



January 22, 2010

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 on February 7, 2010**. They are doing this to meet the crisis that confronts Black communities every day. **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** is 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!

Black Leadership Commission on AIDS of Syracuse is encouraging all Black Churches to include the enclosed litany in their Service on Sunday, February 7. In support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, there will be free, Anonymous HIV Testing available on Wednesday, February, 10, 2010. Testing will be provided on a walk-in basis, no appointment needed, by HIV Test Counselors from the New York State Anonymous HIV Testing Program. We also have developed an insert for your Bulletin that includes statistics and facts about HIV/AIDS and information about the Testing Day. Materials can be downloaded from [www.cnyhsa.com](http://www.cnyhsa.com) or you may contact the HIV Care Network at (315) 472-8099 to request materials.

After National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2010, we would like to report the number of area Black Churches that used this opportunity to join in solidarity in the struggle against HIV/AIDS. We hope yours will be one of those Churches. Please call the Network at (315) 472-8099 to register your Church for this event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CDB', is written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Chauncey D. Brown, President, BLCA/Syracuse