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### **World AIDS Awareness Day is Saturday**

*Florida Department of Health Reports First Declines in HIV/AIDS Since 1999*

(Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) --- Florida residents can celebrate World AIDS Day on Saturday knowing that educational efforts by community groups to curb HIV/AIDS have been working, according to new statistics recently released by the Florida Department of Health.

According to a letter from Thomas Liberti, Chief, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, "HIV/AIDS deaths in Florida have decreased in 2007 for the first time since 1999. Compared with 2006, in 2007 the number of deaths declined by 13% -- from 1,746 to 1,526."

Linda Carter, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Broward, says these new figures show that grants by the Community Foundation to local community educational and prevention programs have proven to be good investments.

"Once an unmentionable disease, HIV/AIDS prevention has become a global cause and a critical local issue," she said. "In Broward County alone another teenage girl contracts HIV every 15 minutes.

"During the past 13 years, the Community Foundation of Broward has established local partnerships and combined them with national resources to result in more than \$2.3 million invested in more than 120 grants for HIV/AIDS prevention education and enhanced services within Broward communities."

Foundation partners in this cause include the National AIDS Fund, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Bristol Myers Squibb, and the United Way of Broward County.

As one of the beneficiaries of these grants, Hispanic Unity has been involved in a variety of HIV prevention and testing programs for the past 11 years. The organization currently runs an HIV testing program, where more than 1,500 persons are tested annually. In addition, Hispanic Unity trains grassroots leaders through two HIV prevention programs.

"It's good to know that we HAVE contributed to a positive change," said Hispanic Unity Executive Director Josie Bacallao, "and we're making a difference - along with the many other community organizations."

During 2009, the Community Foundation will be awarding \$175,000 in grants for HIV prevention programs.

**Below are data included in the Florida Department of Health report:**

***(Questions about HIV death data in Florida can be directed to Spencer Lieb at 850 245-4448 or Lorene Maddox at 850 245-4444 ext 2613.)***

IN the YEAR 2007: (not sure we need to list all of this?)

1. Overall, HIV is down to the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for all persons aged 25-44 (down from 4<sup>th</sup> in 2006).

2. HIV is the 1<sup>st</sup> leading cause among blacks.
3. HIV is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among males (down from 5<sup>th</sup> 2006) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among females (same as 2006).
4. Among males:
  - a. HIV is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause among whites (down from 5<sup>th</sup> in 2006),
  - b. the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause among blacks (down for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in many years from being the leading cause)
  - c. the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause among Hispanics (down from 4<sup>th</sup> in 2006).
5. Among females:
  - a. HIV is the 9th leading cause among whites (down from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2006),
  - b. the 1<sup>st</sup> leading cause among blacks (same as 2006) and
  - c. the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause among Hispanics (same as 2006) .

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### **About the Community Foundation**

A public nonprofit organization founded in 1984, The Community Foundation of Broward manages more than **350 charitable funds** representing more than **\$90 million**. In the past 24 years, more than **\$40 million has been granted to nonprofits** throughout the community to meet critical needs and help improve the quality of life in Broward County. The mission of the Community Foundation is to provide leadership on community solutions, and foster philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. For more information, visit [www.cfbroward.org](http://www.cfbroward.org).