



## PRESS RELEASE

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## UNITY HEALTH CARE LAUNCHES ITS "ONE VOICE" HIV CAMPAIGN ON WORLD AIDS DAY

**Washington, DC** - In commemoration of World AIDS Day, and to honor those who have lost the battle with AIDS, Unity Health Care (Unity) will launch its **'ONE VOICE'** campaign to reinforce its commitment in the fight against AIDS by hosting several events around the District. Unity will kick-off this campaign with Two-Days of FREE HIV Screenings and HIV Awareness for the residents of the District of Columbia.

In response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the District of Columbia, and in an effort to take aggressive steps toward making a positive impact on the lives of those residing in Wards that are impacted hardest by HIV/AIDS, Unity will provide free HIV Screenings within eight (8) of its community-based health centers and specialized centers. In addition, Unity's Mobile Medical Units will be located in three areas of the District where testing, counseling, and treatment referrals, as well as increasing awareness of available community resources will be provided.

"The District has the highest rate of new AIDS cases than of any other major U.S. city," said Vincent A. Keane, President and CEO of Unity Health Care. Nearly 1 out of every 50 residents of the District has AIDS, and it is estimated that nearly 1 out of every 20 residents is infected with HIV. "Through our **'ONE VOICE'** campaign Unity will continue to reinforce its commitment to the residents in the fight against HIV/AIDS by encouraging our community to Get the Facts, to Get Tested, and if HIV positive Get into Treatment all with one goal to reduce the rate of HIV infections and transmission in the District," added Keane.

The District of Columbia HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Annual Report 2007 shows that in 2006, 56 Mother-to-Child Transmission occurred in the District (pop. 600,000) while at the same time city such as Chicago (pop. 2 mil) reported ZERO Mother-to-Child transmissions. "Unity Health Care will embody the 2007 World AIDS Day theme 'the power of partnerships' by working with Mayor Fenty, HIV/AIDS Administration and our community partners. Unity will work tirelessly to reduce the rate of Mother-to-Child Transmission in 2008" said Gebeyehu Teferi, MD, Medical Director, Infectious Diseases Unity Health Care.

Unity Health Care, Washington DC's largest nonprofit health and social service organization serves individuals and families in all eight wards of the District of Columbia through its network of eleven community health centers, four specialized health centers, nine sites serving homeless people and two mobile medical units. More than 70,000 people including the working poor, uninsured, homeless, and the formerly incarcerated benefited from services in 2006. Further information on World AIDS Day please visits [www.unityhealthcare.org](http://www.unityhealthcare.org) or [www.AIDS.gov](http://www.AIDS.gov).

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