

Nov. 9, 2007

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MEDIA NOTE: A listing of all HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota County sponsored HIV testing opportunities is provided at the end of this release.

World AIDS Day 2007 – Free HIV Testing, Health Screenings and Other Community Events

Sarasota County Health Department along with community partners in the HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota (HANS) will offer free HIV testing and educational information to the public at various locations throughout the county from Nov. 21 through Dec. 8 as part of the 19th annual World AIDS Day observance, in addition to the special events on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The 2007 World AIDS Day theme “Community Sponsored...Community Involved...Community Focused” and the United Nations global theme for World AIDS Day, 2007, “Stop AIDS – Keep the Promise: Leadership” are being incorporated into a unified event taking place at two locations, the campus of the Ringling College of Art and Design, 2700 N. Tamiami Trail, and Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park, 2523 Coconut Ave., in Sarasota on Saturday, Dec. 1. Activities planned for this day include a Health and Wellness Expo from noon to 5 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of the Student Center at Ringling College. Free health information and health screenings will be offered at both locations. Other free activities are planned through 9 p.m. at Ringling College and through 5 p.m. at MLK Park. Both are open to the public.

The Sarasota County Health Department urges everyone who may be at risk for HIV to get a free test during these special events. The highest rates of HIV/AIDS in Sarasota County are among those under the age of 50, and women of color. Many people have never seen the effects of AIDS and may not view themselves at risk. The two greatest risk factors are having unprotected sex and sharing needles or syringes. If you have never been tested, or have had unprotected sex or shared a needle since your last test, now is the time to get an HIV test. Knowing your HIV status can help you get into medical treatment earlier, take steps to stay healthy, and keep from spreading the virus to others. The best way to protect yourself is to remember the ABC’s of prevention. These include **A**bstinence, **B**e in a mutually monogamous relationship and **C** use condoms.

HIV test results are always kept confidential and are not shared with anyone, including family members, significant others, employers or landlords. Those who test positive will immediately be linked to health care and treatment.

For more information, call John Acevedo at 941-366-0461, or log on to the HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota County (HANS) website, www.hiv Sarasota.org.

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**Sarasota County World AIDS Day Activities
Nov. 21 – Dec. 8, 2007**

Free HIV Testing, literature and condoms

Wednesday, Nov. 21; 5 to 7 p.m.

Real Images

4555 North Lime Ave., Sarasota 34237

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Street Outreach: Free HIV Testing, literature and condoms

Wednesday, Nov. 21; 9 to 11 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Corridor

Corner of Washington Court and N. Osprey Ave., Sarasota 34234

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Tuesday, Nov. 27; 5 to 7 p.m.

Gillespie Park

710 N. Osprey Ave. (Go to Tenth Street)

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Wednesday, Nov. 28; 9 to 11 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Corridor

Corner of Washington Court and N. Osprey Ave., Sarasota 34234

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing/screening

Wednesday, Nov. 28; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community AIDS Network

1231 N. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota 34234

Provider/Sponsoring Organization: Community AIDS Network

Contact: John Perez Jr., 941-366-0461

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Wednesday, Nov. 28; 5 to 7 p.m.

Real Images

4555 North Lime Ave., Sarasota 34237

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV Testing

Thursday, Nov. 29; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sarasota County Health Department

2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota 34237

Provider: Sarasota County Health Department

Contact: Gary Ervin 941-861-2919

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Sarasota County World AIDS Day Activities – PAGE THREE

Free HIV testing/screening

Thursday, Nov. 29; 10 a.m. to Noon

Club Escapes

3218 Clark Road, Sarasota 34231

Provider/Sponsoring Organization: Community AIDS Network

Contact: John Perez Jr. 941-366-0461

Free HIV testing/screening – Preliminary results available in 20 minutes

Thursday, Nov. 29; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Salvation Army – Inside Sarasota County Health Department's Health In Motion Mobile Medical Unit

1400 Tenth St., Sarasota 34236

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Community AIDS Network, and Sarasota County Health Department

Contact: John Perez 941-366-0461

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Thursday, Nov. 29; 5 to 7 p.m.

Jetson's Creative Trend

2741 N. Osprey Ave.

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Thursday, Nov. 29; 5 to 7 p.m.

Kuttin Up Barbershop

1036 Colleton Ave.

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing – No appointments needed

Friday, Nov. 30; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sarasota County Health Department, South County Family Health Center

7820 S. Tamiami Trail, Building B-2, Venice 34293

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Sarasota County Health Department/South County Family Health Center

Contact: Beth Smith 941-861-3381

Free HIV testing

Friday, Nov. 30; 2 to 6 p.m.

ALSO Out Youth

1470 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota 34236

Provider: ALSO Out Youth

Contact: Nathan Rifenburg 941-951-2576

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Friday, Nov. 30; 5 to 7 p.m.

Real Images

4555 North Lime Ave., Sarasota 34237

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

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Sarasota County World AIDS Day Activities – PAGE FOUR

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Tuesday, Dec. 4; 5 to 7 p.m.

Gillespie Park

710 N. Osprey Ave. (Go to Tenth St.) 34236

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing, literature, condoms

Wednesday, Dec. 5; 5 to 7 p.m.

Real Images

4555 North Lime Ave., Sarasota 34237

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Care and the Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: Eureka Webb 941-321-3894

Free HIV testing/screening and counseling at “I Care” Event

Thursday, Dec. 6; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Second Chance-Last Opportunity

1933 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota 34234

Provider/Sponsoring Organization:

Contact: April Glasco 941-360-8660; aprilglasco@yahoo.com

Free HIV testing/screening

Dec. 8, 2007; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Harvest Tabernacle @ Harvest Health Fair

209 N. Lime Ave., Sarasota 34237

Provider/Sponsoring Organizations: Genesis Health Services and Multicultural Health Institute

Contact: James McCloud 941-231-3081

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