



2007 World AIDS Day Planning Committee

--Partners for World AIDS Day--

Nov. 9, 2007

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MEDIA NOTE: A PDF file that lists the day's activities is also attached.

Save the Date: World AIDS Day Community Event – Dec. 1

Saturday, Dec. 1 marks the 19th annual observance of World AIDS Day. The Sarasota community observance of World AIDS Day reflects the forging and strengthening of the community partnership between the Ringling College of Art and Design and five neighborhood associations representing the "Mayor's Revitalization of the Newtown Community." All these entities are coming together for a unified World AIDS Day event at two locations on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The day's events incorporate the themes "Community Sponsored...Community Involved...Community Focused," and the United Nations global theme for World AIDS Day 2007, "Stop AIDS – Keep the Promise: Leadership." Instead of asking "Where did this disease come from?" Ask yourself, "What can I do to tackle the HIV pandemic?" said John Acevedo, of Community AIDS Network who also serves as the HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota (HANS) chair, and co-chair of the HANS World AIDS Day Planning Committee.

The opening ribbon-cutting ceremony presented by Sarasota Military Academy will begin at 11 a.m. on the Ringling College campus. A complimentary continental breakfast provided by Starbucks will follow. People can receive free health screenings, HIV testing and information about community services at the World AIDS Day 2007 Health and Wellness Expo from noon to 5 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall of the Student Center at Ringling College of Art and Design. A representative from the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland will present the Letters to the World, written by international children to their governments which will be on display for viewing along with the National Institute of Health – Children's Art Exhibit, the National AIDS Quilt from Atlanta, Georgia, and the Southwest Florida Community AIDS Quilts also in the Exhibit Hall of the Student Center at Ringling College.

Local choral groups, Gulf Coast Men's Chorus, and Harmony: Women's Voices of Sarasota will perform from 5 to 6 p.m. A Candlelight Vigil, to include the formation of a human AIDS ribbon, as a tribute to people who have lost their lives to AIDS will begin at 6 p.m. An Interfaith Community Service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, following the Candlelight Vigil at Ringling College. The events at the Ringling College will conclude with the outdoor viewing of the Sarasota Film Festival feature "Rent" at 9 p.m.

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There will be a Picnic in the Park at Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park, 2523 Cocoanut Ave that will include opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting at noon, a Health and Wellness Expo with health screenings, HIV testing, and educational speakers, a DJ and live entertainment, a children's fair, a blood drive and refreshments.

All World AIDS Day activities at both locations are free and open to the public, with the exception of the food venues at Ringling College of Art and Design. This event is sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota (HANS) in conjunction with the World AIDS Day 2007 Planning Committee, a collaboration that includes Ringling College of Art and Design, five neighborhood associations, and various community organizations. For more information, call John Acevedo at 941-366-0461, or log on to the HIV/AIDS Network of Sarasota County (HANS) website, www.hivsarasota.org.

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