



*November 17, 2009*



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



Congratulations to **Sylacauga High School** for being selected as November's FOCUSED & Featured School!

The Sylacauga High School FOCUS Program, facilitated by Carol Sprayberry, currently enjoys a membership of over 40 students.

Each fall, Sylacauga High School surveys the 9th and 12th graders with an assessment based on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This past November they held an assembly for 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The assembly included a drama, announced the survey results, and hosted Tom Robertson as a guest speaker, who shared information about HIV/AIDS and STD's. At the end of the assembly, FOCUS Program members led a Question and Answer session providing answers to the student's questions.

For Red Ribbon Week, Sylacauga High School had two students visit a middle school and present a monologue testimony about their drug or alcohol problems at home with parents or other family members and friends. At the end of the monologue the students revealed that their testimony had just been an enactment of some real problems that do exist in families today. The Sylacauga High School's FOCUS Program also passed out red ribbons to wear and made daily P.A. announcements.

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



**World AIDS Day** was first observed in December 1, 1988, after an international summit of health ministers called for a new spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS. Observed annually on December 1, World AIDS Day serves to strengthen global efforts to address the challenges of the AIDS pandemic, which continues to spread throughout every region of the world. In recognition of the growing complexities of the HIV/AIDS global epidemic, UNAIDS was created in 1996 to unite six global agencies in their response to HIV/AIDS. Each year, the Focus Program, in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health and Alabama State Department of Education, coordinates efforts for World AIDS Day in schools and communities.



FOCUS Program Resources:

World AIDS Day Flyer

(<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/World%20AIDS%20Day%20Flyer%202009.pdf>)

World AIDS Day Resource Guide

(<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/World%20AIDS%20Day%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>)

*(make sure you submit the World AIDS Day Event Follow-Up Report in the back of the resource guide)*



Links to more information about World AIDS Day:

Worlds AIDS Campaign (<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/en/>)

HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

(<http://www.hhs.gov/aidsawarenessdays/days/world/index.html>)

World AIDS Day (<http://www.worldaidsday.org/>)

**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/>).

*Please send a brief description of your World AIDS Day (December 1, 2009) and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February 7, 2010) planned activities to [sjones@thefocusprogram.com](mailto:sjones@thefocusprogram.com).*



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\(1\).pdf](http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Focused%20&%20Featured%20Form(1).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!**

West Limestone High School  
*Contact Person: Guy Fry*

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!



## **November 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](http://www.healthfinder.gov/nho)).

- 1-30: American Diabetes Month
- 1-30: Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) Awareness Month
- 1-30: Diabetic Eye Disease Month
- 1-30: Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- 1-30: National Adoption Month
- 1-30: National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
- 1-30: National Family Caregivers Month
- 1-30: National Healthy Skin Month
- 1-30: National Hospice Palliative Care Month
- 1-30: Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
- 1-30: Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month
- 18: Prematurity Awareness Day
- 18: World Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD) Day
- 19: Great American Smokeout
- 21: National Survivors of Suicide Day
- 22-28: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease 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!



**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.*