

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2011-022**

Proclaiming March 10, 2011, as National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. There are over 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, with women and girls representing slightly more than half of that number.
- b. Although men represent the majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, the impact on women has grown since the beginning of the epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that there are approximately 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, including nearly 280,000 women.
- c. Women of color, particularly Black/African-American women, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2006, the rate of new HIV infection for Black/African-American women was nearly 15 times that of white women; the rate for Hispanic/Latina women was nearly four times that of white women.
- d. Blacks/African-Americans have the highest rates of HIV infection in the nation. Although Blacks/African-Americans make up around 14% of the U.S. population, they account for almost half of those living with HIV/AIDS.
- e. In Oregon, there are over 4,800 people living with HIV/AIDS, of whom almost 13% are women and girls. A majority of Oregonians living with HIV/AIDS were residents of Multnomah County at the time of their initial diagnosis. In Multnomah County, women make up 11% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses.
- f. Women are most likely to be infected through heterosexual sex. The second most likely mode of HIV transmission for women is injection drug use.
- g. Over the years, there have been dramatic breakthroughs in HIV prevention and treatment. However, in the United States, 21% of those infected with HIV do not know they are HIV positive. HIV testing is important for both prevention and treatment efforts, and rapid testing is widely available.
- h. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance that encourages people to take action in the fight against HIV/AIDS and raise awareness of its impact on women and girls. The effort is coordinated by the Office on Women's Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- i. In Multnomah County, several organizations are engaged in activities related to National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, including the Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Multnomah County's Health Department, Cascade AIDS Project, the African Women's Coalition, the PCC-Cascade Women's Center, the African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6), the Portland Chapter of the LINKS, Inc., Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette, and Women of a Certain Age.
- j. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serves as an opportunity for Multnomah County officials and citizens to come together to offer support, encourage discussion, and educate women and girls about prevention of HIV transmission, the importance of getting tested for HIV, and how to live with and manage HIV/AIDS.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

Thursday, March 10, 2011, as National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of March, 2011.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Cogen, County Chair

  
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Deborah Kafoury,  
Commissioner District 1

  
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Loretta Smith  
Commissioner District 2

  
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Judy Shiprack,  
Commissioner District 3



SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2