

## Press Release July 23, 2009

Press Contacts:

Chris Adams, Bascom & Adams: 614-614-863-1321

614-214-3634 (cell)

Peggy Anderson, Columbus AIDS Task Force: 614-340-6691



## AIDSWALK HELPS CENTRAL OHIO ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE LIFESAVING WORK IN TOUGH TIMES

***Right Here In the United States, Every 9 ½ Minutes Someone's Brother, Mother, Sister, Father, Or Neighbor Is Infected With HIV.***

COLUMBUS, OHIO (July 23, 2009) – Hundreds of central Ohio participants will lace-up for the largest HIV/AIDS awareness event in Franklin County. The 18th Annual AIDSWALK CENTRAL OHIO, hosted by the Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) and sponsored by The Ohio State University Medical Center, takes place Saturday, July 25, 2009 at the Franklin Park Conservatory. The Walk begins at 8:30 am with registration at 7:30 am. Veterans and newcomers alike will make the 1-mile trek through Franklin Park Conservatory to raise critically needed funds to support CATF and eight other central Ohio area HIV/AIDS partner organizations. 18th Annual AIDSWALK CENTRAL OHIO hosted by the Columbus Task Force and sponsored by The Ohio State University Medical Center. **FREE** autograph session by some of Columbus' finest former Buckeyes, including Antonio Smith, Maurice Hall, Dionte Johnson, and others, Kids station, entertainment and food To register on-line as an individual, join a team, or make a donation go to [www.aidswalkcentralohio.com](http://www.aidswalkcentralohio.com) or contact Anna Wuerth at 614-340-6754 for additional information.

-MORE-

“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. “Unfortunately, the sad reality is that until there is a cure, many individuals living with HIV/AIDS still need our services, and until there is a vaccine, the community needs our HIV/AIDS education, training prevention, and testing efforts”.

According to the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) every 9 ½ minutes another person in America becomes infected with HIV. During these tough economic times CATF and its partner agencies are facing greater demand for services at a time when fewer resources are available. AIDSWALK CENTRAL OHIO is not only a fundraiser to help address a funding shortage, but also a community-building event.

“Each year, AIDSWALK brings together hundreds of committed people, including elected officials, civic-minded leaders, community organizations, and those who walk on behalf of loved ones,” added Anderson. “AIDSWALK CENTRAL OHIO 2009 will help raise funds for central Ohio HIV/AIDS service organizations to continue the fight against AIDS and refocus the community’s attention by reminding all of us about the significant health threat of HIV in our community”.

Commemorating 25 years of refusing to accept that HIV transmission is inevitable, Columbus AIDS Task Force (CATF) is a full-service, community-based, non-profit AIDS service organization providing comprehensive care services, educational programs, and HIV testing. The agency 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 of Central Ohio member agency and is nationally recognized as one of the top AIDS service organizations in the country.

CATF’s mission is to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS through awareness, advocacy, and care. To learn more about CATF or to make a donation, please go to [www.catf.net](http://www.catf.net) or call us at 614-340-6691.

###