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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIV/AIDS NETWORK 2012: RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES IN THE MID-SOUTH
Memphis TGA Ryan White Program, Community Organizations To Address Region's
HIV/AIDS Issues

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – In response to the Mid-South's HIV/AIDS public health crisis, the Memphis TGA Ryan White Program and the Tennessee AIDS Education and Training Center are hosting a community wide conference on HIV/AIDS. The two-day conference, HIV/AIDS Network 2012: Responding to Challenges in the Mid-South, will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, and from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, March 9, at the University of Tennessee at Memphis Health Science Center and Student Alumni Center, 800 Madison Avenue.

“This conference is an important opportunity for the entire community to come together and discuss goals, challenges and solutions in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our region,” said Lisa Krull, Memphis TGA Ryan White Program contracts coordinator. “While we’ve made notable progress in the past few years, we know it’s essential to improve access to HIV/AIDS care and to educating others about the disease.”

Clinicians working with HIV, allied health professionals, HIV program administrators, people living with HIV, caregivers and community members who wish to learn more about HIV/AIDS and how the community can work together in responding to this crisis are invited to attend.

Workshops are arranged by relevancy to the participant's role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Topics of interest to the community include:

- HIV 101
- Role of the Faith Community in HIV Prevention and Care
- Youth, STDs and HIV
- Supporting Your Loved Ones Living With HIV

Dr. Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, director of the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Division of Service Systems, will address the opening session, and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell will address the Thursday lunch session. Conference highlights include workshops, interactive training sessions featuring presentations and activities designed to

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develop and strengthen leadership skills, exhibitors, and plenary lunches with keynote speakers including the Comprehensive Care Clinic's Medical Director, Dr. Stephen Raffanti. Continental breakfast will be provided.

To register, please visit www.hivmemphis.org and click on the conference button to download the registration form. Early-bird registration is \$25 per person until March 7, and on-site registration is \$35. Special scholarship opportunities are available to people living with HIV/AIDS for attendance.

Any organization interested in becoming a conference sponsor or exhibitor should contact Jamie Russell-Bell, Tennessee AIDS Education and Training Center, at (901) 218-0693 or jamie.russell.bell@gmail.com or Victoria Harris, Ed.D., director of education at the Comprehensive Care Center, at (615) 321-9556, ext. 251, or victoria.harris@vanderbilt.edu.

Services provided by the Memphis TGA Ryan White Program include medical care, counseling, case management, and HIV pharmaceutical assistance.

Learn more about the Ryan White Program by visiting www.hivmemphis.org or by calling (877) HIV-KNOW [(877) 448-5669]. This project is funded as a result of grant awards from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and Shelby County Government.

The Tennessee AIDS Education and Training Center conducts targeted, multidisciplinary education and training programs for health care providers treating persons living with HIV/AIDS. Its primary mission is to meet the training needs of health care providers who diagnose and manage patients with HIV, with special focus on minority and minority-serving providers, rural providers, and providers working in Ryan White Program-funded programs.

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