



PRESS RELEASE

December 1, 2008

New York, NY

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Harlem United Leads the World AIDS Day March “Take the Lead: Keep the Promise, Stop AIDS”

New York, NY (December 1, 2008) – Today, Harlem United Community AIDS Center will come together with the Harlem community to commemorate the 20th World AIDS Day. This year’s theme is “Lead, Empower, Deliver”.

The event will start at 4:00 p.m. from Adam Clayton Powell State Building on 125th Street and 7th Avenue with a candlelight procession to the National Black Theatre at 125th Street and 5th Avenue. Joe Pressley, Harlem United’s Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations, will lead a ceremony to commemorate those lives we have lost along the way in our struggle against HIV/AIDS. Highlights include a keynote speech from community activist, Gloria Searson, client survival story and music. Participants will also be able to view art created by Harlem United clients while enjoying food and refreshments.

As part of the effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, Harlem United will have mobile testing units stationed at the corners of 145th Street and Lenox Avenue, and at 145th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard. The service is free and all testing results are kept confidential.

“For over 20 years, Harlem United has been at the forefront combating HIV/AIDS. Our clients have helped us grow and evolve. Some of them have come and gone, but their spirits of hope, health and healing will always stay with us as we continue to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS, empower our clients and deliver the care they need.” Patrick J. McGovern, CEO and President, Harlem United.

“World AIDS Day is a day for awareness and a day of remembrance for loved ones and others who did not make it through our struggle. As a former client of Harlem United, I was lucky to receive care from its caring, professional and passionate staff, who has seen me through a transformational recovery from depression and substance use. I now work as an outreach worker with Harlem United and am fully dedicated to helping those living with HIV/AIDS. It’s not over till it’s over. Let’s keep the promise and stop AIDS.” Carmen Collazo, former Harlem United client and HIV/AIDS activist.

Since opening its doors in 1988, Harlem United has served over 20,000 people in the diverse communities of Upper Manhattan, South Bronx and Brooklyn, offering housing, healthcare, social services and HIV prevention services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS or at risk for infection.

For more information on Harlem United, go to www.harlemunited.org.