

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYORS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIV

ELIZABETH, NJ June 18, 2007-- The City of Elizabeth participated in the Third Annual *Mayors Campaign Against HIV*. In observance of the National Association of People with Aids' (NAPWA) 13th Annual National HIV Testing Day 2007-- NAPWA, and OraSure Technologies collaborated with the City of Elizabeth, Trinitas Hospital, PROCEED, INC, and many other entities nationwide to promote HIV testing and awareness on June 27, 2007.

“There are individuals that have no idea they are carrying and possibly spreading this deadly disease,” stated Chris Bollwage, City of Elizabeth. “With the help of the National Association of People with Aids and OraSure Technologies people can be easily tested. Individuals who are infected can then start making informed life choices.”

The Mayors Campaign Against HIV is a national call to action to mayors and their constituents across the country, inviting them to get tested for HIV and promote the benefits of knowing one's HIV status. The campaign is designed to generate awareness for the need of rapid HIV testing by leveraging the prominence and visibility of leaders who have publicly united in the fight against AIDS.

Each year, on June 27th, NAPWA, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CD), National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) and other national and local entities across the country work to organize an annual *National HIV Testing Day*. This day promotes NAPWA's message of “Take the Test, Take Control”.

Each year, NAPWA and CDC distribute more than 40,000 HIV Testing campaign kits. The kits are designed to aid local health departments, AIDS service organizations and other testing sites.

This year, Trinitas Hospital's Kinship Connection and HIV Early Intervention Programs will be participating in the PROCEED HIV Testing Day event. They will have a number of tables that will feature staff and literature that can provide answers for people who may have need for HIV-related services. Also, the Trinitas Counseling and Testing Center will be setting up a tent outside of their offices at the corner of Livingston and Seventh Street to give out information and incentives to have HIV Oraquick Rapid Tests done on site. This is a free, preliminary test that takes about 20 minutes. This will also take place on HIV Testing Day, June 27, from 9AM to 4PM.

Those who have need of additional information on Trinitas Hospital's program may contact Linda Davis, Director, HIV Services, (908) 994-7605.

For more information concerning City of Elizabeth programs please contact Charlene W. Mason-Reese, Health and Human Service Director at 908- 820- 4050.