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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORLD AIDS DAY – DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—AIDS has become the leading cause of death for women aged 25-44 years and this year's focus for World AIDS Day, December 1, 2004 is Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS.

“Women in Palm Beach County now account for about 30% of the total AIDS cases and each year that number seems to be growing.” Commented Linda Warren an AIDS Health Educator with the Palm Beach County Health Department. “For World AIDS day we are trying to generate a greater awareness among women that this is no longer a disease only in the male community.”

On December 2, from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM there will be a women's Health Conference at the Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth Campus. Throughout the day attendees will be able to discuss with health professionals the prevention methods for diseases like HIV/AIDS, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Cancer and Lupus.

On December 1, numerous other organizations like Compass are sponsoring a candle light vigil, Glades Health Initiative will be doing free HIV counseling and testing and the Children's Case Management Organization, Inc. is offering free HIV testing for Women and Girls. The World AIDS activities will conclude December 4, in West Palm Beach with the AIDS Walk 2004 sponsored by the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County.

Information on the Women's Health Conference can be obtained by calling 561-804-9441 ext. 103.

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