November 27, 2019

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 Mobile County Health Department and Family Health’s Ryan White Community Advisory Council have planned two special events to mark the 31st Annual World AIDS Day.

The first occasion will be in Downtown Mobile at Cathedral Square at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 1. The theme this year is “Communities make the difference.” This year’s program will feature a moment of remembrance for those who have died from HIV and AIDS.

Next on the schedule is the eighth annual “Scarlet Event,” which will be at Mardi Gras Park on Friday, December 13, 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 those still here laughing, loving and living.

Community-led organizations are guided by the people who they serve and are primarily accountable to them. In the AIDS response, this includes organizations by and for people living with HIV and organizations by and for people affected by HIV.

According to Kaiser Health News, HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) is one of the world’s most serious health and development challenges. Approximately 37.9 million people are currently living with HIV, and tens of millions of people have died of AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the epidemic.

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 local events, contact Tyrome Tover, a Peer Mentor for MCHD, at 251-690-8170.

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