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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Information and Free HIV Testing Coupons in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square

PORTLAND, OR (March 9, 2010) – Cascade AIDS Project and the Multnomah County Health Department will commemorate National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Wednesday, March 10th, on Pioneer Courthouse Square. Between 4 pm and 6 pm, prevention and education specialists will hand out free HIV information, coupons for HIV and STD testing, and safer sex supplies. The day has been set aside by the United States Department of Human Services' Office of Women's Health to draw attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS among women and girls.

Awareness of HIV as a health threat has dropped precipitously over the past decade, yet the rate of new infections has remained steady. Today, women account for one of every four new HIV cases in the United States. Of newly infected women, women of color are disproportionately impacted, with 20 African American women infected for every four Latinas and one white woman. Even more alarming, when women are diagnosed with HIV, the disease is more likely to have progressed further toward AIDS than it is in newly diagnosed men.

To help women learn their HIV status and how to protect themselves, Cascade AIDS Project and the Multnomah County Health Department will be handing out information, free condoms and coupons for a free HIV/STD test. This event will take place on Wednesday, March 10, between 4 and 6 PM in Pioneer Courthouse Square. This is the only National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day event taking place in Oregon.

About Cascade AIDS Project

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest community-based provider of HIV services, including housing, education, and advocacy in Oregon and Southwest Washington. CAP is proud to have been named by the *Portland Business Journal* as one of the top ten nonprofits in Oregon in 2009. CAP's mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma. Overall, last year CAP provided HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to 16,040 people and coordinated wrap-around support services for 2,502 people affected and infected with

HIV/AIDS. In addition, nearly 700 people gave 20,000 hours of their time to help CAP achieve its mission. For more information: www.cascadeaids.org

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