

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Hood College Black Student Union, Frederick Co Alumnae Chapter of Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and The Frederick Center Co- Sponsor
National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Event
February 4, 2016
Free HIV Home Test Kits Available**

FREDERICK, MD – Continuing the theme “I Am My Brother/Sister's Keeper - Fight HIV/AIDS,” the Hood College Black Student Union, Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and The Frederick Center, Inc. will sponsor a National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Event starting at 9:00 pm on Thursday, February 4, 2016, at the Whitaker Campus Center Commons on the Hood College Campus, 401 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701. The program, which is open to the public, includes:

- Guest Speaker: Frederick County Health Department AIDS Certified Registered Nurse Debbie Anne
- Video: “Many Women, One Voice: African-American Women and HIV”
- Distribution of HIV Home Test Kits
- Questions and answers

Founded in 2012, the Frederick HIV/AIDS Coalition is a consortium of non-profit organizations focused on Frederick County and the surrounding counties with a mission to:

1. Reduce new infections by increasing the percentage of people living with HIV who know their status;
2. Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV by rapid linkage to and maintenance in medical care;
3. Increase the number of Ryan White clients with permanent housing;
4. Reduce HIV-related health disparities by improving prevention and care services for all Americans;
5. Improve retention and viral suppression rates for minority populations; and

6. Meet the social and spiritual needs of people living with AIDS plus the needs of their families and communities.

Coalition members currently include:

- Chi Theta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Asbury United Methodist Church Health and Wellness Ministry
- Asian American Center of Frederick
- Faith Striders
- Frederick County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- HIV/AIDS ministry at Frederick Church of the Brethren
- Hood College
- The Frederick Center, Inc.
- The Frederick County Department of Health
- National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club/Frederick MD

Interested organizations should contact frederickhivcoalition@gmail.com about participation in the Coalition.

For more information on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, visit www.NationalBlackAIDSDay.org.

For more information about HIV testing and treatment in Frederick County, contact Debbie Anne, RN at 301-600-3117 or visit <http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/256/HIV-AIDS-Services>.

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