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5th ANNUAL GOSPEL & AIDS CONCERT

(Concert ♦ Spoken Word ♦ HIV Testing)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23: 6 PM -9PM

In commemoration of

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Mark your calendars and set the date for the **5th Annual Gospel and AIDS Concert** on February 23, 2013 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm as we commemorate the **13th National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: “Our ancestors fought that we might be free – EVEN FROM HIV”**, a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative designed to encourage Blacks across the United States and to *get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated* around HIV/AIDS, as it continues to devastate Black communities.

More than 30 years into the epidemic, Black Americans continue to bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States. Although comprising just 14 percent of the U.S. population, Blacks account for half of the more than 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, nearly half of all new HIV infections in the United States and half of all those who have died with AIDS in this country. Within Black communities, HIV is far-reaching – affecting men and women, gay and straight, young and older alike. Young Black men – particularly gay and bisexual youth – are, by far, the most severely affected population and account for more new infections than any other group in the nation. Despite these statistics, there is hope.

Today, we have more powerful tools than ever to aid us in the fight against HIV. Our first commitment must be to use them. It’s time for us to do something different that inspires persons young, old, gay, straight, bi-sexual, transgender, religious and non-religious, etc. to get on board with realizing the values and worth of Black life and acting accordingly. Within our communities, we must create safe spaces in our homes, schools and places of worship to talk openly and honestly about HIV. Additionally, we must make a commitment to confront the underlying factors driving the disproportionate burden of HIV in Black communities, such as addressing the high proportion of Black Americans living with HIV, stigma, homophobia, economic barriers, lack of insurance, higher rates of incarceration among Black men and higher rates of other sexually transmitted infections which increase the potential for acquiring HIV

AIDS Partnership Michigan & STATUSSEXY, our social media campaign joins the national effort by hosting our annual concert and testing event **GOSPEL & AIDS** on Saturday, February 23rd at the ST. Matthews & ST. Joseph’s Episcopal Church located at 8850 Woodward Ave Detroit, MI 48202. The event begins at 6:00 pm and is free to the public. Light refreshments will be served following the concert. On this day and for the whole month of February, Blacks are encouraged to **get educated, get tested, get involved, and get treated.**

GET YOUR PRAISE ON WITH US, THEN GET OUT AND DO YOUR PART TO END THIS EPIDEMIC!!

For more information contact: **AIDS Partnership Michigan** at www.aidspartnership.org, or call **31-446-9800** or **STATUSSEXY** at www.statussexy.com or call the Michigan HIV/AIDS/STI Hotline at 800-872-AIDS (2437).