

Media Contact:

ShaVonne Banks
Banks Entertainment
817-496-2265

Venus Wehle
City of Forest Hill
817-568-3003



City of Forest Hill 2nd Annual Free HIV/AIDS Testing Event & Concert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2009

What: Free community event with food, giveaways, live music and entertainers, and free HIV/AIDS testing. Local/major artists such as Big Doughski G, We Mayja, Yella Gyrl, Playa Rabbit, Trai D, Charlie Mayne and more, will be performing live and encouraging everyone to "know your status".

When: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, November 21, 2009

Where: Forest Hill Community Center, 6800 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, TX 76140.

Who: City of Forest Hill joined by the AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth and Banks Entertainment, LLC to launch another major local initiative to educate the public about the growing risk of HIV/AIDS.

Why: It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 people in the U.S. currently live with HIV/AIDS. The state of Texas has the 4th highest number of HIV-positive citizens in the nation. HIV/AIDS is not a disease of the past. In fact, the risk is increasing, and local public health officials worry the dangerous trend could continue. According to the latest data from the Tarrant County Public Health Department, those most at risk are young women. In 2008, more than 60 percent of the new cases of HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were among individuals under the age of 25. And, new HIV cases among women saw a 127 percent increase during the same time. HIV/AIDS is not the only STD on the rise. New cases of syphilis were up 26 percent, cases of gonorrhea were up 20 percent and cases of Chlamydia were up 51 percent during the year 2008.

Some parts of the county have been affected more than others. East and southeast Fort Worth as well as the eastern portions of Tarrant County appear to be disproportionately impacted. The ZIP codes most affected by HIV/AIDS and STD's are: **76010, 76011, 76103, 76104, 76105, 76014, 76112, 76119 and 76140.**

For more information, please visit www.aoc.org.

***A partnership between the City of Forest Hill, AIDS Outreach Center and
Banks Entertainment, LLC***