



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attention: Community Editors, Business, Health Care
Writers and Editors

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UNITY HEALTH CARE PARTNERS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN NORTON, VERIZON AND WASHINGTON WIZARDS IN LAUNCHING WASHINGTON TEST FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE FREE HIV SCREENINGS IN DC

Washington DC – On Saturday, February 2, 2008 Unity Health Care (Unity), Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), DC city council members and Verizon Washington, DC will host an event to launch the “Test for Life” campaign in Washington, DC to encourage residents to be screened for HIV in a joint effort to prevent the spread of the disease. At 11:00 am, free and confidential testing services will be conducted at the Temple of Praise located at 700 Southern Ave., SE Washington, DC.

Through a generous donation from Verizon Washington, DC, Mayor Adrian Fenty and the Washington Wizards, featuring Antawn Jamison, have launched television and radio public services announcements to encourage HIV testing and to inform the public about several free and confidential HIV screening events during the month of February. Us Helping Us, an HIV prevention organization serving the Washington area, and Unity Health Care will provide the testing services.

“Unity is proud to join forces with Mayor Fenty, Congresswoman Norton, Councilmembers Barry and Brown, Verizon and the Washington Wizards to launch the ‘Test for Life’ Campaign in the District” says Vince A. Keane, President/CEO. “HIV/AIDS touches every fiber of the fabric of our community in the District of Columbia and will leave a footprint on the health of our community for generations. It will take the efforts of our corporate leaders, elected officials and community members to help end HIV/AIDS in our lifetime,” added Keane

Unity Health Care (Unity) provides health care to medically underserved in the District of Columbia, including almost 12,000 homeless men and women either in the streets or at shelters throughout the city. Unity offers a full range of health services regardless of patients’ ability to pay. Operating in more than 30 sites, including 11 community-based health centers, 9 medical sites in homeless shelters, 3 specialized health centers, and in the 2 city jails. Unity’s mobile outreach vans travel throughout the city, providing care to homeless persons and “hard to reach” substance abusers. In 2007, Unity provided care to more than 80,000 people. For more information on Unity Health Care, visit www.unityhealthcare.org.

Test for Life began in 2006 as an educational campaign of the National Minority Quality Forum, designed to raise awareness of the importance of routine HIV screening in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Center for Disease Control’s revised recommendations for HIV Testing are essential to improving early diagnosis of HIV and linking patients to early care and treatment of the disease. For more information on test for life, or for the Washington, DC testing events, visit www.testforlife.org.