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For Immediate Release

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A Job Well Done

Congratulations to Sylacauga High School for being selected as the FOCUS Program's FOCUSED & Featured School for the month of November!

The Focus Program promotes school and community partnerships for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. The program is based on a student led approach and seeks to promote youth involvement in the planning of prevention activities. The program includes: focus group training, peer helping, peer mediation, peer tutoring, violence prevention, and positive decision making skills.

The new 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 activity or project that they would like to share with others. In 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 to the FOCUS Program's 2010 Rally for Awareness, which will be held on April 29th at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, AL!

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). In November 2008, they held an assembly for 9th 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 students' 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!

Please visit www.thefocusprogram.com for more information on the FOCUS Program.

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