



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Office of Public Relations

Karen Black, Director

410-767-6490

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World AIDS Day Focuses on “*The Power of Partnerships*” *DHMH to host commemorative event on eve of annual recognition day*

BALTIMORE, MD (November 26, 2007) – ***The Power of Partnerships*** is the focus of World AIDS Day activities hosted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) AIDS Administration. The commemorative event will be held on World AIDS Day Eve on Friday, November 30, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Lyric Opera House located at 140 West Mount Royal Avenue in Baltimore. The event is open to the public.

“Traditionally, World AIDS Day offers us a chance to remember friends and loved ones who lost their battle against HIV and AIDS,” DHMH Secretary John M. Colmers said. “It also gives us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to defeat this dreadful disease.”

The event will feature the first Maryland AIDS Administration Quilt Panel, which has been designed and sewn by AIDS Administration staff as a beginning to a larger Maryland AIDS Quilt. This quilt remembers Marylanders who have died of the disease, including some who worked for the AIDS Administration.

Secretary Colmers and AIDS Administration Director Heather L. Hauck will offer brief remarks to demonstrate support and recognition of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in Maryland and around the world. Local health departments will provide presentations about the impact of the epidemic throughout Maryland.

“This World AIDS Day theme is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the crucial partnerships that contribute to successful HIV prevention, epidemiology, and care initiatives in our state,” Ms. Hauck said.

-- more --

World AIDS Day, page two

DHMH and the AIDS Administration encourage all Marylanders to unite on the December 1 recognition of World AIDS Day and wear a red ribbon to support people who are living with HIV and AIDS, and in memory of all those who have died of the disease. DHMH officials remind Marylanders to get tested so that they can know their HIV status.

Maryland is third among states and territories in new reported cases of AIDS. Worldwide, it is estimated that more than 40 million adults and children were living with HIV at the end of 2006.

For more information about the World AIDS Day commemoration, please contact Carmi Washington-Flood at 410-767-5252.

#