



**For Immediate Release: November 29, 2012**

Contacts: Catherine Hart, LMSW                      D. Ray Ward  
                  Chief Operating Officer                Chief Program Officer  
                  Tel: (631) 385-2451                              Tel: (631) 385-2451

**WORLD AIDS DAY- December 1, 2012**

**December 1, 2012** marks the 24th anniversary of World AIDS Day. The theme—“**Working Together for an AIDS-Free Generation**”—highlights the promise of new research and prevention efforts that help stop the spread of HIV. Since 1988, our response to AIDS has greatly changed. While many of these changes are positive, this anniversary offers us an opportunity to highlight how much more still needs to be done. People from around the world will be coming together on World AIDS Day, December 1, to highlight the goal of “**Getting to Zero.**” This means: **Zero** New HIV Infections, **Zero** Discrimination and **Zero** AIDS Related Deaths.

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC 2012)** reports that in 2010, an estimated 47,129 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the 46 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting. In that same year, an estimated 33,015 people throughout the US were diagnosed with AIDS, a sobering reminder that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is far from over in this country. Since the epidemic began, an estimated 1,129,127 people in the US have been diagnosed with AIDS. The demographics of the newly diagnosed continue to provide a profile of HIV/AIDS in the United States that is primarily young, male, and African American. Additionally, the epidemic disproportionately affects Hispanic and Latinos; particularly Hispanic and Latino men who have sex with men (MSM). Gay and bisexual men of all races and ethnicities are the most affected of any group of Americans. Recent data indicates that 26% of new HIV infections **occur in youth, between the ages of 13-24**. In 2010, about 12,000 young people, or about 1,000 per month, became infected with HIV. In addition, it is estimated that 60% of youth with HIV do not know their HIV status, highlighting the importance of routine HIV testing for our nation’s youth to help stop the spread of the virus. (CDC 2012)

**Long Island**, (Nassau and Suffolk Counties), still has the highest suburban HIV/AIDS infection in the country and more AIDS cases than 26 states.

In recognition of World AIDS Day 2012, the **Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.** will be conducting HIV/AIDS outreach, education and testing initiatives. For more information on **LIAAC’s World AIDS Day** project and a complete list of events, locations and times where you will find our professional staff offering **free and confidential HIV rapid testing and education programs to communities all across Long Island** please visit our website at [www.liaac.org](http://www.liaac.org), our **Facebook** page or call our toll free number at **1-877-865-4222**.