

Faiths join to fight AIDS

By Jeri Young
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The HIV/AIDS crisis among African Americans is getting worse.

"I have been watching the trends," said Mike Case, an educator for the Metrolina Aids Project. "Ten years ago it was a predominantly gay disease. In 1994 it was the leading killer of African American males between the ages of 15-44."

Locally, the statistics are not much better. Of the 496 new AIDS cases reported to the Mecklenburg County Health Department through June 30, 72 percent were African Americans adults. Of the 1,087 women currently diagnosed with AIDS in North Carolina, 897 are African American.

To help stem the epidemic and disseminate information about aids and aids prevention, several local congregations have banded together to present "The Revival of the African-American Faith Community for the Healing of AIDS" conference, Oct. 13-19.

The programs, which will be held in African American churches, will provide area residents, as well as church

members, an opportunity to hear about AIDS from experts.

"We hope that people will leave this week knowing the causes and response to AIDS"



Rev. Curry

said local organizer Pastor Gwen Curry of Present Day Ministries of Jesus Christ.

Curry and the Rev. E.L. White of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church of Thomasville are co-sponsors of the event, which is funded by the state's HIV/STD Control Section.

Curry, whose church holds weekly AIDS testing sessions, hopes the sessions will provide a forum for open dialogue on AIDS among church-

es. "This is the first time this has been done through the African American churches," she said. "We hope that people will want to know what they can do to help."

AIDS educator Mike Rogers, who works in the African American community, sees the often pressing social and economic conditions that plague African American communities as reasons why it has been so devastated by AIDS.

"(Blacks) want access to services," he said. "But it is often difficult to get there. When services are provided in the community they are more apt to use it."

"It is very important to raise awareness," Rogers said. "It is kind of a taboo subject. It is not talked about openly. This is an opportunity to bring AIDS out in the open in a way that is not taboo."

"We want people to be compassionate to people infected with AIDS," said Curry. "We want them to share the prevention message with their constituency."

For a listing of program times and locations, please see page 13B.

It's the best news you'll get all week

Subscribe to The Charlotte Post and get 52 weeks of award winning articles about us.

Call 376-0496 to start your subscription today

ELECT
Ada M. Fisher, M.D.
Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education
At-Large Seat
"Education Is A Measure Of Our Investment In Our Children"

C.W. Williams Health Center
3333 Wilkinson Blvd. • (704) 393-7720

"We Provide Primary & Preventive Medical Care for the ENTIRE FAMILY"

On Site Pharmacy, X-Ray & Laboratory Services

Call For Appointment or Information
Hours: Mon. & Fri, 8:30am - 5:30pm, Wed. 10am - 5:30pm,
OPEN TWO EVENINGS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
Tue. & Thur. 8:30am - 8:30pm
Medicare • Medicaid • Sliding Fee • Costwise/PCP • Private Ins.

"WHERE CARE AND COMPASSION COMES TOGETHER"

1-800-4-CANCER

Knowledge

It's Part of the Cure

Thanks to research, we now know much more about breast cancer and how to treat it. Today, most African American women with breast cancer who are diagnosed and treated early continue to lead active and vibrant lives. For current information on breast cancer, call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER.

BIG LEAGUE SPORTS ARE HERE

WHICH WILL COME FIRST? SUPERBOWL? N.B.A. CHAMPIONSHIP?

CHARLOTTE HASN'T HAD EITHER ONE **YET**

BUT WE'VE ALREADY HAD A WORLD CHAMPION BOXER, KELVIN SEABROOKS, and HIS CHIROPRACTOR DR. WATTS

KELVIN SEABROOKS
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

DR. DENNIS WATTS, D.C.

OF A & W CLINIC, HELPS KEEP KELVIN'S BACK IN SHAPE IF YOUR BACK OR NECK IS INJURED CALL 393-3333

WITH 3 OFFICES ON: BEATTIES FORD, WILKINSON & THE PLAZA OUR STAFF WILL TREAT YOU LIKE A WORLD CHAMPION

OPTIMUM CARE

for the Look You'll Love

Soft, shiny and beautifully straight. It's OPTIMUM CARE for your special look at a price you'll love.

<p>1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON</p> <p>Optimum Care No-Lye Relaxer Regular or Super \$5.99 LESS 1.00 COUPON+YOU PAY CASHIER *4.99 WITH COUPON</p> <p><small>INSIDE OPT: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE - EXPIRES 11/2/96 Soft Sheen Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value 1/20¢. Soft Sheen Products #158 - Must Postmark by 12/6/96</small></p>	<p>1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON</p> <p>Optimum Care Body & Shine 10.5 oz. size or Leave-In Conditioner 8 oz. size \$2.79 LESS 1.00 COUPON+YOU PAY CASHIER *1.79 WITH COUPON</p> <p><small>INSIDE OPT: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE - EXPIRES 11/2/96 Soft Sheen Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value 1/20¢. Soft Sheen Products #164 - Must Postmark by 12/6/96</small></p>
<p>1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON</p> <p>Optimum Care Collagen Shampoo or Rich Conditioner 16 oz. sizes \$2.79 LESS 1.00 COUPON+YOU PAY CASHIER *1.79 WITH COUPON</p> <p><small>INSIDE OPT: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE - EXPIRES 11/2/96 Soft Sheen Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value 1/20¢. Soft Sheen Products #160 - Must Postmark by 12/6/96</small></p>	<p>1.00 MANUFACTURER'S COUPON</p> <p>Optimum Care Light Control, Nourishment or Moisture Rich 3.5 oz. sizes \$2.79 LESS 1.00 COUPON+YOU PAY CASHIER *1.79 WITH COUPON</p> <p><small>INSIDE OPT: LIMIT ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE - EXPIRES 11/2/96 Soft Sheen Products will pay you face value plus 8¢ handling, per our redemption policy, available upon request. Mail to: PO Box 8004, Walled Lake, MI 48391-8004. Consumer must pay any sales tax. Cash value 1/20¢. Soft Sheen Products #162 - Must Postmark by 12/6/96</small></p>

Today's mart
Everything we do is built around you.

Charlotte
2701 Freedom Dr,
2401 North Sardis Rd,
6025 South Blvd.,
8147 University City Blvd.

Statesville
1530 East Broad St.