




October 29, 2009



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Youth Council was a success! Over 225 students gathered at Hewitt-Trussville High School on September 15<sup>th</sup> to learn about preventing HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. For more information about the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Youth Council read the complete summary report (<http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/AYC%20Summary%20Report%202009.pdf>).



**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>)



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/>)



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\(2\).pdf](http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/Focused%20&%20Featured%20Form(2).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!**

Abbeville High School  
*Henry County*

Asbury High School  
*Marshall County*

Central High School  
*Hayneville*

Columbia High School  
*Huntsville City*

E.B. Erwin High School  
*Jefferson County*

Greene County High School  
*Greene County*

Headland High School  
*Henry County*

Leeds High School  
*St. Clair County*

Pleasant Grove High School  
*Jefferson County*

Southern Choctaw High School  
*Gilbertown*



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



## **October 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)).

1-7: Sarcoidosis Awareness Week  
4-10: Fire Prevention Week  
5: National Child Health Day  
5-9: Drive Safely Work Week  
5-11: Get Smart About Antibiotics Week  
5-11: Mental Illness Awareness Week  
10: World Mental Health Day  
12-20: Bone and Joint Decade National Action Week  
13: Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day  
16: World Food Day  
18-24: Hearing Aid Awareness Week  
19-25: National Drug-Free Work Week  
20: World Osteoporosis Day  
22: International Stuttering Awareness Day  
25-31: Respiratory Care Week  
28: Lung Health Day  
31: Interstitial Cystitis Awareness Day

**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.*