



**For Immediate Release  
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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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## **Utahns Encouraged to Attend World AIDS Day Activities**

**(Salt Lake City, UT)** - A special World AIDS Day commemoration is being held at Salt Lake Community College on the afternoon of December 1, and all Utahns are encouraged to attend. That night, special candlelight vigils to remember those who have died of AIDS are being held at Salt Lake Community College and the New Promise Church in St. George.

Utahns are invited to attend Utah's World AIDS Day commemoration activities on December 1st at 1:00 p.m. at Salt Lake Community College's Lifetime Activities Center located at 4600 South Redwood Road in Salt Lake City. Events and activities include live musical performances by Midnight Lenny, The Taylor Trio, Emily Taylor and Matt Calder; educational games; free HIV testing; free food and refreshments. The AIDS quilt will be on display throughout the building and community booths will be located within the facility. At 3:00, the winners of a youth poster contest will be announced and the winning entries will be posted at the center.

The candlelight vigil at Salt Lake Community College starts at 5:00 p.m. with a nondenominational interfaith service featuring performances and appearances by Salt Lake Men's Choir, G-Force and a reading of the names of many Utahns who have lost their lives to AIDS.

December 1, 2001 marks the 14th annual World AIDS Day. This day of remembrance originated in 1988 after an international summit of health ministers called for a new spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day serves to strengthen global efforts to address the challenges of the AIDS pandemic, which continues to spread throughout every region of the world.

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Salt Lake Community College was chosen as the main site for Utah's World AIDS Day activities because of its strong youth relationship and affiliations. One in four new HIV infections occur in persons under the age of 22, and the theme of 2001 World AIDS Day - "I care, do you? Youth and AIDS in the 21st Century" - was selected to highlight this problem and encourage all young people to become more aware of the risks of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to World AIDS Day activities taking place on December 1st, other organizations also will be commemorating the occasion by offering services and activities during the week of November 26 to December 1. These include:

November 26 - Red ribbons will be distributed at the University of Utah (U of U), and artwork at the campus will be shrouded in black to signify the loss the art community has felt as a result of AIDS.

November 28 - Movies will be played at the U of U Union Ballroom

November 29 - A portion of the AIDS quilt will be displayed in the U of U Union Ballroom.

November 30 - Weber State University will display a portion of the AIDS Quilt at the Union Shepard Building, and the Intermountain Harm Reduction Project located at 455 East 400 South will provide free HIV testing from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

December 1 - A candlelight vigil will be held at the New Promise Church in St. George. It begins at 6:30 p.m. with a short service inside the church before moving outdoors for the candlelight vigil.

As of 2000, 36.1 million men, women and children worldwide are estimated to be living with AIDS, and 21.8 million have died from AIDS. In the US alone, 40,000 are newly infected each year. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, there are currently 1,658 cases of HIV/AIDS in Utah.

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