

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2012-208

Proclaiming Thursday, December 1, 2012 as World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Although AIDS remains one of the world's most serious health challenges, global solidarity in the AIDS response during the past decade continues to generate extraordinary health gains. Historic success in bringing HIV programs to scale – combined with the emergence of powerful new tools to prevent people from becoming infected and from dying from AIDS-related causes – has enabled the foundation to be laid for the eventual end of AIDS.
- b. Although much of the news on AIDS is encouraging, challenges remain. The number of people newly infected globally is continuing to decline, but national epidemics continue to expand in many parts of the world. Further, declines in the numbers of children dying from AIDS-related causes and acquiring HIV infection, although substantial, need to be accelerated to achieve global AIDS targets.
- c. According to UNAIDS estimates, approximately 34.0 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2011 globally. An estimated 0.8% of adults aged 15-49 years worldwide are living with HIV, although the burden of the epidemic continues to vary considerably between countries and regions. Some 2.5 million people contracted HIV in 2011; rates of new infections have fallen by 20 percent since countries met at the inaugural UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001.
- d. In 2011, 1.7 million people lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses. This represents a reduction of about 25 percent from just six years ago. Tuberculosis (TB) remains the leading killer of people living with HIV, who comprise about 15 percent of TB cases globally.
- e. Over 4,600 Oregonians are currently living with HIV/AIDS. Of these, 76% reside in the Portland Metro area.
- f. Approximately 300 people are newly diagnosed with HIV in Oregon each year; 40% of these individuals progress to AIDS within the first year because they delayed getting tested for the disease.
- g. During 2006–2010 in Oregon, rates of new diagnoses have risen among people aged 20–24 years but declined among people 25–49 years. Relative increases among younger people might reflect increased infections among younger people or earlier diagnosis. Blacks/African Americans continue to be more likely than whites to become infected. During 2006–2010, diagnosis rates were 3.7 times higher among blacks/African Americans and twice as high among Hispanics compared to whites.

- h. Health disparities persist in Multnomah County. Due to social inequities, populations disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS include African-American and African Immigrant communities and men who have sex with men.
- i. A new report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), shows 2011 was a game changing year for the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS with unprecedented progress in science, political leadership and results. The report also shows that new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have fallen to the lowest levels since the peak of the epidemic. New HIV infections were reduced by 21% since 1997, and deaths from AIDS-related illnesses decreased by 21% since 2005.
- j. HIV remains a significant public health problem and highlights the need for a strong, sustained and coordinated international, national and local strategy.
- k. The theme for the local World AIDS Day campaign is **“Getting to Zero – One Person at a Time”**. With 33 million people infected world-wide by HIV and 1.1 million in the U.S., the goal of the campaign is to mobilize schools, faith-based organizations, businesses and community-based organizations to become involved in raising awareness, bolstering HIV prevention efforts and ensuring hope for those already infected.
- l. December 1, 2012 marks the 24th annual World AIDS Day.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

December 1, 2012 is World AIDS Day in Multnomah County, Oregon. We encourage all residents to educate themselves about the risks of HIV and demonstrate compassion to those infected by HIV and AIDS.

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2012.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Vice-Chair Loretta Smith

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Judy Shiprack, District 3.