



Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary of Health

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2007

**Contact:**

Charles Griggs - 904-632-5347  
Jackie Boyd – 665-3124

**2007 Boys 2 Men Events Coming Together for Father's Day Weekend**  
*"Breaking the Silence...Bridge the Gaps"*

**Jacksonville, FL** – The 2007 **Boys 2 Men Health Symposium/Hip Hop Summit and Community Basketball Game** promises to be a huge success with over 20 local organizations committing their attendance and participation and nearly 300 registered boys and men. The event will be held during Father's Day weekend commencing Friday, June 15 with a Health Symposium/Hip Hop Summit and Men's Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The symposium will feature noted author and national speaker Denise Stokes, along with local facilitators, at the Jacksonville Downtown Public Library. On Saturday, June 16 the Boys 2 Men Health Symposium will continue at Edward Waters Gymnasium from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring noted speaker and author Dr. Na'im Akbar. The symposium will be followed by the Community Basketball Game also in the EWC gymnasium at 2:00 p.m.

The Boys 2 Men 2007 two-day event will seek to galvanize boys and men for learning, empowerment and fun. During the health symposium and hip hop summit information will be provided that addresses barriers that impede teen males as they transition into manhood. This information is vital to a young man's potential of becoming a productive, thriving adult. Boys 2 Men is also designed to increase the awareness of cultural, social and environmental issues that affect the health status of urban males. This year's theme is: **"The World Through My Eyes: Breaking the Silence...Bridging the Gaps."**

"It is imperative that every leader in our community embrace and support this event with time and resources. Any one of the boys who might attend could very well be our nephew, grandson or son, and we must do our part to assure their livelihood, health and safety," said Jacksonville City Councilwoman and the Honorary Chair for this year's Boys 2 Men, the Honorable Glorious Johnson. "Improving the state of Jacksonville's men starts with educating and improving the potential outcomes of the boys in our community, this is what Boys 2 Men is all about."

Supporters and participants of this year's event include the following: Florida State Senator Anthony "Tony" Hill, 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc., Northeast Florida Builders Association Apprenticeship Program, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Children's Commission, Duval County Health Department, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, First Baptist Church of Oakland, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, Community Rehabilitation Center, Shands Jacksonville, Youth in Action, Healthy Jacksonville 2010, The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Healthy Jacksonville Healthy Men, The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Urban League, Rap-It-Up BET, Healthy Start Coalition, Baptist Health, J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver, and other leading community organizations.

Workshop speakers include: Jarik Conrad, Executive Director, Jacksonville Blueprint for Prosperity; Denise Stokes, Motivational Speaker from Atlanta Georgia; Ivan Juzang, founder of MEE Productions, Inc.; Dr. Na'im Akbar, Author and noted speaker; Betty Burney, Author and Duval County School Board member; Al Emerick, Pastor Charlie McClendon, Reginald Estell, Jr., Esquire, Nat Glover and others.

For more information, call Healthy Jacksonville: Healthy Men at 665-2520

###

---

**Duval County Health Department**

Communications Office • MC-40 • 900 University Boulevard, North • Jacksonville, Florida • 32211 • (904) 632-5347

*In partnership with the City of Jacksonville*