% of deaths due to HIV in 2006 and the survival time after an AIDS diagnosis is lower on average than it is for most other racial/ethnic groups*).

There is an Ethiopian Proverb that reads, “*When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.*” As a person of influence within the Black community, we are asking you to join us in encouraging Blacks across the United States and Territorial Areas to **get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated** around HIV/AIDS. Statistics show that Blacks continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Let’s continue the work of bringing change to Black America!

You can find more information about **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)** by visiting www.blackaidsday.org.

Sincerely,

[name of person sending letter]

[title]

[organization, agency, group name]