



African-American AIDS Task Force NCFAN

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2000

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THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AIDS TASK FORCE (AAATF) PRESENTS TEEN SUMMIT 2000

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29 AT THE

MARTIN LUTHER KING MULTIPURPOSE CENTER, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.

THE OBJECTIVES OF TEEN SUMMIT 2000 ARE TO:

- EDUCATE TEENS ABOUT HIV/AIDS
- DISPEL MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HOW THE DISEASE IS TRANSMITTED & CONTRACTED
- ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN A FRANK DIALOGUE ABOUT MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES THAT WILL PREVENT TEENS FROM BECOMING INFECTED WITH HIV, THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES AIDS
- PRODUCE AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO THAT WILL BE UTILIZED STATEWIDE FOR PREVENTION PURPOSES.

The African American AIDS Task Force (AAATF) is a volunteer organization, whose mission is to decrease the disproportionate number of HIV infections and AIDS cases in amongst African Americans in North Central Florida through prevention education and community outreach. The AAATF advises and assists the North Central Florida AIDS Network in providing client services, free and anonymous HIV testing, risk reduction education and outreach to the African American community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately **50%** of high school students have had sexual intercourse, and **1 in 50** high school students reports having injected an illegal drug. The State of Florida Department of Health confirms that in young people, **more than two-thirds** of HIV cases are spread sexually. Here in Alachua County, **70%** of those who are HIV infected are **African American**.

Recognizing that peer education is the most effective way to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS, the African American AIDS Task Force implemented **Teen Summit** in December 1998. The first **Teen Summit** brought over 70 teenagers from Alachua and the surrounding counties together to talk about HIV/AIDS. In partnership with the Willie Jackson Youth Foundation, Corner Drug Store, National Panhellenic Council, City of Gainesville Department of Recreation & Parks, Magic 101.3FM, American Red Cross, and the State of Florida Department of Health, we anticipate that this year's event will be even more successful than the first!

High school students have been recruited to assist in all aspects of planning, implementation, and publicizing of **Teen Summit 2000**, which will include educational breakout sessions, entertainment, food, and prizes. In preparation for the Summit, these young leaders are participating in HIV/AIDS education courses, fieldtrips, and promotional activities logging volunteer hours that will translate into an experience that will have a long-term impact on their lives.