



SACRAMENTO, CA JOINS NATIONWIDE RESPONSE TO AIDS CRISIS AMONG AFRICAN AMERICANS

[Sacramento, February 1, 2006] – On February 7, 2006 Black American leaders and organizations of Sacramento, CA will respond to the impact of HIV and AIDS in the city’s African American communities in the sixth annual observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). HIV information tabling activities will be held to encourage citizens to **get educated, get tested, get treated and get involved** with HIV/AIDS as it continues to devastate Black communities.

“Seventy-two African-Americans are infected with HIV every day,” said **Clarmundo Sullivan, CEO of Golden Rule Services**. “African-Americans make up approximately 13 percent of the population of the United States, yet almost half of the total AIDS cases reported in this country is among members of the Black community. In 2003, more African Americans were reported to have HIV/AIDS than any other racial/ethnic group. While African Americans make up only 10% of Sacramento County, they total **23%** percent of people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Not only is this disproportionate but unacceptable.”

Sacramento is one of more than 100 cities across the U.S. that will sponsor programs on February 7, 2006 to call attention to the problem and seek solutions to halt the epidemic.

Initiatives planned in recognition of NBHAAD in **Sacramento** include:

- **HIV information tabling at Mercantile Saloon**
- **HIV information tabling at Faces Night Club**
- **Articles and ad placements in local newspapers acknowledging NBHAAD**

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is directed, planned and strategically overseen by nine national organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These groups are working in partnership with the National Steering Committee which is made up of individuals representing both the public and private sectors. These bodies are committed to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African American community.

For more information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day call **Clarmundo Sullivan at (916) 446-2437** or visit www.blackaidsday.org.