



December 15, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

Santas Needed to Make Holidays Jolly

AIDS Calgary calls for support of their Holiday Hamper Program

Calgary, Alberta – This holiday season, AIDS Calgary is well on its way to making the holidays brighter for Calgarians that are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Each year, AIDS Calgary helps by providing individuals and families with a holiday hamper of food and personal items, like shampoo and toothpaste, to make sure they have something to fill their stocking...or in some cases to make sure they even have stockings at all.

“The holiday hampers provide my family, especially my two boys, with a great holiday dinner and simple luxuries we otherwise wouldn’t necessarily be able to provide them,” said Monica, Client, AIDS Calgary. “I have been living with HIV for over 10 years, and unfortunately there are many hurdles for me to climb. Not only is keeping healthy important, but keeping a roof over my kids’ heads and clothes on their back can be challenging when dealing with HIV-related discrimination on a regular basis.”

Donating to the Holiday Hamper Program is as easy as going online, at www.aidscalgary.org. AIDS Calgary also invites people to come down to our office, **200, 1509 Centre Street South**, to see some of our programs in action, and to drop off monetary donations or any holiday hamper items. Donations will be accepted until Dec 19th, 2005.

“We are half-way to our goal for our annual Holiday Hamper Program,” said Susan Cress, Executive Director, AIDS Calgary. “Donations are still needed to support our hampers, and I encourage the community to venture outside their regular holiday activities, and begin a new holiday tradition this year of giving comfort and joy.”

AIDS Calgary’s Holiday Hamper Program still needs:

- Personal care items: disposable razors, soap, laundry detergent etc.
- Gift certificates to fun: movie passes, City of Calgary recreational activities etc.
- Non-perishable food items: canned fruit, meats and vegetables.

AIDS Calgary will be assembling the hampers in our office on December 19th and 20th, and distributing the hampers in the community on December 21st and 22nd. To find out more about the Holiday Hamper Program, call (403) 508-2500.

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For more information:

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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 check out our website at www.aidscalgary.org.