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**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**Thursday, November 17, 2005**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Stop AIDS. Keep the promise.*

## World AIDS Day is December 1

December 1 is **World AIDS Day**. Now in its 17th year, World AIDS Day links communities across the globe in an international effort to draw attention to HIV/AIDS. Observance of this day provides an opportunity for governments, AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals to demonstrate the importance of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The **Pinellas County Health Department**, along with the HIV/AIDS Community Planning Partnership, will present a variety of activities to draw attention back to a pandemic that infects millions of people in Pinellas County, Florida, the United States and all over the world.

Pinellas County's World AIDS Day event will be held in **Williams Park** in St. Petersburg on **Thursday, December 1, from 12:00 noon to 4: 00 p.m.** Activities planned for the event include free health screenings, immunizations, entertainment, food and other health-related activities. Williams Park is located on 1st Avenue North between 3rd and 4th Streets in downtown St. Petersburg.

The World AIDS Day theme for 2005 is "**Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise**". A poster campaign will unveil three new World AIDS Posters for the state to display at a press conference at the state capital in Tallahassee on December 1. Poster designs were submitted from around the state this summer.

Two of the winning posters were submitted by **Lynne Swain** from the Pinellas County Health Department. The other winning poster was from Susan Lawrence, Alachua County Health Department. The posters will be printed for distribution statewide and will be displayed on World AIDS Day as well as throughout the year.

There are many resources available for HIV-infected residents of Pinellas County, including case management, medical care, prescription drugs, support groups and other support services.

Community partners include: City of St. Petersburg, Metropolitan Charities, Pinellas Cares Clinic, WestCare, Youth Education Services, Operation PAR and PTEC Nursing Program.

For more information, contact the Pinellas County Health Department's HIV/AIDS program at 824-6900.

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*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.*  
[www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com)