And—Action!

New DVD empowers young people to do something about HIV

September 1, 2009 By LaToya Johnson

To counter sexual health misinformation circulating throughout high school halls, Chicago-based Beyondmedia released *HIV: Hey It's Viral!* The packet—which includes a short movie, a workbook and an activist guide—is designed to empower young people and encourage them to get involved with HIV/AIDS issues.

Since its February release, public schools in Chicago have adopted the workbook into their sex ed curriculum. The innovative film mixes schoolbook-type lessons with HIV-positive youth sharing their real-life stories.

Most important, it emphasizes the seriousness of the epidemic without using myths or scare tactics. "We want young people to get true information to make positive choices and influence their peers to do the same," says Simon Fisher, Beyondmedia's distribution coordinator. Start spreading the news!

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