



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 9, 2012

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc.

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**The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) Celebrates
NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY, MARCH 10, 2012**

Hauppauge, New York – The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) is joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in celebrating National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. Families, health organizations, businesses, communities, the government and individuals come together to provide support and educate women and girls about practicing safe methods, getting tested, and encouraging the community to talk about HIV/AIDS prevention. The theme for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2012 is “What’s your deciding moment?”

The Center for Disease Control reports in 2009 an estimated 11,200 new HIV infections among women in the United States. That year, **women comprised 51% of the US population and 23% of those newly infected with HIV.** According to the New York State AIDS Advisory Council’s report, *Women in Peril*, the proportion of **newly reported** AIDS cases among New York women over the past 20 years has more than **tripled, rising from 12% to 34%.** Moreover, the most recent report from the New State Department of Health contends that **33.5% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Nassau and Suffolk counties are women. Additionally, women account for 25.5% of all new HIV/AIDS cases on Long Island.**

On **Saturday, March 10, 2012**, in recognition of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness, and in support of the health and wellness of all women on Long Island, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. will deploy our mobile outreach team of prevention specialists and HIV test counselors into the streets of Long Island. At that time, LIAAC will provide **free of charge** the following service to Long Island women: confidential HIV rapid tests, facilitation of Hepatitis C testing and substance abuse screenings.

For more information about LIAAC’s National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness initiative and a complete list of testing location and times, please visit our website at www.liaac.org or call our toll free hotline number at **1-877-865-4222**.

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