



January 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
- 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 29th

Jeh Jeh Pruitt with FOX 6 News will emcee the Rally!

Please view the contest flyer

<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Flyer%20for%20Childhood%20Obesity.pdf> for more information.



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



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is 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>)

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



Congratulations to **DeKalb County Schools** for being selected as January's FOCUSED & Featured School!

DeKalb County Schools FOCUS Program, facilitated by Felicia Boland, currently enjoys a membership of approximately 130 students (county wide).

Students enrolled in FOCUS Program elective classes, offered at five high schools within DeKalb County, recently planned activities to observe World AIDS Day. These activities included Tom Robertson, HIV/AIDS Prevention Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Public Health, Area 6, as the featured speaker at assemblies, classes, and meetings held at various schools in the county.

The schools and FOCUS facilitators who participated in the prevention activities included:

Collinsville High School, Ms. Donna Jones;
Fyffe High School, Ms Kathy Fossett;
Geraldine High School, Ms. Linda Bouldin;
Ider High School, Ms. Laura Lawrence; and
Sylvania High School, Ms. Frances Lea.

Under the leadership of Felicia Boland, Safe and Drug-Free School Coordinator for the school system, the county has actively participated in local and statewide prevention activities through the FOCUS Program.

Once again, congratulations to DeKalb County Schools for being selected as January's FOCUSED & Featured School!



CALLING FOR RALLY PRESENTERS!

Contact Sharlene Key at 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). In order to be considered for the upcoming month's eNewsletter all FOCUSED & Featured Forms must be submitted by the **7th 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 29th at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, AL!



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!



January Health Observances

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).

- 1-31: Cervical Health Awareness Month
- 1-31: Glaucoma Awareness Month
- 1-31: National Birth Defects Prevention Month
- 1-31: National Radon Action Month
- 1-31: Thyroid Awareness Month
- 4-10: National Folic Acid Awareness Week

facebook

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!

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.