



## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 31, 2010

### **Legacy Community Health Services Joins Nationwide Response to AIDS Crisis Among African-Americans**

**Houston**— On February 7, 2010 Black American leaders and organizations across the United States will respond to the impact of HIV and AIDS in the country's African American communities in the tenth annual observance of **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** (NBHAAD). Here in Houston, **Legacy Community Health Services** will offer free HIV testing at two locations on Monday, February 8 to encourage citizens to **get educated, get tested, get treated** and **get involved** with HIV/AIDS as it continues to devastate Black communities.

"Knowing your HIV status is important to the fight against HIV/AIDS," said Katy Caldwell, Executive Director of Legacy Community Health Services. "We encourage anyone who is at risk for HIV to get tested."

In 2008, African Americans accounted for 56% of all HIV cases in Houston/Harris County. Of those HIV-positive Black Houstonians, 33% were men infected through male-to-male sexual behavior, while 23% were infected through heterosexual contact.

Houston is one of more than 800 cities across the U.S. that will sponsor programs on February 7, 2008 to call attention to the problem and seek solutions to halt the epidemic.

**Legacy Community Health Services** will offer free rapid HIV tests, with results in 20 minutes at the following two locations:

- **215 Westheimer in the Montrose area from 9:00am to 6:30pm**
- **Lyons Avenue Health Center, 5602 Lyons Avenue (I-10 at Lockwood) from 9:00am to 6:30pm**

While Blacks represent approximately 13% of the U.S. population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the group accounts for 49% of the nation's AIDS cases. Nationwide, HIV was the **fourth** leading cause of death for Black men and **third** leading cause of death for Black women, ages 25-44. Unfortunately, many of those who are infected with HIV are unaware of their status and may unknowingly transmit the virus to others.

In its tenth year, NBHAAD organizers remain focused on those 18 cities where Black communities are disproportionately impacted and the epidemic is not slowing. These cities include **Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Newark, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia, Raleigh-Durham, San Francisco, Trenton and Washington, D.C.**

For more information on **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**, visit [www.blackaidsday.org](http://www.blackaidsday.org).

**Legacy Community Health Services** is a full-service, Federally Qualified Health Center that provides comprehensive, primary healthcare services to all Houstonians in a culturally sensitive, judgment-free and confidential environment. Legacy specializes in HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. Generous financial support from individuals, businesses and charitable foundations allows Legacy to provide no-cost or low-cost healthcare services to over 20,000 men, women and children each year. [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org)

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