

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2013-162

Declaring December 1 to 7, 2013, as World AIDS Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. December 1 is internationally recognized as World AIDS Day, which brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic.
- b. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness of the status of the pandemic and to encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in the U.S. and around the world.
- c. The theme for this year's World AIDS is "Getting to Zero: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths."
- d. The World AIDS Day goals signify a push towards greater access to treatment for all and a call for governments of all levels to act now.
- e. The goals of World AIDS Day are relevant for Multnomah County, as 55% of the approximately 7,000 Oregonians living with HIV reside in Multnomah County—20% of whom are not aware that they have the disease.
- f. Multnomah County has partnered with community organizations such as Cascade AIDS Project, A6, Partnership Project, OYE and Planned Parenthood for over 25 years to reach the goal of zero new infections in our community through increased outreach to high risk populations and funding for crucial wraparound support services including:
 - Innovative education and outreach programs designed to increase awareness of HIV prevention and available services.
 - Increased access to culturally focused HIV and STI testing opportunities together with a system which quickly links those who find they are living with HIV with care and other needed services.
 - A network of high quality care and treatment providers.
 - Short-term rent assistance, housing case management, and tenant education and wraparound support services for HIV-positive individuals.
 - Culturally specific case management for African-Americans and Latinos.
 - Funding for Cascade AIDS Project's "Kids Connection" program which provides support services for HIV-infected and -affected children and their families.

- g. These support services are critical to stopping the epidemic as a study by the National Institute of Health has shown that HIV-positive individuals who adhere to their treatment plans are 96% less likely to transmit the disease.¹ However, to realize this reduction in transmission rates, people must know their HIV status and have access to medical care and stable housing before they can effectively treat the disease.
- h. The partnership between Multnomah County and our community partners will continue to reduce HIV transmission rates in our community by preventing new infections and helping to meet the basic needs of HIV-positive individuals so they can focus on their treatment and stay adherent to the medications.
- i. Based upon the foregoing, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners call on all Oregonians to take the first step in stopping the epidemic by getting an HIV test and knowing their status.
- j. Multnomah County further calls on private health care providers and hospital systems to implement routine HIV testing for all Oregonians at least yearly, and more often if warranted.
- k. Multnomah County encourages all people to eliminate the stigma associated with the disease by openly and honestly discussing their HIV status whether negative or positive.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

December 1st through the 7th as World AIDS Week in Multnomah County to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate community and international solidarity in the face of the epidemic.

ADOPTED this 5th day of December, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Marissa Madrigal, Acting Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Judy Shiprack, District 3.

¹ <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2011/pages/hptn052.aspx>