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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2001

**WESTCHESTER HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO SPEAK AT
MOUNT VERNON WORLD AIDS DAY LUNCHEON**

Westchester County Health Commissioner Joshua Lipsman, M.D., M.P.H., will be a featured speaker at the Mt. Vernon Task Force on AIDS and the Mt. Vernon Hospital's Annual World AIDS Day Luncheon on Friday, November 30th, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Grace Baptist Church, 52 South Sixth Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York. This year marks the 20th observance of World AIDS Day nationwide.

Commissioner Lipsman will discuss the current state of the AIDS crisis in Westchester County today. "The AIDS epidemic is real. It is here in Westchester and it does not discriminate," said Dr. Lipsman. "Since 1982, when we began keeping track of AIDS cases, there have been 3,570 AIDS cases reported in Westchester County residents. I am always grateful for the opportunity to raise the awareness level concerning this serious disease and for the chance to participate in observances such as this one," he added.

In addition to Dr. Lipsman, Kristine Gebbie, DrPH, R.N., of Columbia University's School of Nursing, Center for Health Policy will speak on HIV/AIDS...Are We Really Listening? Anyone interested in attending this event should contact Larry Hilton, Urban League of Westchester County, at (914) 667-1010. For additional World AIDS Day observances taking place throughout Westchester County, see the attached calendar of events.

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Tri-County Region

World AIDS Day Calendar of Events

November 28th – December 1st, 2001



“An estimated 36.1 million people are living with HIV. Figures like these make it seem like AIDS is winning. But all over the world, people like you are making a difference.”

<worldAIDSday.org>

Westchester County

Mount Vernon:

- Mt. Vernon Hospital and the Mt. Vernon Task Force on AIDS will observe World AIDS Day at their **Annual World AIDS Day Luncheon** on Friday, November 30th, 2001, at the Grace Baptist Church, 52 S. Sixth Ave, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., from 1-3 p.m. Guest speakers include Joshua Lipsman, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Health and Kristine Gebbie, DrPH, R.N., of Columbia University’s School of Nursing, Center for Health Policy – Dr. Gebbie will speak on **HIV/AIDS...Are We Really Listening?** [RSVP: Larry Hilton, Urban League of Westchester County, (914) 667-1010.]
- The Interfaith Black/Latino HIV/AIDS Network of Ujamaa Community Development and the Health and Wholeness Ministry of Grace Baptist Church will host a World AIDS Day event, **A Celebration of Love**, Saturday, December 1st, 6-8 p.m., at the Grace Baptist Church, 52 S. Sixth Ave., Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Youth and HIV/AIDS is the theme of the evening. The Children’s Choir of Grace Baptist Church will be the featured artist. A reception and HIV/AIDS update for clergy is scheduled prior to the event at 5 p.m. [Contact: Rev. Barbara J. Evans or Rev. Vincent Batista, Ujamaa Community Development Corp., (914) 633-7458.]

Yonkers:

Yonkers HIV/AIDS Providers Task Force is coordinating the following World AIDS Day events:

- **World AIDS Day Proclamation Ceremony**, Friday, November 30th, 1-2:30, YWCA, 87 South Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y. Music provided by the Lincoln High School choir. [Contact: Karen Tumelty, Greyston Foundation, (914) 376-3900.]
- **Interfaith Vigil of Remembrance and Hope**, Friday, November 30th, starts at 3:45, St. John’s Episcopal Church at Getty Square, 1 Hudson Street, Yonkers, N.Y. [Contact: Christine Robb, The Sharing Community, (914) 963-2626.]

- **Quilt Display**, Friday, November 30th, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m., St. John's Church at Getty Square, 1 Hudson Street, Yonkers, N.Y. Explorers' cadets will be guarding the panels. [Contact: Christine Robb, The Sharing Community, (914) 963-2626.]
- **South African Quilt Display**, (11/30 from 12-6 p.m., 12/1 from 1-3 p.m.), Nepperhan Community Center, 345 Warburton, Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y. [Contact: Christine Robb, The Sharing Community, (914) 963-2626.]
- **Youth Rally**, Friday, November 30th, 3-8 p.m., Yonkers Police Athletic League, 127 North Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y. To participate in this event attendees will need to respond to a ten-question HIV/AIDS "test" (a copy of the test may be obtained at Vision Quest Record Store, 18 Main Street, Yonkers – results must be returned by November 23rd). Scheduled artists include: Jaheim, Jimmy Corzier, India Ire, Fat Joe, Prophet Jones, Dustin, Jada Kiss, Stylep P, Grand Puba, and Keisha. [Contact: Dwight Fuller, Vision Quest Music, (914) 968-2441.]

Peekskill:

Hudson River Health Care Center is coordinating the following World AIDS Day events on Friday, November 30th. [Contact: Amy Sucich, Hudson River Health Care Center, (914) 734-8763.]

- **Interfaith Service**, United Methodist Church, 1040 Main Street, 12 noon.
- **World AIDS Day Youth Activities**: Peekskill Youth Bureau, 16 N. Broad Street, 3-6 p.m. Discussion, Presentations, and Art Projects.
- Theater Performance: **The Landlord Is My Shepherd**, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 137 No. Division Street, 5 p.m., encore performance at 6:45 p.m.
- **Candlelight Vigil**, From Pugsley Park to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 6:30 p.m. (in case of inclement weather gather at the Hudson River Health Care Center, 1037 Main Street).
- **Interfaith Service**, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 137 No. Division Street, 7:15 p.m.
- World AIDS Day **HIV/AIDS Information Table** will be set up at the Peekskill Field Library, 4 Nelson Avenue, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

World AIDS Day Observance is a collaborative project of the Hudson River Health Care Centers, St. Peter's Outreach/Church, PAPA, Peekskill Youth Bureau, Peekskill City School District, Peekskill CAP, Putnam ARCS, Jan Peek Shelter, Peekskill Field Library, Peekskill Community Policing Unit, Urban League of Westchester, Montrose V.A., United Methodist Church, Park Street AME Zion Church and Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church.

White Plains:

- A **World AIDS Day Memorial** will be held on Saturday, December 1st, from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Slater Community Center, 2 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. A tree lighting ceremony and HIV/AIDS educational update are part of the remembrance service. [Contact: Charlie Booth, Slater Community Center, (914) 948-6211.]
- A **Spiritual Service Commemorating World AIDS Day** will be conducted on Friday, November 30th, 2001, 3:30 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church, 1 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. [Contact: Charlie Booth, Slater Community Center (914) 948-6211 or the Bethel Baptist Church, (914) 428-6963.]

Valhalla:

The Westchester Medical Center will be observing the **20th Year of the AIDS Pandemic** on November 30th, 2001, at the Macy Pavilion, Main Chapel, 95 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, N.Y. (The chapel is located next to the Emergency Room/Burn Center.) [Contact Br. Richard John Lorino BSG, Chaplin, Westchester Medical Center, (914) 493-1292.]

- 9:30 a.m. **Opening of the Quilts** – a quilt opening ceremony with the reading of the names of those who have died due to AIDS-related causes while at the Center -- names will be continually read through out the day.

- 10– 2:30 p.m. A **World AIDS Day HIV/AIDS Information Table** will be staffed in the medical center’s main lobby – 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold to benefit the Agape Fund* (\$1) along with red carnations for an AIDS ribbon wreath (\$2) – free red AIDS ribbons will be distributed.
- 12:00 noon **Roman Catholic Mass** will be said in the Main Chapel, the mass will be celebrated in memory of all who have died of AIDS.
- 1:00 p.m. **Islamic Juma Service** will be held in the Main Chapel.
- 2:30 p.m. **AIDS Care Center Service of Remembrance** will be conducted in the Main Chapel.
- 5:00 p.m. **Closing of the Quilts** will be conducted in the Main Chapel – the quilt panels will be taken down in a solemn, silent ceremony to be returned to the NAMES Project of NYC.

*The Agape Fund, Inc., a ministry of emergency and pastoral assistance for People Living with HIV and AIDS is administered by Gregorian Friars and sponsored by St. John’s Church, South Salem, N.Y. The fund was established in 1992 to assist people living with HIV/AIDS. In keeping with its purpose, the fund has provided emergency funding without the restrictions and red tape of social service agencies to persons living with HIV/AIDS throughout the Hudson Valley region, as well as to individuals living in New York City, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Thousands have been helped to live with dignity and with a sense of being loved through the Fund’s financial assistance and spiritual support.

Dobbs Ferry:

- A Teen Peer Leadership Forum, **Moving on...Teens in Transition from High School to College**, a World AIDS Day event, sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Health, the Westchester County AIDS Advisory Council and Family Services of Westchester County – Youth Council, will be conducted on Wednesday, December 5th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Mercy College, Mercy Hall, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, New York. This forum is for high school Juniors and Seniors. Issues to be addressed include “Understanding Diversity,” “Identifying and Dealing with Risky Adolescent Behaviors,” and “College Life.” Speakers include Joshua Lipsman, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Health. [Pre-Registration required on or before Friday, November 30th. For further information or to register contact Terry Schlanger at the Westchester County Department of Health, (914) 813-5011.]

Putnam County

Cold Spring:

- The Putnam AIDS Task Force will host a **World AIDS Day “20 Years – Enough -- A Retrospective Look at AIDS in U.S.”** open-house Saturday, December 1, 2001, from 1-4 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Orchard Street on SR301 (3 blocks East of 9D), in Cold Springs, N.Y. [Contact: Sue Corthell (845) 278-4511, Roy Volpe (845) 878-4127, Putnam County Department of Health (845) 278-6558 x 2175.]

Pawling:

- A Dress Rehearsal of the **NYC Gay Men’s Chorus’ Holiday Concert**, Sunday, December 2nd, 1 p.m. (cash wine bar/refreshments) with concert to follow, Holiday Hills YMCA, Lakeside Drive (1 mile north of Pawling center on Charles Coleman Blvd.) Pawling, N.Y. [Contact: Sue Corthell (845) 278-4511.]

Rockland County

Pomona:

- The Rockland County Department of Health will host a ***Service of Hope and Remembrance***, on Friday, November 30th, at 10 a.m., at the Robert L. Yeager Health Center, Chapel, Building A, 50 Sanatorium Road, Pomona, N.Y. [Contact: Scott Sullam, Rockland Co. Dept. of Health, (845) 364-2596.]

Nyack:

- Grace Episcopal Church in conjunction with the Rockland County Department of Health and AIDS Related Community Services of Rockland County, will host a World AIDS Day event, ***A Celebration of Hope and Healing***, Saturday, December 1st, at 4 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, N.Y. [Contact: Scott Sullam, Rockland Co. Dept. of Health, (845) 364-2596; Ellen Devlin, ARCS (Rockland County), (845) 356-0570 or Grace Episcopal Church, (845) 358-1297.]

Through performed arts, music and liturgies, the World AIDS Day Celebration at Grace Episcopal Church will bring together an Interfaith, Multiethnic Congregation of Human Beings touched by the presence of HIV/AIDS in their lives and communities.

Lower Hudson Valley -- World AIDS Events

Dutchess County:

- ***Window Display***, through Monday, December 3rd, 7-8 p.m., Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie. [Contact: Bretta Martin, (845) 486-0200.]
- ***Candlelight Ceremony & Names Reading***, Saturday, December 1st, 7-9 p.m., Home Unity Center, 89 Market Street, Poughkeepsie. Reception to follow. [Contact: Tanya Silverstein, (845) 486-8000.]
- ***World AIDS Day Events at Dutchess Community College***, 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie. ***“Living with AIDS,”*** a series of guest speakers will discuss the topic in the Ritz Lounge at Dutchess Hall on Friday, November 29th, at 12:30 p.m. ***“Voices of AIDS: Poems and Play Readings,”*** will be presented at the Dutchess Theatre on Saturday, December 1st, beginning at 12:00 noon. [For further information Contact: Dutchess Community College, Office of Student Services, (845) 431-8000.]

Ulster County:

- ***World AIDS Day Community Outreach*** will be conducted by the AIDS Related Community Services Center of Ulster County – outreach efforts will take place on Friday, November 30th, from 10:00-3:00 on the campus of SUNY New Paltz (Student Union Building), 75 South Manheim Blvd., New Paltz. [Contact: Mary Beth Davis-Steyer at ARCS (Ulster County), (845)-339-3281, or John Hoffman at the AIDS Reach Health Project, Family of Woodstock, (845) 331-7080.]

Orange County:

- **Youth-Oriented Workshops and Speakers**, coordinated by the Orange County Youth Bureau, Saturday, December 1st, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Orange County Community College (Newburg Extension), 1 Washington Center, Newburg. [Contact: Orange County Youth Bureau, (845) 562-2454.]
- **March and Commemoration Ceremony** coordinated by ARCS (Orange County) will be held on Saturday, December 1st beginning at 2:00 p.m. with a march (gather at Broadway and Johnston Streets) to be followed by a Naming Ceremony and Healing Circle at the Newburg Free Library, 124 Grant Street, Newburg. [For further information contact: Charles Grant, ARCS (Orange County), (845) 562-5005 or Pat Lewis at the Newburg Free Library, (945) 561-2497.]
- **Youth of Faith Standing Against HIV/AIDS** a workshop coordinated by the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS and ARCS (Orange County) will be held on Saturday, December 1st, from 9:30-1:30 at the Baptist Temple Church 711 Williams Street, Newburgh. [Contact: Charles Grant at ARCS (Orange County), (845) 562-5005.]

Sullivan County:

- A **World AIDS Day HIV/AIDS Information Session**, coordinated by ARCS (Sullivan County) will be held on Wednesday, November 28th, from 10:00-3:00 at the Sullivan County Community College, Route 52 (Exit 100 from SR17) Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. (845) 436-3676. [Contact: Lillian Ortiz at ARCS (Sullivan County), (845) 295-0094.]
- **World AIDS Day Interfaith Service** will be held on Saturday, December 1st at 6 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 288 Broadway, Monticello, N.Y. [Contact: Thelma McGuyer, Sullivan County Division of Health and Family Services, (845) 292-0100 x 2329.]

World AIDS Day Scheduled Events (New York City – Partial Listing)

UNAIDS:

- **UNAIDS Town Hall Meeting** will focus on the World AIDS Campaign theme, **I care...Do you?** focusing on the power of the individual to make a difference in the fight against AIDS. The town hall meeting will be held at the U.N. Secretariat in New York on Friday, November 30th, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

amfAR:

- **AmfAR: World AIDS Day 2001: NASDAQ and Business Fight HIV/AIDS.** On Friday, November 30th, the NASDAQ stock exchange will join amfAR in focusing public attention on the growing global pandemic and urging business leaders to join the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Dancers Responding to AIDS:

- **The Remember Project**, a 12-hour dance celebration benefiting **Dancers Responding to AIDS**, is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st, Noon-Midnight, at St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery, 131 East 10th St. at 2nd Avenue, NYC. [For ticket information call DRA (212) 840-0770.]

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Community Center:

- **Out of Darkness**, 10th Annual Rally & Candlelight March, Saturday, December 1st, 4:00- 7:15, LGBT Community Center, 208 W. 13th St., New York, N.Y. Reception & Panel Dedication (4:00-5:00), “Out of Darkness” Program (5:00-7:15) with eight featured speakers, Candlelight March to Union Square (7:15-9). [Contact Information: AREA, (212) 580-7668) or LGBT Center, (212) 620-7310.]

Coordinated by The American Run for the End of AIDS (AREA), The NAMES Project NYC, The LGBT Community Center, HIV Arts Network, Visual AIDS’ Night Without Light, Housing Works 24-Hour Memorial Vigil. Sponsored by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The Keith Haring Foundation.

Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC):

- Beginning Wednesday, November 28th – **First Panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt** – In partnership with the NAMES Project/New York City, the first panel ever made, #0001, will be on display in the lobby of GMHC, 119 W. 24th St., New York City, N.Y. As of January 2001, there are 42,960 panels made in dedication to people who have died of AIDS.
- Friday, November 30th, 4– 5 p.m., 4th floor – **A Sacred Space** – A gathering of celebration, renewal and remembrance for those living with and/or impacted by HIV/AIDS. Music, readings and guest speakers will be featured.
- Beginning Friday, November 30th, GMHC, 4th floor – **20 Years: It’s Closer Than You Think** – GMHC in partnership with Visual AIDS presents a traveling exhibition of the Visual AIDS Archive Project featuring works of artists with HIV/AIDS. A reception will also be held on from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, November 30th.
- Saturday, December 1st, 11:30-2 p.m., St. Vincent’s Hospital, 170 W. 12th St., 10th floor, Cronin Auditorium – **Between Crisis and Hope Are Volunteers** – Volunteers and staff of AIDS service organizations, hospitals, clinics, and community-based organizations will share their experiences of making a difference in times of crisis. A special program will be presented with music and guest speakers including volunteers who have served throughout two decades of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Refreshments will be served.
- Saturday, December 1st, 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. – **Jackson Heights Outreach** – *Proyecto PAPI* (an HIV prevention program for Latino gay and bisexual men) will be conducting outreach in the Latino gay bars and a sauna in Queens.
- Saturday, December 1st, evening hours – **Street Outreach** – The House of Latex Project (an HIV prevention program) will be conducting street outreach to young people of color who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. On Friday, December 7th, the House of Latex Project will be participating in a ball in Northern New Jersey, sponsored by Project Fire and the Coalition for H.O.P.E.

For further information about GMHC events contact GMHC at (212) 367-1016.

Housing Works:

- **World AIDS Day Epic 24-Hour “Reading of the Names” Vigil**, Saturday, December 1st starting at Midnight and ending 24 hours later, Harlem State Office Building Plaza, 163 West 125th Street (Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.), New York City. “Every day more people are infected. And every day more services are taken away. Let the world hear the names behind the numbers.” [Contact: To sign-up to read names, to submit names to be read, or for more information contact Delia Yarrow at (212) 966-0466 x 1120.]

World AIDS Day Broadcasts and Webcasts

MTV:

- ***Staying Alive 3***, a half-hour special profiling young people from around the world infected with or affected by HIV and AIDS. To air Saturday, December 1st, 2001 (consult local listings for airtime).

BET:

- ***“HIV/AIDS and the African American,”*** a special edition of ***Life Track*** profiling how HIV/AIDS has touched the daily lives of African Americans. To air on Wednesday, November 28th, 2001, from 8-9 p.m. EST.
- BET World AIDS Day Special: ***“Watch Yourself 2,”*** a special live ***106th and Park*** that will focus on HIV/AIDS prevention strategies for young people and answering their questions about safer sex. To air Friday, November 30, 2001, from 6-7:30 p.m. EST.