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HIV Alliance to recognize World AIDS Day on December 1

Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day. Now recognized every year on December 1, World AIDS Day honors those impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic while looking forward to a future without the virus. Local nonprofit HIV Alliance will be hosting events in Eugene, Roseburg, Salem, and Brookings on December 1 in honor of World AIDS Day.

HIV Alliance was founded in Eugene in 1994 after several HIV/AIDS organizations merged around the mission to support individuals living with HIV and prevent new HIV infections. Over its 28 years, the agency has grown to offer a range of programs that respond to unmet health needs of people living with and at-risk for HIV in Oregon. HIV Alliance now serves more than 1,200 people living with HIV across 15 counties.

For HIV Alliance, the annual World AIDS Day serves as a symbolic vantage point from which they assess the past year's challenges and successes. "2022 was a particularly severe year of opioid overdoses and we saw the emergence of hMPXV in Oregon," says Renee Yandel, Executive Director at HIV Alliance. "After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV Alliance also celebrates opening many of its services for in-person meetings as well as numerous programmatic expansions. We recognize World AIDS Day to honor our combined work to end HIV, celebrate our collective successes, and remember those that we have lost."

HIV Alliance 2022 World AIDS Day events emphasize the role of community in caring for and empowering marginalized groups such as people living with HIV, LGBTQIA+ people, people of color, and people experiencing homelessness. During what was a difficult year, the agency hopes its World AIDS Day events can bring the local community together to build a message of hope in addressing threats from the opioid epidemic and anti-LGBTQIA+ violence.

HIV Alliance's World AIDS Day event on December 1 in Eugene will take place at the Downtown Park Blocks and include free rapid HIV testing from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and a ceremony from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. In Roseburg, a ceremony will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The event in Salem will be hosted by Salem Spirit of Life from 5:30pm and 7:00pm. In Brookings, free HIV testing will be offered at the Chetco Community Library from 12:00pm-4:00pm. HIV Alliance will also be participating in World AIDS Day events in Medford at Medford Congregational United Church of Christ. Details on all five events can be found at <https://hivalliance.org/event/wad2022/>.

Development Director Brooks McLain and Executive Director Renee Yandel are available for interviews.

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