

News Release

Contact: Cherie Filler-Maietta
(702) 942-9278
Jennifer Sizemore
(702) 383-1225

February 6, 2002
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

(Las Vegas, Nev., - February 6, 2002) – The Clark County Outreach Team and Clark County Health District HIV Program staff will conduct free, oral HIV tests on February 7, 2002 – National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This day is being observed nationwide in 14 major cities. All events are intended to bring attention to the epidemic among African Americans and to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in America.

Churches are a valuable partner and have aided in the effort to promote prevention and encourage HIV counseling and testing in the African American community. According to Dr. Robert E. Fowler, senior pastor at Victory Missionary Baptist Church, “Over the past year we have partnered with the Health District HIV Program to raise awareness and educate individuals regarding HIV/AIDS as well as other infectious diseases and trends that face our community.”

The Health District HIV Surveillance Project reports that 23 percent of the AIDS cases and 26 percent of HIV infections in the county occur in African Americans. “In an era when AIDS is rising disproportionately in black communities, we are seeing a growing number of churches take a lead role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This is a trend we are seeing in Clark County as well as nationwide,” said Rick Reich, AIDS services coordinator.

(more)

**National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
TESTING SITES**

Free, oral tests will be available on February 7, 2002 at various locations including:

Victory Missionary Baptist Church Annex Building
1312 F Street, Suite 102
5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

UMC Quick Care
1760 Wheeler Peak
5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Ravenholt Public Health Center
625 Shadow Lane
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information on testing sites or the HIV/AIDS program call 942-9318.

#####