

For Immediate Release

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Local World AIDS Day Event Provides Support, Fights Stigma

UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond, Washtenaw County Public Health Sponsor Dec 1. Interfaith Service

YPSILANTI, Mich., Nov. 29, 2016 – To observe World AIDS Day 2016, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond, Washtenaw County Public Health and other partners are sponsoring an interfaith service of love and support for people living with HIV and their families, friends and allies. The celebration service is open to all community members and will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd, Ann Arbor. The event is an opportunity to fight stigma and find support. Church of the Good Shepherd is a multiracial, LGBTQ affirming congregation.

The event will include music, a performance by the Corner Health Center’s Theatre Troupe and several speakers including: Felix and Paula Sirls of Gospel against AIDS, the Rev. Lauren Zinn, founder of Jewbilation and the Rev. Roland Stringfellow, Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit.

“This year’s World AIDS Day theme of ‘Leadership. Commitment. Impact.’ gives us an opportunity to highlight the HIV prevention and treatment tools that are available to us today and that can bring about an end to the AIDS epidemic,” says Jimena Loveluck, vice president of community research and innovation at UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond and member of the Washtenaw County Board of Health.

At a local level, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond, Washtenaw County Public Health and other community partners are committed to reaching national HIV testing, treatment and PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, targets. The impact would be a reduction in HIV infections in the U.S. by as much as 70 percent by 2020.

In [2015](#), there were 27 newly diagnosed HIV cases in Washtenaw County, down from 33 cases in 2013. Half of the cases were reported in the 48197 zip code, and 70 percent were in residents under 30.

This World AIDS Day, Make a Plan to Get Tested

“Getting tested is the first step to finding out if you have HIV,” says Heather Wolf, public health social worker and prevention specialist at Washtenaw County Public Health. “If you have HIV, learning about your options for medical care, accessing local resources and support services and taking medication regularly helps you live a longer, healthier life and lowers the chances of passing HIV on to others.”

Free, confidential and anonymous HIV testing and counseling is available for those 13 years and older without parental consent through Washtenaw County Public Health’s Sexual Health Services program, located in Ypsilanti at 555 Towner, Suite 1103. The program uses rapid HIV testing technology, so you find out your result

the same day. Call 734-544-6840 to find out more about testing and to schedule your appointment, or walk-in for HIV testing Thursdays 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Free, confidential and anonymous rapid HIV testing is also available at UNIFIED's Ypsilanti office at 3075 Clark Road, Suite 203. Clinic hours are Tuesdays 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, Wednesdays 5:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please call 734-572-9355 to schedule your appointment. UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond also provides medical case management and support services for people living with HIV. A case manager is on-call Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

World AIDS Day

[World AIDS Day](#) is held on Dec. 1 each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, repower strategies and steps in preventing HIV, show support for people living with HIV and commemorate people who have passed away. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond



UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing comprehensive HIV prevention and care services. Rooted in our fight against HIV, UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond advances prevention, access to health care, community research and advocacy. Offices are located in Detroit, Ypsilanti and Jackson and services are provided in Washtenaw, Jackson, Lenawee,

Livingston, Wayne, Oakland, St. Clair, Monroe, Macomb and Lapeer Counties. Visit us at <http://www.miunified.org/>.

Washtenaw County Public Health



Washtenaw County Public Health promotes health and works to prevent disease and injury in our community. Our mission is to assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.

Washtenaw County Public Health has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Visit us at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org> or call 734-544-6700.

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