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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROJECT WAVE WESTCHESTER TO LAUNCH NEW FACEBOOK PAGE
Residents can access HIV prevention videos and education, learn about
upcoming health events and connect with community members

Looking for a place to get an HIV test? Need to find local HIV/AIDS resources and prevention education? Want to link up with agencies that provide HIV/AIDS medical or support services? Thanks to the creation of a new Project WAVE Westchester Facebook page, residents can easily access the latest news and information from Westchester's HIV service providers right on Facebook.

Project WAVE Westchester, a partnership of public and private agencies that works to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic, will launch its new Facebook page at a community reception to be held on **Monday June 1 at 1 p.m. at Hudson River Health Care Inc., Founders Training Room, 1037 Main Street in Peekskill.**

"I think it's great that Project WAVE is using this popular website to provide valuable information about HIV/AIDS services to Westchester residents," said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Westchester County Health Commissioner. "Many people spend a lot of time on these social networking websites, and this is another way for the public health community to reach out to residents and help them get the services, support and resources they need. It also enables residents to find others who share their interests and concerns."

Excluding New York City, Westchester County has the second highest AIDS case rate and the third highest rate of HIV infection among all other counties statewide. Westchester also has the most people living with HIV and AIDS in the state outside of New York City.

Project WAVE Westchester is a unique partnership of community groups and medical centers that provide HIV services and promote the importance of HIV prevention, counseling, testing and early access to care, especially to communities most affected by HIV/AIDS. This initiative, which began on June 27, 2002 as

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an offshoot of the Project WAVE national effort, is a collaborative endeavor of the New York State Department of Health, the Westchester County Department of Health, community groups, neighborhood health centers and hospitals.

To make it easier for residents to get tested, Project WAVE and its partners bring rapid HIV testing to parks, health fairs, festivals, fitness centers, hair salons, churches, community centers, supermarket parking lots and a variety of other non-traditional settings throughout the county. The new Facebook page will contain information on upcoming events that include HIV testing sites. Residents will also be able to access HIV prevention videos and Project WAVE PSAs featuring celebrities reinforcing the importance of HIV testing.

To visit Project WAVE Westchester's Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com and sign up for a free Facebook account. Once you become a Facebook member, you can find Project WAVE Westchester's page by inserting "Project Wave" into the search function. Information about HIV & AIDS can also be found on the Health Department's website at www.westchestergov.com/health.