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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

November 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World AIDS Day is December 1; Wellness Fair Planned in St. Petersburg

December 1 is World AIDS Day. Now in its 19th year, World AIDS Day links communities across the globe in an 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.

In Pinellas County, the City of St. Petersburg is joining the Pinellas County Health Department and the HIV/AIDS Community Planning Partnership to present a variety of activities designed to draw attention to a pandemic that infects people in Pinellas County, Florida, the United States and all over the world.

The **World AIDS Day Wellness Fair** will be held at **Williams Park** in downtown St. Petersburg on **Friday, November 30** from **12 noon to 4:00 p.m.** Activities planned for event include free health screenings, flu vaccines and entertainment. The park is located on 1st Avenue North between 3rd and 4th Streets.

The World AIDS Campaign's (WAC) slogan is "Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise." It is an appeal to governments, policy makers and health authorities to ensure that they meet the many goals set in the fight against HIV/AIDS – especially the promise of universal access to HIV treatment, care, support and prevention services by 2010. This campaign will run until 2010, with a related theme chosen for World AIDS Day each year.

The World AIDS Day theme for 2007 is "Take the Lead." The leadership theme highlights the need for innovation, vision and perseverance in the face of the AIDS challenge. The campaign calls on all sectors of society, including families, communities and civil society organizations – not just government – to take the initiative and provide leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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. For more information, contact the Pinellas County Health Department's HIV/AIDS program at 824-6900, ext. 11475.

For more information about World AIDS Day, visit <http://www.avert.org/worldaid.htm>

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www.PinellasHealth.com