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AIDS
TASK
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Valentine's Day Marks CATF's 25th Anniversary

Columbus, Ohio – Since 1984, the Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) has been providing care and prevention services for those living with HIV in the Central Ohio area. This Valentine's Day marks the 25th anniversary of CATF and the organized efforts to provide caring and compassionate services to those living with HIV.

In the past 25 years, CATF provided education, outreach, and testing to over 750,000 individuals. Throughout that time, the agency has served over 4,000 individuals living with HIV, connecting them with medical care, medication assistance, housing assistance, and mental health treatment.

"Those of us who have worked in HIV services over the years hoped not to be needed in 2009," said Peggy Anderson, interim president and CEO. "The reality is that until there is a cure, many individuals living with HIV still need our services, and until there is a vaccine, the community needs our prevention and testing efforts.

"With a staff of 30 employees and a significant number of volunteers, we continue to be one of the leading HIV/AIDS service organizations in the state of Ohio. And we have been recognized by city and state government offices as a symbol of pride for public service," added Anderson.

Anderson continued, "The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that more than one million Americans are living with HIV. More than a quarter of them do not know they are infected. The CDC also estimates that more than 56,000 Americans contract HIV every year. The numbers make HIV prevention a national health priority. And CATF is committed to continue service to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS."

CATF is a full-service, community-based, non-profit AIDS Service Organization providing comprehensive care services, educational programs, and HIV testing. CATF primarily serves the seven counties making up the Central Ohio region; however, some of its programs serve central eastern Ohio. CATF is a United Way member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS Service Organizations in the country.

CATF's mission is to fight the spread of HIV, reduce its transmission, stigma, and the resulting discrimination through education and awareness, and provide quality services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS.

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