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EVENTS SURROUND HIV TEST DAY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—HIV Test Day is Saturday, June 27 and serves to remind everyone that this disease has not gone away and that “It’s Better to Know” your status as a way of curbing the spread.

In 2008 34,111 people in Palm Beach County were tested for HIV/AIDS with 530 or 1.55% of those tested being positive. A disproportionate number of those testing positive, 377 were black indicating that this minority segment continues to be adversely affected by HIV/AIDS. The Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials will kick-off the weekends testing activities with a press conference at the Palm Beach County Health Department, Riviera Beach Health Center, 7828 Gardens Road at 10 am. The purpose is to encourage all to be tested for HIV and to create awareness on ways to prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

Another awareness event takes place on Thursday, June 25 when the book *Silence is Death Unleashed Voices*, is released. This book is an anthology about HIV/AIDS in Palm Beach County and features images by award winning photographer Ricc Rollins. Stories were accumulated over the past several years from people affected by the disease in the county and are being published for the first time. Regional Minority AIDS Coordinator Lorenzo Robertson said, “We hope this book will encourage others to talk about HIV/AIDS and through sharing help to stop its spread in the black population.”

During HIV Test Day a number of sites will be offering free testing throughout the county. Information can be obtained by calling 211 or the Health Department at 561-804-7600. Sites are also available on line at www.pbchd.com.

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