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The Long Island Association for AIDS Care observes World AIDS Day.

December 1, 2015 marks the 27th year of World AIDS Day. Established by the World Health Organization (WHO), this annual observance recognized world wide, serves as a reminder of how far we have come, yet stresses the importance of how far we still have to go in the fight against HIV/AIDS. By remembering those who have succumbed to HIV/AIDS and by celebrating those who survive it each and every day, the hope is to raise awareness and encourage people to get tested, seek treatment and remain in care. Over the course of the last 5 years the overall theme of “getting to zero” has been the battle cry for millions of individuals who work tirelessly to spread the message of HIV/AIDS awareness. These unsung heroes from all corners of the world stress the absolute need and importance of continued testing, education and cooperation throughout all levels of government, health service agencies and communities, if we are to truly accomplish the goals the theme envisions.

Worldwide HIV/AIDS infection effects 35 million people, with 1.2 million of those infected found right here in the United States, and New York ranking in the top ten states with the largest number of HIV cases. In 2014 the CDC published a detailed report that showed of those infected in the US only 1/3 of those living with HIV had their virus under control. In addition, 13% of those living with HIV don’t even know they are infected. We must address these issues immediately and everyone needs to become invested, not only in the future of the United States, but in the future of the world’s population as well, if we are to truly set our sites on the path to “zero.”

LIAAC is dedicated to seeing that the vision of the World AIDS Day theme is realized. In recognition of World AIDS Day 2015, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care will participate in a number of education and testing events during the months of November and December. Staff will be on hand to provide free and confidential HIV testing, literature, and education throughout Long Island’s communities. Spread the word and invest in your health by getting tested, so together we can “get to zero”. Look for us at the following locations:
December 1st: FREE & Confidential HIV & Hep C testing at 590 & 600 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY from 11am- 3pm.

For more information on LIAAC’s services, informative articles and a list of testing locations and special events, visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc>. Join us and show your support of World AIDS Day by wearing a red ribbon on December 1st.

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