



AIDS Calgary reflects and responds to World AIDS Day

For Immediate Release – November 19, 2008

Calgary, AB – December 1, 2009 marks the 21st anniversary of World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the impact HIV has in our communities. This year's global theme centres on universal access and human rights. People living with HIV have the right to health, safety, basic needs and a good quality of life.

This World AIDS Day, AIDS Calgary is focused on providing people living with HIV with access to basic needs through our Holiday Hamper program. Living with HIV/AIDS can mean a lot of things: poverty and homelessness, or struggling to keep a roof over your head. For some, it means not being able to access a nice meal for their holiday dinner.

Our holiday hampers give people living with HIV in Calgary the means to obtain a wholesome, hearty holiday dinner as well as other supplies to fulfill their winter needs. Studies have shown the positive impact that good nutrition can have for people living with HIV. Unfortunately, not all of our clients are able to regularly access healthy, nutritious meals.

Our Holiday Hamper program is vital for our clients. The program helps lift spirits and alleviates the holiday stress for those Calgarians living with HIV/AIDS, who also struggle financially.

World AIDS Day creates an opportunity to increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS and focuses attention on what it means to live with HIV. AIDS Calgary continues to advocate for the human rights of people living with HIV as well as providing HIV education, prevention and support services for people living with, at-risk for, and affected by HIV/AIDS.

- 30 -

AIDS Calgary is a local not-for-profit AIDS service organization that offers support services to individuals who are at-risk for, infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and provides prevention and education throughout the Calgary region. For more information, please contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or online at www.aidscalgary.org.

For more information, please contact:

Amanda Chapman, Communications Analyst
AIDS Calgary Awareness Association
(403) 508-2500 ext. 120
achapman@aidscalgary.org