



Nov. 17, 2009

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## **Organizations in Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties unite for World AIDS Day**

Theme: "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise: Universal Access and Human Rights"

**MEDIA NOTE: In addition to these events, a list of free HIV testing opportunities is provided at the end of this release.**

Organizations from Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties are uniting in continuing the World AIDS Day tradition which has spanned two decades. Several events are planned. The Suncoast AIDS Theatre Project is also presenting a World AIDS Day concert entitled "Uplifting Night of Remembrance on Sunday, Nov. 29 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2256 Bahia Vista St. in Sarasota. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 7 p.m. A Sarasota/Manatee World AIDS Day Health/Wellness Expo will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Pride Park in Bradenton at 815 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave. West in Bradenton. This free event includes free chair massages, health screenings, HIV testing, information about community services, AIDS quilts display, speakers, live entertainment and a DJ, children's activities, door prize drawings and refreshments.

The Charlotte County Health Department is hosting a Pastoral HIV/AIDS Care Luncheon on Friday, Nov. 20 with speakers. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte. Call 941-743-6877 to reserve a seat. The Suncoast AIDS Theatre Project will present "Men from the Mineshaft" on Sunday, Nov. 23 beginning at the Charlotte County Health Department, 514 East Grace St. in Punta Gorda. Free HIV testing will be available from 6 to 10 p.m.

These activities incorporate the theme **"Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise: Universal Access and Human Rights."** Event planners hope that people who participate are inspired to respect and protect their health and wellbeing as well as those around them through knowledge, action and consideration.

"HIV prevention requires the entire community to participate in a discussion, and then take action in their own lives to stay safe and spread the message about HIV. The HIV/AIDS Network of Southwest Florida (HANS) is working hard to connect different groups, agencies, individuals, and areas on the west coast, and events like World AIDS Day illustrate how successful our communities can be if we focus on a goal. The goals of HIV prevention, excellent HIV/AIDS treatment, and a safe and effective cure are attainable, but as a community and country we all have to step up and play our part. Attending or participating in WAD is a great place to start!" states HANS chair Stephen Warne.

For more information, visit [www.manasotaworldaidsday.org](http://www.manasotaworldaidsday.org) or call 941-366-0461, extension 1042. A list of other World AIDS Day-related HIV testing opportunities is provided below.

**"more"**

**Other Free HIV Testing Opportunities from Nov. 30 – Dec. 5:**

**Free HIV Testing and Counseling**

Monday, Nov. 30; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida  
736 Central Ave., Sarasota 34236  
Contact: Nan Gould; 941-567-3195  
Sponsoring Organization: Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida

**Free HIV Testing, Counseling, and Incentives**

Monday, Nov. 30 – Friday, Dec. 4; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Community AIDS Network  
1231 N. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota 34287  
Contact: John Perez; 941-366-0461  
Sponsoring Organization: Community AIDS Network

**Free HIV Testing, Counseling, and Incentives**

Tuesday, Dec. 1; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sarasota County Health Department  
2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota 34237  
Contact: Gary Ervin; 941-861-2731  
Sponsoring Organization: Sarasota County Health Department

**Free HIV Testing, and Counseling**

Tuesday, Dec. 1; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
First Step of Sarasota  
1750 17<sup>th</sup> St., Bldg. J-2, Sarasota 34234  
Contact: Bill Carter; 941-552-2075  
Sponsoring Organization: First Step of Sarasota

**Free HIV Testing/Screening**

Tuesday, Dec. 1; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Sarasota County South County Family Health Center  
7820 S. Tamiami Trail, Bldg. A, Venice 34293  
Contact: Michael Snyder; 941-861-2919  
Sponsoring Organization: Sarasota County Health Department

**Open House, Lectures, Free Lunch, and HIV Testing**

Tuesday, Dec. 1; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Community AIDS Network  
1231 N. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota 34287  
Contact: John Perez; 941-366-0461  
Sponsoring Organization: Community AIDS Network

“more”

## **Other HIV Testing Opportunities (Continued)**

### **Free HIV Testing, Counseling, Incentives**

Tuesday – Thursday, Dec. 1, 2 and 3; 3 to 5 p.m.  
Second Chance  
1933 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota 34234  
Contact: April Glasco; 941-360-8660  
Sponsoring Organization: Second Chance

### **Free HIV Testing/Screening**

Wednesday, Dec. 2; 1 to 5 p.m.  
ALSO Youth  
1470 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota 34236  
Contact: Stephen Warne; 941-951-2576  
Sponsoring Organization: ALSO Youth

### **Free HIV Testing/Screening**

Thursday, Dec. 3; 1 to 5 p.m.  
New College Health Center  
5800 Bayshore Road, Sarasota 34243  
Contact: Stephen Warne; 941-951-2576  
Sponsoring Organization: ALSO Youth

### **Free HIV Testing, Counseling, and Incentives**

Thursday, Dec. 3; 3 to 6 p.m.  
Selby Goodwill  
1871 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota 34234  
Contact: Bill Carter; 941-957-1970  
Sponsoring Organization: Genesis Health Services

### **Free HIV Testing, Counseling, and Incentives**

Saturday, Dec. 5; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Genesis Health Services  
333 N. Washington Blvd., Suite 3, Sarasota 34234  
Contact: Bill Carter, and Julia Espada; 941-957-1970  
Sponsoring Organization: Multicultural Health Institute and Genesis Health Services

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