



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 17, 2010**

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## **MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA PROCLAIMS DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AS WORLD AIDS DAY IN LOS ANGELES**

*Mayor seeks to involve more Angelenos in the City's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to celebrate the medical advancements and organizations helping residents live with HIV/AIDS.*

Los Angeles, CA (November 17, 2010). Of the 1.2 million Americans living with HIV/AIDS today, approximately 30,000 live in the City of Los Angeles. The City's diverse HIV prevention, testing, care and support programs, as well as the City's AIDS research institutions, serve one of the largest HIV patient population in the United States. To encourage more Angelenos to become involved in the fight against AIDS, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will proclaim December 1<sup>st</sup> as World AIDS Day in Los Angeles at a press conference scheduled for 11:00 am PST on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 in The Mixing Room of the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Dr. Michael Gottlieb, who first recognized AIDS as a new disease in L.A. in 1981, will join the Mayor. Grammy-winner and music legend, Chaka Khan, among other celebrities, will also join the Mayor to celebrate the medical advancements and organizations helping City residents live with HIV/AIDS.

Los Angeles is where AIDS was first recognized as a new disease, and Los Angeles will be where a cure and vaccine are developed. Since the beginning of the epidemic, over 60,000 local residents have been diagnosed with AIDS, and approximately half have died. Each year, more local residents become infected with HIV, and still others die of the disease. While current anti-HIV treatments—some developed by local research institutions—can slow the progression of disease, current therapies do not cure AIDS. Women of color—including many with small children—remain one of the fastest growing HIV patient populations in Los Angeles.

At the press conference organized by the City's AIDS Coordinator, AIDS Research Alliance, and Until There's A Cure Foundation, Mayor Villaraigosa will urge all residents in every community across Los Angeles to be tested for HIV, and to help local HIV prevention, testing, care support, and AIDS research programs with donations of time or tax-deductible gifts. These agencies include community-based organizations providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS; research facilities seeking a cure and a vaccine; and grassroots programs that develop and implement HIV/AIDS prevention programs across the City of Los Angeles.

***MORE.... MORE.... MORE...***

The United Nations (UNAIDS) established December 1<sup>st</sup> as World AIDS Day in 1988 to raise awareness and to remind community leaders that millions of people worldwide are infected with HIV. The AIDS epidemic continues to kill thousands of men, women and children every year. The Mayor hopes his call to action will save lives and help all of the nonprofit organizations advancing HIV prevention, testing, care, support, and HIV/AIDS research in Los Angeles.

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*About City of Los Angeles, AIDS Coordinator's Office*

The City of Los Angeles, AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO), established in 1989, is committed to developing and supporting programs and policies that prevent transmission of the HIV virus and to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS in the City of Los Angeles. The ACO oversees and implements the City's AIDS policies, manages contracts with community-based organizations to provide services to City residents, provides technical assistance to aid organizations in implementing City contracts, develops HIV/AIDS-related media campaigns, and conducts research to improve HIV prevention education outcomes.

*About AIDS Research Alliance of America*

AIDS Research Alliance is the nation's only independent, not-for-profit HIV research organization licensed by the National Institutes of Health to develop an anti-HIV drug. AIDS Research Alliance helped to develop many of today's existing anti-HIV drugs, and has been involved in every major HIV vaccine trial conducted in the U.S. Today in downtown Los Angeles, AIDS Research Alliance conducts research seeking an HIV vaccine and a cure for AIDS. Much of its cure-focused research depends on donations from a concerned public.

*About Until There's A Cure Foundation*

Until There's A Cure Foundation is a national organization dedicated to eradicating HIV/AIDS by raising awareness and funds to combat the pandemic. Using income from the sale of *The Bracelet* and other quality products, Until There's A Cure Foundation is committed to funding innovative programs that promote AIDS awareness and HIV prevention education, providing financial support for care services for those living with AIDS, and actively supporting AIDS vaccine research which offers the best hope for reducing the spread of HIV.