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Cascade AIDS Project



**For Immediate Release**

## High School Challenge Raises Money for Sex Education

Teams raise money at *AIDS Walk Portland* for human sexuality education and HIV prevention.

PORTLAND, OR (September 17, 2009) – **AIDS Walk Portland 2009** is taking it to the schools. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual *AIDS Walk Portland*, **Sunday, October 11, 2009 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**, is engaging Portland metro-area high schools in the **NEW! 2009 High School Challenge**. The Challenge has High Schools helping to raise critical funds for HIV prevention, care and education services as Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) as well as implementation of the **New Oregon Sex Education Law** in their own schools.

All schools that raise **\$500 or more** will receive a check for **50%** of their raised donations towards human sexuality education and HIV prevention programming in the classroom in direct alignment with newly refined Oregon laws. This is also an opportunity for students to raise awareness in their schools about the AIDS pandemic, and learn about HIV/AIDS in their own backyard. Many students use *AIDS Walk Portland* as a community service opportunity--a requirement of all high school students.

Schools competing already are **Camas High School** in Camas, Washington and **Tigard Thespian Troupe 2833**, from Tigard High School in Tigard, Oregon. "I got started last year with *AIDS Walk Portland* because of my friend Molly who participates every year! It was awesome! We both love the musical *RENT*!! In the show, many people have HIV/AIDS. I'm really excited about this year and I'm trying my best to get our school to raise at least \$500! Camas becomes involved in many events every year and I am hoping that this can continue to grow in the future!" says student, Katrina Welborn from Camas High School.

The new refined legislation moves the requirement for human sexuality education down to the individual districts, and adds requirements for it to be medically accurate and comprehensive. The legislation is a start, but without funding, it becomes a challenge to meet. Therefore, CAP is focusing on how to help schools fulfill this requirement. Funds raised can be used for teacher training, presenter fees, supplemental materials and/or curricula, teaching tools such as HIV/AIDS related media, HIV-positive speaker presentations and classroom display materials.

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### **About AIDS Walk Portland:**

On October 11, 2009, the **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual AIDS Walk Portland presented by The Standard**, a 5k (3.1 miles) walk and rally will take place in Pioneer Courthouse Square. The event opens at 9:00 am with festivities, breakfast, registration and entertainment. After a brief program, the Walk steps off at 11:00 am.

10,000 people committed to making a difference will come together for this event. Funds raised benefit the vital programs and services of Cascade AIDS Project (CAP). As the largest and oldest AIDS Service Organization (ASO) in Oregon, CAP continues to provide support for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Sponsorship is provided this year by organizations such as Presenting Sponsor, The Standard and Gold Level Sponsor, Nike. Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler and his wife Katrina are the Honorary co-chairs, as they support *AIDS Walk Portland* and confront the many challenges of HIV/AIDS, one of the most devastating and misunderstood health crises of our time. In addition, one that continues to grow and touch many in Oregon.

### **About Cascade AIDS Project (CAP):**

Cascade AIDS Project is the oldest and largest community-based provider of HIV services, including housing, education, and advocacy in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

CAP's mission is to lead efforts to **prevent** new HIV infections, **care** for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, **educate** communities to eliminate stigma and shame, and **advocate** for immediate action in combating the pandemic.

Overall, last year CAP provided HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to 16,040 people and coordinated wrap-around support services for 2,502 men, women, and children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS. In addition, 735 people 19,960 hours of their time to help CAP achieve its mission. More information about Cascade AIDS Project is at [www.cascadeaids.org](http://www.cascadeaids.org).

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### **About the HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION LAWS:**

**OAR 581-022-1440** redefines the primers of sexual education for K-12 programs. A comprehensive plan of instruction must "emphasize abstinence, but not to the exclusion of condom and contraceptive education" or "other methods for preventing unintended pregnancy, HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases, and hepatitis B/C." The laws calls for increased sensitivity towards "different gender identities/orientations and gender roles" and requires systematic revision of current sexual education and sex positive programming. Curricula must be "updated biennially in accordance with new scientific information and effective education strategies."

**ORS 336.455**, like OAR 581-022-1440, requires schools' health education programs to include information on "responsible sexual behaviors and hygienic practices that eliminate or reduce the risks of pregnancy, exposure to human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and other infectious or sexually transmitted diseases and shall be designed to allay those fears concerning the risks that are scientifically groundless." Schools must include medically accurate information and instruction about contraceptive and disease reduction measures.

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