

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER HOSTING WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT, OFFERS FDA-APPROVED ONCE-DAILY PILL TO PREVENT HIV**

TORRINGTON, CT, November 29—Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) is hosting a World AIDS Day event on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at its Torrington location at 469 Migeon Avenue.

The day offers an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV, and commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. CHWC will be recognizing World AIDS Day with a t-shirt give away (while supplies last), raffles, information, and—as always—free and confidential HIV testing. CHWC is also relaunching its “Let’s talk about PrEP” program, which offers a medication that prevents HIV. Attendees at the event who ask about PrEP will receive a free pair of Ear buds.

World AIDS Day is marking its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the theme for 2018 is “Know your status.” According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1,122,900 people in the United States are living with HIV, and one in seven does not know it. And there are approximately 10,400 people living in Connecticut with HIV. CHWC encourages everyone in the community to know their status by offering free and confidential HIV testing. Results of the test are known in 20 minutes, no appointment is necessary, and you do not need to be a patient to be tested. CHWC recommends everyone be tested yearly to reduce the risk of transmission and late-stage diagnosis, which can lead to AIDS.

CHWC also offers PrEP, management of the FDA-approved pill, which is taken daily to prevent HIV. When taken as prescribed, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been shown to be up to 96% - 99% effective in preventing HIV infection.

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It weakens a person’s immune system by destroying important cells that fight disease and infection. No effective cure exists for HIV, but with proper medical care it can be controlled.

CHWC testing locations and times are as follows: CHWC, Torrington, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; CHWC Winsted, 115 Spencer Street, 8:30 am – 10 am; Torrington FISH, 332 South Main Street, Thursdays 8:30 am – 10 am; Winsted Soup Kitchen, 160 Main Street, last Wednesday of every month, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm; and the Winsted Salvation Army, 716 Main Street, last Wednesday of the month, 2 pm – 4 pm.

For more information and a confidential discussion, call 860-387-0490.

#### **About World AIDS Day:**

World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Since then, every year United Nations agencies, governments and civil society join together to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS.

#### **About Community Health and Wellness Center:**

The Community Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington is committed to keeping communities healthy. The center, its employees, volunteer practitioners, board members, officer, and independent contractors are deemed to be employees of the Federal Public Health and Human Services. In a compassionate, patient-centered environment, CHWC services are accessible and provided without discriminations, with cultural competence, and where all people matter regardless of their ability to pay.

CHWC offers and continues to develop a range of healthcare services for the underserved throughout northwest Connecticut, including medical, dental, chiropractic, and counseling services. It strives to achieve the reputation of “provider of choice” for affordable, high quality services that achieve positive patient outcomes in a welcoming and caring environment.

CHWC collaborates and advocates with other organizations to increase the region’s capacity to meet the communities’ health and wellness needs. It is the only Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Connecticut to receive a Health Services and Resource’s Association’s (HRSA) Health Center Program 2017 Quality Leader Award, and is the recipient of its 2018 Health Center quality Leader Award, as well.

CHWC is located at 469 Migeon Avenue, Torrington, CT, and 115 Spencer Street, Winsted, CT, with the following satellite locations: FISH of Torrington, 332 South Main Street, Torrington; Sullivan Senior Center, 88 East Albert Street, Torrington, CT; The Open Door Soup Kitchen, 160 Main Street, Winsted; YMCA Emergency Shelter, 480 Main Street, Winsted; Torrington Soup Kitchen, 220 Prospect Street, Torrington; and Oliver Wolcott Technical School, 75 Oliver Street, Torrington. Telephone 860-489-0931, visit at [www.chwctorr.org](http://www.chwctorr.org) and on Facebook.

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