



SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY **ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY PROGRAM TO BE HELD FRIDAY**

SHELBY COUNTY, TN –The Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) and community partners will observe World AIDS Day on Friday, Dec. 1st.

World AIDS Day, recognized globally since 1988, is a worldwide effort to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The global health day is an opportunity to promote testing, prevention, and treatment as well as to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS.

In 2016, the Shelby County rate of residents living with HIV was 690.9 per 100,000 people, which is **almost three times higher than the rate in Tennessee** and **two times higher than the rate in United States**. In addition, about 80% of people living with HIV in Shelby County, TN in 2016 are African-Americans.

Sustained, coordinated efforts are needed to decrease the impact of HIV infection locally. SCHD chose to continue 2016's theme for World AIDS Day 2017: "**Focus, Partner, Achieve an AIDS-Free Generation,**" concentrating on ways to accelerate progress toward ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat.

SCHD will host its annual World AIDS Day Program on Friday, Dec. 1. The event will include an awards ceremony recognizing the recipients of the Light of Hope Award, presented to a business, individual and organization who have consistently exhibited a strong desire to assist and/or support HIV/AIDS care, education and prevention efforts in Shelby County.

WHAT: Annual World AIDS Day Program

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 1
2:00 pm

WHERE: Melrose High
2870 Deadrick Avenue
Memphis, TN 38114

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Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

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