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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health District Participates in 15th Annual World AIDS Day

(Las Vegas, Nev., - December 1, 2003) – Today, the Clark County Health District is participating in the 15th annual observance of World AIDS Day, hosting comments from several key speakers, in an effort to raise awareness and renew attention on preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Presenters will include Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for the health district, Dr. Josh Valdez, the Region IX director of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and Rick Reich, communicable disease, AIDS services supervisor for the health district. Topics range from the global fund to fight HIV and AIDS, President Bush’s emergency plan for AIDS relief and HIV/AIDS funding, the Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative and a history of the health district Office of AIDS.

“HIV and AIDS remain threats to people of all ages and nationalities,” said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer. “World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV and AIDS have not gone away, and that there is still much to be done,” said Kwalick.

World AIDS Day was conceived and adopted in 1988 by representatives of 140 countries at the World Summit of Ministers of Health on AIDS. The day serves as an opportunity for governments, non-governmental and local organizations, AIDS programs and individuals to increase awareness and demonstrate solidarity in the fight against AIDS.

This year’s theme, “Live and Let Live,” continues last year’s focus on minimizing HIV and AIDS related prejudice. As major factors fueling the global HIV epidemic, stigma and discrimination create a climate of fear and a reluctance to confront rising infection rates.

For more information, contact Cherie Filler-Maietta at the Clark County Health District Office of AIDS, (702) 759-0726.

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**World AIDS Day, December 1, 2003
Schedule of Events**

Clark County Health District, Clemens Room

Welcome

Dr. Donald Kwalick, Chief Health Officer

Topic: World AIDS Day history

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Speaker

Dr. Josh Valdez, Region IX Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Topics: Global fund to fight HIV/AIDS

President Bush's emergency plan for AIDS relief

HIV/AIDS funding

Mother and child HIV Prevention Initiative

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Speaker

Rick Reich, Clark County Health District Office of AIDS Supervisor

Topic: Office of AIDS history

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Questions

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Other Locations

UNLV Campus

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Names Project Quilt Display

Living Quilt Display

Faces of Courage

Silent Silhouettes

HIV Testing

Art Exhibit by Local Artists Living With HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS Community Health Fair

UNLV Campus, Pida Plaza

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Vigil

Christ the King Catholic Community Church (4925 S. Torrey Pines Drive)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Candlelight Vigil - AIDS Interfaith Ministries

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