

November 27, 2017

December events to acknowledge those affected by HIV/AIDS

MOBILE, Alabama — In recognition of those who have passed, been infected or affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the HIV Prevention and Care Network Group and Mobile AIDS Coalition have planned several events in December titled “A Time of Remembrance and Honor.”

Along with the Mobile County Health Department, the coalition is comprised of Franklin Primary Health Center, Missing Link Consumer Group, USA Children’s & Women’s Specialty Clinic and AIDS Alabama South.

The first occasion will be in Downtown Mobile at Cathedral Square at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 1. The theme this year is “Increasing Impact through Transparency, Accountability and Partnerships.” Proclamations observing the day will be presented by local officials, while LeFlore Magnet High School plus Chastang and Chickasaw middle schools are scheduled to have students from their FOCUS Programs attend. FOCUS promotes school and community partnerships for the reduction of HIV transmission and adolescent risk behaviors. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will move to the Newburn Health Center at 248 Cox Street.

Next on the schedule is the sixth annual “Scarlet Event,” which will also be at Cathedral Square on Friday, December 8, beginning at 6 p.m. This free gathering will offer an evening of music, art and vital health information. The Scarlet Event is the second part of World AIDS Day, celebrating life for the ones still here laughing, loving and living.

According to the Mobile AIDS Coalition, HIV/AIDS claims 5,000 lives every day. There are 34 million people living with HIV who will need access to treatment in order to stay healthy and prevent the spread of HIV to others. Millions of people affected by HIV/AIDS do not have adequate access to housing or healthcare.

“A Time of Remembrance and Honor” events are taking place as many people do not know they have HIV. Statistics from www.AIDS.gov report nearly 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection, and almost one in eight do not know they are infected.

Getting tested is the first step to finding out if a person has HIV. If a person has contracted HIV, getting medical care and taking medicines regularly helps them to live a longer and healthier life. It also lowers the chances of passing HIV on to others.

For more information on the December events, contact Diane Glass, HIV Mobile District Manager, at 251-690-8167, or Tyrome Tover, a Peer Mentor for MCHD, at 251-690-8170.