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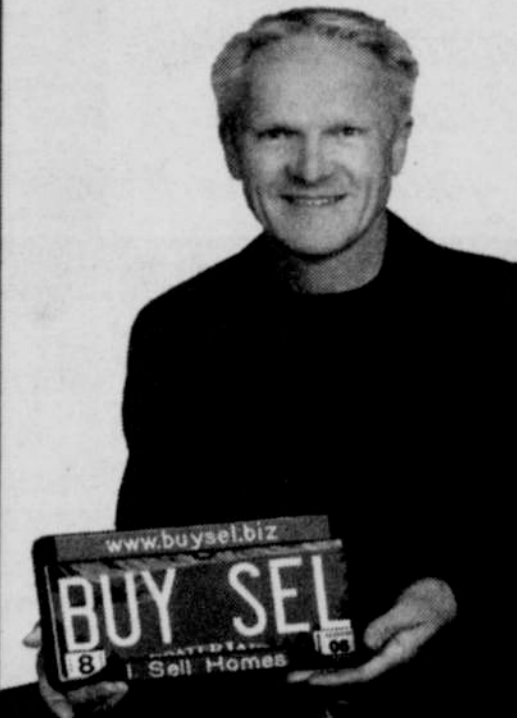
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Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise

Statewide events commemorate World AIDS Day 2005
by Sarah Dougher

According to UNAIDS.org, since June 1981, more than 1.5 million people in the United States have been infected with HIV, including more than 500,000 who have already died.

Annual HIV incidence in the United States is down from its peak of more than 150,000 in the 1980s to approximately 40,000 new infections per year today.

Globally, the number of people living with HIV has risen to close to 40 million, with close to 5 million newly infected in 2004 alone.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's worst-affected region. It holds slightly more than 10 percent of the world's population but is home to more than 60 percent of all people living with HIV and more than three-quarters of all women living with HIV.

According to the latest estimates, \$22 billion will be needed in 2008 to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. Every year World AIDS Day is commemorated Dec. 1 to draw attention to the pandemic.

Red Hot Relief Art Walk at Fifth Avenue Suites

Kimpton Hotels, which owns Fifth Avenue Suites downtown, is doing something no other chain has ever tried: HIV/AIDS fund-raising parties coast to coast on the same night. Each event will have a local flair with a common goal: to raise funds and awareness to fight HIV/AIDS.

Kimpton will hold a "Red Hot Relief Art Walk" on World AIDS Day. Because Dec. 1 is First Thursday, the day downtown galleries open their new exhibitions, artwork will be displayed in the lobby and throughout the hotel. There will be a silent auction featuring donated red artwork, and participants will be encouraged to create their own art with an array of red materials, including decorating a Red Star cookie. The hotel will open up hotel rooms as well and display artwork in more of a "residential" setting. In each room where art is displayed, there will be a different red drink and appetizer—for example, the signature Red Star cocktail with strawberries, Hip Chicks Do Wine's "Wine Bunny Rouge" with a red pepper dish, etc. Ticket price is a suggested donation of \$20. All money raised will be split equally between the National AIDS Fund and Brother to Brother.

The Kimpton Red Ribbon Campaign is part of Kimpton Cares, the chain's philanthropic outreach program. During October and November, it has made a commitment to donate a portion of its proceeds from each reservation that is booked at every hotel to the National AIDS Fund. This will be Kimpton's third year supporting the National AIDS Fund, and its goal is to raise more than \$25,000 (it is already at \$20,000!) while also raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

"Kimpton Hotels' commitment to HIV education and assisting people with the disease is one we take very seriously," said Steve Pinetti, senior vice president of sales and marketing. "We understand that the AIDS crisis is not over and HIV service organizations are

under tremendous pressure to serve an ever-increasing number of people."

Vigil with the Sisters

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's Order of Benevolent Bliss will commemorate World AIDS Day with a candlelight vigil 7 p.m. across from Pioneer Courthouse Square in front of Nordstrom. At 7:30 a walking wake will commence, progressing to the tip of the Burnside Triangle. Candles and red ribbons will be provided for those who need them.

Immediately after the vigil, the Sisters will celebrate life at Silverado, 1217 S.W. Stark St., where a wailing wall will be available, on which guests may post memorials. Rose Empress XVII Alycia Day and Mylar will be on hand to help with this celebration of life.

For more information visit www.benevolentbliss.org.

Music and Education Focus on Sister City Connections

Africa AIDS Response, a program under the Portland-Mutare Sister City Association, and AIDS Action Project Northwest are collaborating for the first time on their annual events for this year's One World AIDS Day Celebration.

The event kicks off with a free educational reception at 4:30 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 5:30 and a dance concert at 7:30 featuring classic soul, Cajun and R & B music performed by Portland's Ural Thomas and the Bonnie Lee Band along with African Gospel Acappella. The concert costs \$10-\$20; a \$65 donation includes an exclusive pre-party dinner and auction.

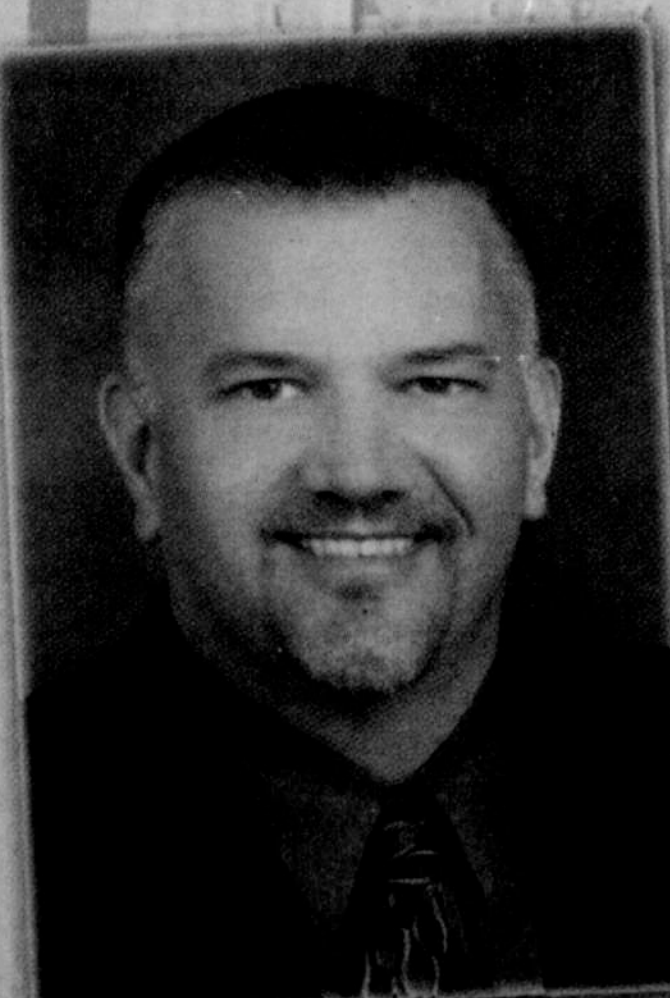
All events will be held at the Tiffany Center, 1410 S.W. Morrison St. Tickets are available at TicketsWest.

The goal of the event is to remind people the epidemic is not over locally or internationally. One World AIDS Day will remember friends and family lost to the epidemic locally and will raise AIDS awareness and funds. All proceeds will support the health clinic that Portland's contributions helped build in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in the past several years in addition to vital medicine, equipment and regional HIV care.

Songs and Candles Keep the Hope Alive

Residents of Southern Oregon are invited to observe World AIDS Day 7 p.m. at Medford Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St.

Participants in this evening of remembrance, dedication and music include OnTrack's Alan Collins AIDS Project, Jackson County Health and Human Services, Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Daedalus Project and community members living with HIV/AIDS. Singers and musicians include Beth Baker; Kurt Bernhardt; Jennifer Schloming; Kendra, Jasmine and Sierra Law; and Women with Wings. Speeches and song will culminate in a moving candlelight ceremony. Admission is free. For more information contact Bill Coyne at 541-772-1777 or 541-282-0281.



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