



February 15, 2010



**WIN \$500 for your school!**

Due to the severity of childhood obesity, the FOCUS Program is hosting a contest to address the issue of childhood obesity in Alabama. Schools should submit a public service announcement (PSA) that addresses why the issue of childhood obesity in Alabama is important and encourages students to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

PSA Submission:

- Range from 30-60 seconds
- Needs to be an original presentation
- Downloaded to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/group/thefocusprogram>) or
- Mail DVD to  
*April Smith*  
*412 North Hull Street*  
*Montgomery, AL 36104*
- Submission deadline is April 10th by 5:00 p.m.

The winning school will:

- Receive \$500
- Their PSA will be posted on the FOCUS website
- Their PSA will be publicized at the statewide Rally for Awareness on April 29<sup>th</sup>

*Jeh Jeh Pruit with FOX 6 News will emcee the Rally!*

**Please view the contest flyer**

**([http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Flyer%20for%20Childhood%20Obesity\(1\).pdf](http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Flyer%20for%20Childhood%20Obesity(1).pdf)) for more information.**

For additional information about healthy choices view the *Alabama Action for Healthy Kids: Guide to Healthy Vending Machines and School Stores* (<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/N&PA%20Healthy%20Vending.pdf>).



### **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**

The repercussions of teen dating violence are impossible to ignore - the issue affects not just youth but their families, schools and communities as well. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM) brings national focus to the issue of teen dating violence, highlights the need to educate our youth about healthy relationships, raises awareness among those who care for them and provides communities with a critical opportunity to work together to prevent this devastating cycle of abuse.

To learn about ways to get involved and take action in raising awareness of the issue of teen dating violence, visit the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project website (<http://www.teendvmonth.org/>).

On February 10, students from across the nation heard a message of healthy relationships as part of their morning announcements.

Healthy Teen Network's Interpersonal Violence and Adolescent Pregnancy report ([http://healthyteennetwork.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_PR&SEC=%7B2AE1D600-4FC6-4B4D-8822-F1D5F072ED7B%7D&DE=%7B7E3779AE-D0F1-44C0-B5ED-8A5CA85EE7DB%7D](http://healthyteennetwork.org/index.asp?Type=B_PR&SEC=%7B2AE1D600-4FC6-4B4D-8822-F1D5F072ED7B%7D&DE=%7B7E3779AE-D0F1-44C0-B5ED-8A5CA85EE7DB%7D)) examines the links between interpersonal violence and teen pregnancy and explores the implications for practice and programs and offers possible next steps for the field.



**April 29, 2010 - Rally for Awareness**  
Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, AL



**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** was on February 7, 2010! Almost 10 years old, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was founded by five national organizations funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1999 to provide capacity building assistance to Black communities and organizations.

Since the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic 25 years ago, African Americans have been overrepresented among those living with and dying from AIDS. The disease continues to affect African Americans more than any other racial/ethnic group in the United States. Today, African Americans comprise only 13% of the U.S. population but account for over half of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. Over 200,000 African Americans have died of AIDS, half a million are now living with HIV.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization effort to get Black Americans all across the United States and Territorial Areas to “get educated” about the basics of HIV/AIDS; “get tested” to know their HIV status; “get involved” locally in their community and family to highlight the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and “get treated” if they are living with HIV/AIDS. For more information please visit the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day website (<http://www.blackaidsday.org/>).

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Brochure  
(<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/National%20Black%20HIV-AIDS%20Awareness%20Day%20Brochure.pdf>)

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Resource Guide  
(<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/National%20Black%20HIV-AIDS%20Awareness%20Day%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>)

### **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Activities**

Greene County High School Celebrates "National BLACK HIV/AIDS Awareness Day"

Students at Greene County High School in Eutaw, Alabama, brought attention to the HIV/AIDS epidemic on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, by holding a school wide assembly and poster contest. The assembly, led by Ole Pete Key, Inc., was a fast pace interactive experience for the students. Following the assembly, focus groups were held to assess the needs of the teachers and students for future prevention activities. The FOCUS Program at Greene County High School is facilitated by Mr. Frederick Harris. His class sponsored the poster contest and the following students were recognized during the assembly by Ms. Shakina Wheeler-Cox, HIV/AIDS Prevention Coordinator for Alabama Department of Public Health, Area 3.

1st Place and winner of \$50.00 was Ratishaka Pavell & Rell Ellis  
2nd Place and winner of \$25.00 was Steven Ellis  
3rd Place and winner of \$15.00 was Raven Avelunauske  
4th Place and winner of \$10.00 was Diamond Davis

Another example of "Alabama Students Making a Difference"!

*Please send a brief description of your National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 7, 2010) planned activities to [sjones@thefocusprogram.com](mailto:sjones@thefocusprogram.com).*



Congratulations to **Oxford High School** for being selected as February's FOCUSED & Featured School!

Oxford High School's FOCUS Program, facilitated by Glennis Parris and Matt Harmon, currently enjoys a membership of approximately 100 students.

Students involved with the FOCUS Program at Oxford High School participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. This past August, members decorated Oxford Civic Center for the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) "Sock Hop" that earned about \$3,000 for the UCP Telethon. Several members dressed up as "Celebrities" and served lunch to local business people at the Red Cross "Celebrity Luncheon." In October, members worked the "Oxford Fest" selling baked goods, water, and painting faces. They also had a drawing for a portrait package to raise money for Breast Cancer Research. Overall, they raised about \$1,500. During "Drug Free" week, the Oxford High School FOCUS Program went to six different schools and each FOCUS group presented skits, during all the PE classes, about drugs and Halloween safety. During the month of November, members collected over 1,000 pounds of can food for the Health Services Center and Sister Mary's to give to people in need. In December, for World AIDS Day, members dressed in "World AIDS Day" t-shirts and passed out plain white t-shirts to various students throughout the day. During half time of an in-school basketball game, students who had received the plain white t-shirts were asked to stand and FOCUS officers presented facts and statistics about AIDS, including the number of people each plain white t-shirt represented that died with AIDS in one day. In February and March, the Oxford High School FOCUS Program will collect formals and donate them to students who cannot afford to purchase a formal for prom.

Once again, congratulations to Oxford High School for being selected as February's FOCUSED & Featured School!



## **CALLING FOR RALLY PRESENTERS!**

Contact Sharlene Key at [skey@thefocusprogram.com](mailto:skey@thefocusprogram.com) if your school would like to present a 30 minute break-out session at the "Rally for Awareness" on April 29, 2010, at Shocco Springs in Talladega. The session must address an adolescent risk behavior and the topic be selected by the FOCUS students in your program.



The FOCUS Programs wants to acknowledge your school's hard work through our new FOCUSED & Featured section!

The FOCUSED & Featured section of The FOCUS Program was created to acknowledge schools that have implemented the FOCUS Program within their school and, as a result, have created a successful prevention (of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors) activity or project that they would like to share with others.

Each month a school will be selected out of the entries and will be highlighted in the upcoming month's FOCUS eNewsletter. In order to submit your school's successful prevention activity or project simply fill out the FOCUSED & Featured Form ([http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Focused%20&%20Featured%20Form\(4\).pdf](http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Focused%20&%20Featured%20Form(4).pdf)) and email the completed form to April Smith ([asmith@thefocusprogram.com](mailto:asmith@thefocusprogram.com)). In order to be considered for the upcoming month's eNewsletter all FOCUSED & Featured Forms must be submitted by the **7<sup>th</sup> of each month**.

In early March the top three prevention activities or projects will be selected and those three schools will be awarded FREE registration for 20 students and 2 facilitators for the 2010 Rally for Awareness, which will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, AL!



**Welcome to Our New FOCUS Schools!**

Warrior Academy  
Greene County

The FOCUS Program website has been recently updated! Visit the Participating Schools (<http://thefocusprogram.com/focus-schools/>) webpage and you can view all participating schools by their county!



Health observances are days, weeks, or months devoted to promoting particular health concerns. Teachers, students, community groups, and others can use these special times to sponsor health promotion events, stimulate awareness of health risks, or focus on disease prevention. Materials available from sponsoring organizations range from a single flyer to packets of promotional materials. For more information on monthly health observances visit the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website ([www.healthfinder.gov/nho](http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho)).

### **February Health Observances**

- 1-28: American Heart Month
- 1-28: National Children's Dental Health Month
- 1-7: World Salt Awareness Week
- 5: Give Kids A Smile Day
- 5: National Wear Red Day
- 14-20: Children of Alcoholics Week

### **March Health Observances**

- 1-31: National Nutrition Month
- 7-13: National Sleep Awareness Week
- 8-12: National School Breakfast Week
- 10: National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- 15-21: Brain Awareness Week



The FOCUS Program is now on Facebook!  
(<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=49776916454>) Become a member of our group and join us in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors!

**For more information and assistance with your prevention efforts please utilize the following web sites.**



**Have you been to our website recently? Be sure to check it out at [www.thefocusprogram.com](http://www.thefocusprogram.com)!**

*The FOCUS Program's eNewsletter provides links to articles and websites with information on current events, research, funding opportunities and other items related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. The inclusion of this information does not imply endorsement by the FOCUS Program and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position, policies or views of the FOCUS Program.*