



Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CBGMC RECOGNIZES NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WITH MONTH OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Month-long Initiatives to Promote Togetherness Amongst Black Men

(Chicago, IL – February 4, 2013) The Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) will recognize February as the month of *Brotherly Love* to commemorate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and Black History Month. CBGMC will host and support an array of community events that will be directed at inspiring brotherly love amongst all Black men – gay, bisexual, and straight.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), observed on Thurs., Feb. 7th, provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the challenges that we continue to face in the fight against HIV/AIDS within our communities and to celebrate the many successes that we have achieved to date. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black gay and bisexual men bear the greatest burden of HIV when compared to our racial and sexual counterparts. However, recent studies suggest that efforts to turn the tide on the HIV/AIDS epidemic are working – interventions have begun to decrease the number of the people unaware of their status and have linked more brothers into healthcare services.

“Together, through increased brotherly love and community mobilization, CBGMC pledges to get more Black men educated, tested, treated and involved in the fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS,” states Keith Green, board chairman of CBGMC. It is our hope to continue to bring together all Black men to further strategize about how we can collaborate to strengthen and improve the well-being of our community.”

On National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, CBGMC has partnered with the organizers of Black Pride and a number of health organizations, including Project Brotherhood and Howard Brown Health Center, to provide the community with free HIV and STI testing.

Join CBGMC, throughout the month of February, in our efforts to challenge cultural norms, promote health management, explore relationship dynamics, and fight to protect all families – gay and straight – through the campaign for marriage equality.

Events scheduled during the month of *Brotherly Love* include:

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| February 7 | HIV Testing and Outreach
12pm-7pm, Project Brotherhood, 6337 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL |
| February 7 | HIV Testing and Outreach
9am – 8pm, Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Ave., Chicago, IL |
| February 10 | HIV Testing and Outreach
10pm-1:30am, Club Escape, 1530 E 75th St., Chicago, IL |
| February 22 – 24 | Conversations: Retreat Style (free, reservations required)
<i>To reserve a space, send an email to info@chiblackgaycaucus.org.</i> |

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Events scheduled during the month of *Brotherly Love* include (cont):

February 26 “Boys to Men: Bedroom, Boardroom and Beyond” (free, open to public)
6:30pm-8:30pm, Room 43, 1043 E. 43rd Street, Chicago, IL
Our next “Conversations with the Caucus” forum, held in partnership with Project Brotherhood and the Austin CBC Initiative, acknowledges the spirit of collaboration between Bayard Rustin and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. toward civil rights, regardless of their sexual identity. The forum will convene African American men who identify as straight, bisexual and gay for a discussion on sexuality, networking, shared concerns, and collaborations that encourage brotherly love.

February 26 Reception, 8:30pm-10:30pm, Room 43, 1043 E. 43rd Street (free, open to public)

For more information about the aforementioned events, please visit www.chiblackgaycaucus.org or call 312.629.2988 ext. 12.

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About CBGMC

The mission of the Chicago Black Gay Men’s Caucus is to mobilize and empower Black gay men and their allies to prevent new HIV infections by addressing the well-being of Black men who have sex with men. Since its inception in 2005, CBGMC works to improve the general livelihood of Black MSM, with specific attention to sexual health concerns, such as HIV/STI testing and treatment. Our goals are to decrease new HIV infections and improve overall health outcomes; to recruit and cultivate new leaders in HIV prevention and care in Chicago who are sensitive to our community; and to improve health care utilization among HIV-infected Black MSM.