



Sample letter for Faith-based leaders to include in bulletins

Dear Pastor or Senior Overseer:

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 12th commemoration of **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day – February 7, 2012**. They are doing this to meet the crisis that confronts Black communities every day. This year's theme: ***Changing the Course of HIV/AIDS, 1 Black Life at a Time!*** Underscores the need for faith based leaders, groups and organizations to work hand in hand to instill value and worth into Black communities.

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 14% of the U.S. population and account for 44% of all 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!

It seems that the cost of living continues to rise, but the cost of dying is lessening. We need your voice, influence, passion and commitment in this fight to save our Beloved Community from an epidemic that is 100% preventable. To find out more information about **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)**, please visit www.blackaidsday.org.

Sincerely,

[name of person sending letter]

[title]

[organization, agency, group name]