

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Testing America' Free National HIV Testing Tour Hits Portland January 9th

AHF Partners with Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) and Multnomah County Health Dept. (MCHD) STD, HIV and Hepatitis C Program in Free Testing Event at Pioneer Courthouse Square

What: **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**—AHF's 'Testing America' mobile HIV testing van begins six month, 48 state national free HIV testing tour with second stop in Portland.

When: **Saturday, January 9, 2010 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Where: **Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland, Oregon 97204**
Located between SW Broadway/SW Morrison/SW 6th Ave/SW Yamhill
Testing to take place in Mobile Testing Unit (28-foot-long recreational vehicle)

Who: **Local Portland Participants:**

- Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)
- Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD) - STD, HIV and Hepatitis C Program

National Participant:

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation – Public Health Division
- Azul Mares-DelGrasso M.A., National HIV Testing Tour

B-ROLL AHF's 'Testing America' free mobile HIV testing van for filming & photos

PORTLAND (January 6, 2010) [AIDS Healthcare Foundation's \(AHF's\) 'Testing America' Tour](#), a six-month, 48 state national cross-country HIV testing tour, will visit Portland, Oregon for a testing event in Pioneer Courthouse Square from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm **Saturday January 9th** during the city's 4th *Annual Health Week*. Free testing will take place on AHF's new, state-of-the-art 'Testing America' mobile HIV testing unit at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square (Portland, 97204). AHF is working in conjunction with two Portland metro-area organizations in the testing effort: Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), and Multnomah County Health Dept. (MCHD) - STD, HIV and Hepatitis C Program.

The 'Testing America' tour is part of a collaborative effort to raise local and national awareness about the importance—and ease—of HIV testing and to challenge attitudes about moving toward a streamlined model of HIV testing and counseling nationwide. [AIDS Healthcare Foundation](#) (AHF) is proud to continue its second HIV Testing Tour across the US after the successful completion of its recent and ambitious 14 city AHF Magic Johnson HIV Testing Caravan in mid-2009.

“Working with respected local partners including Cascade AIDS Project and Multnomah County Health Department in Portland, we plan on demonstrating just how easy HIV testing can be. At each stop along the way on this nationwide tour, we will host or participate in free mobile HIV testing events and media events to raise awareness about the importance and ease of testing,” said **Azul Mares-Del Grasso**, Field Services Manager, National HIV Testing Tour, AHF's Public Health Division. “After six months on the road, our 'Testing America' tour culminates with a major testing event in New York City on Sunday, June 27, 2010—National HIV Testing Day.”

“We're thrilled to be partnering with Multnomah County and AIDS Healthcare Foundation to get testing out to as many folks as possible. It is not alright that over 20% of Americans living with HIV don't even know they are infected. Care and support is there – but the first step is knowing your status,” says Michael Anderson-Nathe, Director of Prevention and Education at CAP.

“It is crucial that people know their HIV status and learn how to avoid becoming infected with HIV; or if they are infected, know their status, and seek medical treatment, if needed,” said **Michael Weinstein**, President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation. “AIDS Healthcare Foundation is proud to spearhead this national 'Testing America' tour as a collaborative effort to raise awareness—and reduce stigma—around HIV testing.”

During the testing tour, AIDS Healthcare Foundation will also present \$1,000 grants to each of the local partners AHF is collaborating with along the way. And throughout the course of the cross country HIV testing tour, HIV testing counselors will also supply a steady stream of updates, videos and images via new media: YouTube, Facebook and Twitter postings from along the route, interviews with local partners, government officials and, when appropriate and available, interviews with people who were tested on the mobile unit. To learn how you can sign up to follow the 'Testing America' tour on these social media outlets, please visit www.freehivtest.net.

HIV Statistics in the United States

In 2006, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began recommending routine HIV testing for all people ages 13-64, a recommendation that has not been widely implemented nationwide to date. According to an HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet produced by the Kaiser Family Foundation (“*The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United States*”, updated September 2009, with statistics through 2007), the CDC reports that:

- There are approximately 1.1 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, more than 468,000 of whom are living with an AIDS-defining illness.
- Among the 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS, an estimated 21% do not know they are infected (down from 25% in 2003).
- Many people with HIV are diagnosed late in their illness; in 2006, 36% received an AIDS diagnosis within one year of testing HIV positive.

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OREGON HIV/AIDS STATISTICS

(CDC statistics through 2007, via Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts)

- Cumulative **AIDS Cases** in OREGON 0.6% of US total (6,248 AIDS cases through 2007, per CDC)
- **AIDS Case Rate** per 100,000 population in OREGON: 6.4 (for the US, the rate is 12.5) (per CDC 2007)
- Estimated number of people **living with AIDS** in OREGON, all ages, 2007—2,951 (0.6% of US total)
- Cumulative **HIV infection cases** reported in OREGON 1,592 (0.5% of the 337,590 officially reported US HIV infections—via confidential name-based reporting— through 2007, per CDC)

ABOUT AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is the nation's largest global non-profit AIDS healthcare provider. AHF currently provides medical care and/or services to more than 125,000 individuals in 23 countries worldwide in the US, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia/Pacific region and Eastern Europe. Additional information is available at www.aidshealth.org

ABOUT CASCADE AIDS PROJECT

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest community-based provider of HIV services in Oregon and Southwest Washington. CAP's mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate stigma.

CAP carries out its mission through two major departments: *Prevention and Education*, and *Support Services*: CAP's *Prevention and Education department* hosts a variety of HIV testing services and prevention programs to raise awareness, reduce stigma of HIV, and equip people with the knowledge and skills to prevent the transmission of HIV. As an example, CAP's Men's Wellness Center provides over 2,000 members with prevention information and supplies, health and wellness discussions, and social activities. They also tested 743 men for HIV and sexually transmitted infections over the year. The department also manages Oregon's AIDS/STD Hotline and fielded over 4,500 calls last year from throughout the state requesting a wide variety of information and referrals about concerns about HIV and STDs. Additional information is available at www.cascadeaids.org

ABOUT MULTNOMAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. (MCHD) STD, HIV AND HEP C PROGRAM

The MCHD HIV, STD and Hepatitis C Prevention programs help in preventing the spread of HIV/STDs and hepatitis C and getting needed services to people with HIV/AIDS. The program offers education, counseling and testing those at highest risk for acquiring and/or transmitting HIV, STD, and viral hepatitis. Services are provided in community-based settings. Services are provided to low income people with HIV/AIDS in the Portland metro areas to address unmet needs. Additional information is available at www.mchealth.org

ABOUT HEALTH WEEK AT THE SQUARE

On Thursday, January 4 – Sunday, January 10, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Pioneer Courthouse Square will serve as the host site for Health Week - filled with informational resources on healthy living, blood donations and more. Health organizations attending are:

- 1/4 American Red Cross**
- 1/5 American Cancer Society**
- 1/6 American Heart Association**
- 1/7 Body & Brain Yoga**
- 1/8 American Tinnitus Association**
- 1/9 Cascade AIDS Project (CAP), AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD)
Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM)
American Tinnitus Association**
- 1/10 Oregon College of Oriental Medicine**

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