

Our Health

Good News For African Americans With Diabetes

(NAPSA)—Gospel greats are in harmony about taking a stand in the fight against the growing problem of diabetes in the African-American community.

The Grammy-winning gospel group the Blind Boys of Alabama donated \$5,000 to the American Diabetes Association in support of the research, information and outreach efforts the Association is leading in the African-American community.

That's encouraging news because it's important to make these communities aware of the diabetes danger. Consider these statistics:

- African Americans are roughly two times more likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic whites.

- Twenty-five percent of African Americans between the ages of 65 and 74 have diabetes.

- African Americans experience higher rates of at least four serious complications of diabetes: heart disease, blindness, amputations and kidney failure.

The Blind Boys of Alabama will also donate a percentage of the proceeds from their current Christmas release on Real World Records, "Go Tell It On The Mountain," to the American Diabetes Association. This album features an eclectic array of guests including Aaron Neville, Tom Waits, Solomon Burke, Chrissie Hynde, Mavis Staples and Shelby Lynne among others.

All three founding members of the group—Clarence Fountain,



STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE in the fight against diabetes is the Grammy-winning gospel group, The Blind Boys of Alabama. Visit www.blindboys.com.

Jimmy Carter and George Scott—have diabetes and have a strong personal interest in furthering dissemination of diabetes research information and advocacy efforts.

Approximately 18.2 million Americans have diabetes and an estimated one-third of these don't know they have it. The most life threatening consequences of diabetes are heart disease and stroke.

The American Diabetes Association's Web site, diabetes.org, is widely regarded as one of the most informative diabetes and nutrition resources on the Web. Members of the African-American community are encouraged to call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-342-2383 for more information if they or someone they love has or is at risk for developing diabetes. To learn more, visit www.diabetes.org.