



Contact: Elisabeth Flynn
Communications Manager
eflynn@mazzonicenter.org
215.563.0562 x 275

**MAZZONI CENTER WILL OFFER FREE RAPID HIV TESTING OUTSIDE PHILLY AIDS THRIFT
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 27, NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY**

PHILADELPHIA, PA — June 18, 2010. In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, which is Sunday, June 27, 2010, Mazzoni Center will station its Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) outside the Philly AIDS Thrift Store at 514 Bainbridge Street from 1 to 6 p.m. to encourage people to take a free HIV test and learn about their status, risks, and tools for prevention of the HIV virus and of other STDs. This is the third year Mazzoni has teamed up with Philly AIDS Thrift for National HIV Testing Day, which is an annual campaign coordinated by the National Association of People with AIDS to encourage people of all ages to "Take the Test, Take Control." A team of HIV Counselors from Mazzoni Center's Prevention Services department will be on hand to share information, offer pre and post-test counseling, risk assessment, and administer the free, rapid HIV test, which allows people to learn their HIV status in a matter of minutes.

The Mobile Testing Unit is one way Mazzoni Center makes HIV testing and STD screening more accessible to communities throughout the city. In addition, HIV testing and counseling is offered Mondays through Saturdays on a year-round basis through the Washington West Project (1201 Locust Street), which is a partnership of Mazzoni Center, GALAEI, ActionAIDS, and SafeGuards. Both onsite and

at the Mobile Testing Unit, testing services are provided in a supportive, non-judgmental environment to assist people in identifying their risks for HIV other sexually transmitted diseases. Working with a counselor, any person can create a realistic plan to help reduce his or her risk for HIV and other STDs, as well as to promote overall health and well-being.

“Our role is to support and assist people in finding feasible ways to reduce their risk for contracting or transmitting HIV,” Mazzoni Center CTR/STD Services Manager Rashita Hurst said, adding: “We’re pleased to provide this service on National HIV Testing Day at the Philly AIDS Thrift location, which allows us to reach people of all ages and diverse communities.”

Mazzoni Center is the oldest HIV/AIDS service organization in Pennsylvania and operates the largest community-based HIV testing program in the region. In 2009, the organization tested 5,308 individuals for HIV.

For more information on National HIV Testing Day and events in the area, visit: www.hivtest.org

Established in 1979, **Mazzoni Center** provides quality comprehensive health and wellness service and is the only health care provider in the Philadelphia region specifically targeting the unique health care needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Mazzoni offers a full array of outreach, prevention, education, direct medical and care services, psychosocial services, legal services, and support groups, and is dedicated preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals it serves. It is the oldest AIDS service organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the fourth-oldest in the U.S. With over 30,000 individuals benefiting annually from its services, Mazzoni Center is a leader among community-based organizations in the greater Philadelphia area, with a reputation for excellence and innovation in service delivery to its constituents. More information at: www.mazzonicenter.org