



For Immediate Release

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**Local Student Receives Grant From Cable Industry's AIDS Action Organization
Funding to produce HIV/AIDS awareness campaign using today's media**

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Metro TeenAIDS is pleased to announce that the organization's **Young Women of Color (YWOC) Leadership Council** has received funding from the Cable Positive "Youth AIDS Media Institute" to help local teens learn about HIV/AIDS and stay healthy. Cable Positive's grant will support 10 health fairs at Washington, D.C. high schools during the 2008-09 school year to give students information about HIV prevention, referrals to counseling and testing services, and connections with other needed services like housing or substance abuse treatment. Schools where the fairs will be held include **McKinley Tech, Anacostia, Eastern, Friendship, and Edison.**

YWOC is a peer group that offers young women of color the information, tools and skills to make wise choices about their sexual health and reproductive rights – especially around HIV/AIDS. YWOC's 8 members are all from low-income neighborhoods in Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8, and are between 16-21 years of age. Vernice Puryear, a YWOC member and junior at McKinley Technology High School, applied for the grant and will lead the group's work on the health fairs.

Says Ms. Puryear: "DC has the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the entire country; we hope our health fairs will give other youth information they can use to stay healthy and encourage them to find out if they have HIV, so we can help them access health care right away."

The project was entirely designed, initiated and will be carried out by the youth. "Metro TeenAIDS peer educators and Young Women of Color Leadership Council are becoming the next generation of leaders and community organizers in Washington, D.C. Their ideas, input and feedback are crucial to Metro TeenAIDS accomplishing its mission to provide youth with information and resources that they need to make healthy choices." says Adam Tenner, Executive Director of the organization.

ABOUT METRO TEENAIDS

Founded in 1988, Metro Teen AIDS (MTA) is the only local organization *dedicated* to supporting young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS and focused *solely* on their needs related to HIV/AIDS. The District has the highest HIV/AIDS rate of any American city: one of every 20 residents, and one of every 50-100 youth, is infected. As many as 6,000 young people have a parent or guardian who is living with HIV/AIDS or has already died from the disease. Through education, support, and advocacy, MTA works to prevent the spread of HIV; promote responsible decision-making; and improve the quality of life for young people infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS.

ABOUT CABLE POSITIVE

Founded in 1992, Cable Positive is a non-profit organization dedicated to unifying the talents, resources, access and influence of the communications industry to raise AIDS awareness; to fund AIDS education and care; and to promote a more compassionate climate for people whose lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS.

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