



1195 City View Street, Eugene, OR 97402
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Executive Board: Board President: Mark Molina | President-Elect: Omar Al-Rais | Secretary: Jamar Ruff | Treasurer: Paul Hempel

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HIV Alliance to recognize World AIDS Day on December 1

Events are planned around the state to commemorate this global health day

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, in coordination with several community partners, will be collaborating on events in Eugene, Roseburg, Salem, Medford, and Coos Bay 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 29 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 and at-risk for HIV across 32 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. "While great strides have been made in treatment options, we continue to see that the social determinants of health like housing, discrimination, addiction and mental health present significant barriers to health for people living with and at risk for HIV," says Renee Yandel, Executive Director at HIV Alliance. "As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, HIV Alliance also celebrates opening many of its in-person services 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 2023 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 houselessness. 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 Farmer's Market Pavilion in Downtown Eugene and includes free rapid HIV testing from 2:00pm to 6:00pm and a commemoration from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. The agency is partnering with Eugene Pride who will be hosting a community sewing circle to replace the historic Pride flag that was stolen after this year's Pride festival. Community members can drop in to contribute from 2:00pm-8:00pm, and no previous sewing experience is needed. HIV Alliance is also partnering with Lane Arts Council to celebrate Eugene's vibrant art scene during the December 1st First Friday ArtWalk. Start your self-guided tour at Farmers Market Pavilion (85 E 8th Ave) where you can pick up your ArtWalk Guide and shop the Artist Marketplace before exploring the



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many galleries and art venues of Downtown Eugene. Then return to the Farmers Market Pavilion to dance into the weekend with live music from the Sugar Beets from 6:00pm-8:00pm. A panel from the AIDS Memorial Quilt and art from people living with HIV will also be displayed.

In Salem, HIV Alliance is partnering with The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Willamette Empire for *A Red Tie Affair!* The evening will be filled with select drag performances, keynote speakers, in addition to auction/raffle items, and tickets can be [purchased online](#). The event will take place at Salem Elks Lodge #336, 2336 Turner Rd SE, Salem, OR 97302. Doors open 5:30pm, with dinner served at 6:00pm, and the show starting at 7:00pm

A ceremony will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 2167 NW Watters St. in Roseburg. There will be a name reading ceremony and awards for local community leaders. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

HIV Alliance is partnering with the Rogue Valley Peace Choir and Medford United Church of Christ for an observance at 1801 E. Jackson St. in Medford from 6:30pm-8:00pm. This annual commemoration at United Church of Christ will include performances and a candle lighting ceremony.

Two events are planned in Coos Bay. On Friday, 12/1, free, confidential and rapid HIV Testing will be available at the South Coast Equity Coalition's office at 126 E Market Ave. in Coos Bay from 12:00pm-4:00pm. On Sunday, 12/3, there will be a special showing of the film *Philadelphia* at the Egyptian Theater at 2:00pm.

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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