

Closing the Gap, for a Stronger, Healthier Community



MEDIA ADVISORY

May 6, 2008

DC Area Health Education Center (DC AHEC) Launches First Ever "DC African Health and Empowerment Day 2008"

**The unique needs of the African community must also be met if health care disparities
are to be eliminated in the District of Columbia**

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WHAT: The DC area is home to more than 130,000 African-born immigrants, refugees and asylees. The rate of cancer and cancer morbidity of African residents in DC are relatively unknown. The African refugee populations are among poorest and least educated of African immigrants. As a result, they are more likely to be affected by the barriers of language and less equipped to take advantage of the social and economic opportunities available in the area. To make matters worse, there is no coordinated focus to address cancer and other health issues for this segment of the population.

The **African Health and Empowerment Day** is just one strategy in a larger plan to address this challenge. This event will include many different types of **FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS** such as various cancers, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. **DC AHEC Community Health Navigators** will be on hand to provide information about **FREE** health care coverage options, as well as information and resources to other health care services and resources. In addition, there will be great **FREE** giveaways, tasty local and ethnic foods, various healthcare vendors, and other entertainment

WHO: The target population includes African immigrants and refugees who reside in the District of Columbia. This community health and wellness event builds on the efforts of DC African Cancer Awareness and Health Empowerment Project (**DC ACAHEP**) and its DC African Health Coalition, a sponsored project of the District of Columbia Health Education Center (**DC AHEC**) in partnership with the DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs (**OAA**).

WHERE: The Reeves Center, 2000 14th Street, Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 2008 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

DC AHEC's motto is, "***Closing the Gap for a Stronger, Healthier Community***". Through outreach and advocacy, **DC AHEC** responds to the call that encourages people of all races and cultures to achieve optimum health.

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