

WORLD AIDS AWARENESS DAY CHAPEL PROGRAM

Tomorrow is World AIDS Awareness Day. AIDS is increasing in our society and leaving us with a very heavy burden of disease. Because there is no cure for AIDS or a vaccine to prevent it, we must focus on Awareness, Information, Discussion, and Sharing. The most difficult part of AIDS prevention for many people is the acceptance of a Personal stake in the epidemic and of the importance of protecting oneself. Some people still think of AIDS as a gay disease, or a big city disease, or something that cannot happen to "nice people". The virus in fact respects none of these distinctions. AIDS IS NOT SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.

On December 1, at 1:50pm bells around the world will ring 15 times to commemorate the 15 years of the AIDS epidemic.

1980

First human retrovirus is discovered. It is called Human T-cell Leukemia Virus Type I.

1981

Individual with first case of Karposi's sarcoma reported to CDC, dies.

1982

Of those people with AIDS identified in 1979, 85% are dead.

American Red Cross reports that homosexual, intravenous drug users and Haitian immigrants should not donate blood.

1983

House and Senate budget \$8.3 million to develop HTLV-II antibody test. Reagan administration uses less than 0.5 million and returns remainder to treasury.

Center of disease Control reports first heterosexual AIDS cases in the US.

1985

Thirteen year-old hemophiliac Ryan White, infected with HIV in blood transfusion.

American Red Cross institutes mandatory testing of all blood donations for HIV.

Actor Rock Hudson dies of AIDS and the epidemic hits home for many americans and for President Reagan.

First AIDS walk sponsored by Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C.

1987

NAMES Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt, idea of Cleve Jones, is displayed for the first time on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

President Reagan and Vice President Bush publicly address AIDS for the first time.

World Health Organization holds first annual AIDS Awareness Day on Dec. 1.

1988

A new case of AIDS is reported every two hours in New York City.

1990

President Bush gives his first address on AIDS since taking office.

Magic Johnson learns he is HIV positive. Two years later, he resigns his appointment to National Commission on AIDS, charging official inaction on HIV/AIDS policy.

Teenage activist, Ryan White dies.

1991

World Health Organization (WHO) finds that 75% of people in the world infected with the AIDS virus, acquired it through heterosexual contact.

1992

Scientists discover an Asian monkey's immune system responds to HIV as a human's does - a crucial breakthrough for vaccine testing.

1993

10th Annual International Conference on AIDS takes place in Japan.

Senate votes against the immigration of people with AIDS

Tennis star, Arthur Ashe, dies of AIDS

1994

First major motion picture about AIDS, "Philadelphia" , released

AIDS becomes leading cause of death among black men age 24 - 44, Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area.

1995

March 14, 1995 marks 5031 days since the scientific discovery of AIDS by the Centers for Disease Control on June 5, 1981.

Public Officials predict that over 500,000 people will have been diagnosed with AIDS in the U.S. by the end of 1995. Three-fifths of those will have died.

As of March, 1995 Maryland has reported 11,468 cases of AIDS since 1981. Of these 6,286 have died. The Frederick County total is 94 with 48 deceased.

MORE FACTS

Awareness. Everyone needs to know about HIV infection. No one is immune to it.

Acceptance. The most difficult part of AIDS prevention for many people is the acceptance of a personal stake in the epidemic and of the importance of protecting oneself. Some people still think of AIDS as a gay disease, or a big city disease, or something that cannot happen to "nice people." The virus in fact respects none of these distinctions. AIDS IS NOT SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.

In 1982 6% of all AIDS cases were women. In 1995 18% of all AIDS cases are women.