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**World AIDS Day – December 1, 2012
 Thirty Years Highlighted with Nationally Recognized Speaker, Testing and More.**

PORTLAND, Ore., November 29, 2011 – the 23rd Annual World AIDS Day (WAD) will take place Thursday, December 1. Thirty years into the epidemic, 25 million dead globally, and 33 million people living with HIV, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to remember those who have passed, honor those engaged in the fight against HIV and AIDS, and mobilize new resources.

“Thirty years into this epidemic, twenty years of living with HIV, this day brings about so many feelings for me. I think about the friends I've lost and the global impact and counter all that anger with hope for the first time in years that there is an end to this,” said Michael Kaplan, Executive Director of Cascade AIDS Project. The hope referenced by Mr. Kaplan speaks to a study released by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in May of 2011 that showed early treatment of HIV can reduce HIV transmission to sexual partners by 96%.

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) has joined with HIV/AIDS programs (focused both locally and internationally) to coordinate a response for World AIDS Day throughout Oregon and SW Washington. **With a list of more than 25 events happening and more being added each day, individuals are invited to check out www.worldaidsdaynw.org.** The website provides a toolkit to help schools, faith-based organizations, or any type of entity organize and register its own event for WAD. In addition, 13 billboards, hundreds of posters and thousands of postcards have been placed to help market the website and raise awareness.

In addition to ensuring expanded HIV testing is available from 10 am to 4 pm at our Pivot offices at 209 SW 4th, CAP is also organizing two major events.

At 5 pm, CAP is excited to host a “What’s New in HIV” Symposium focused on *Treatment as Prevention*. Paul Kawata, Executive Director of the National Minority AIDS Council, will serve as guest lecturer. Mr. Kawata is the only founder of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) still alive today and often thought of as one of the most influential individuals in the domestic AIDS movement. He is a powerful and dynamic speaker that is truly capable of capturing the many moments of joy, sorrow, hope and anger that have defined the AIDS movement. Space is limited so all who plan to attend should RSVP to whatsnew@cascadeaids.org or 503.278.3801. This event is being held at the Mercy Corps Action Center Event Space 28 SW First Ave Portland, OR 97204 RSVP.

Following the Symposium, Hotel Monaco and Vintage Plaza (Kimpton Hotels) host their annual Red Ribbon Party at 7pm to raise awareness and funds in the fight against AIDS. The evening will include drag queen bingo, auction travel packages and specialty cocktails. “With Poison Waters as our host, it’s guaranteed to be a fun atmosphere,” said Craig Thompson, General Manager of the Hotel Monaco Portland. Admission is free and includes complimentary appetizers from Pazzo Ristorante. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to CAP, Oregon’s largest AIDS service organization. Auction and raffle items include weekend stays at hotels across the country, many including airfare or train tickets. Destinations include Miami, New York, San Diego and more. (more)

About Cascade AIDS Project

Incorporated in 1985, Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our mission is ***to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and eliminate HIV/AIDS-related stigma.***

With a staff of 50, and a volunteer corps that includes over 700 individuals providing more than 21,000 hours of service each year, CAP manages a diverse array of programs and an annual budget of \$4.6 million. Fifteen percent of CAP's staff are individuals living with HIV, 25% identify from communities of color, and 30% are bilingual. Our programs serve the broad and diverse set of communities impacted by HIV, from community-specific programs focused on teens, Latinos, the gay community, individuals and families living with HIV, to the thousands of individuals throughout the state who seek education through our AIDS/STD hotline each year. A committed 18-member volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic guidance and oversight to ensure CAP accomplishes its mission and continues to operate with integrity and transparency. www.cascadeaids.org.

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