

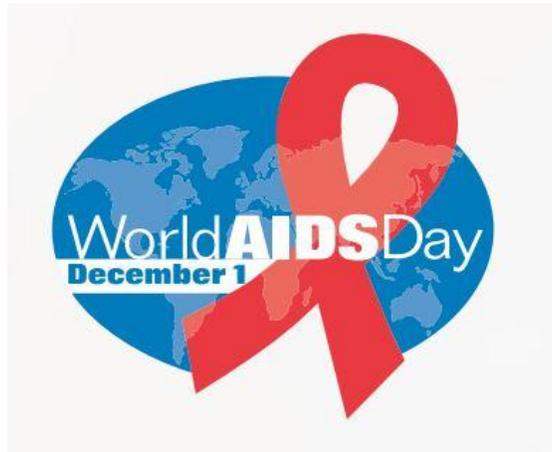


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**6 Ways You Can Commemorate World AIDS Day, December 1**

*Remember those who have passed, show your support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and fight to increase access to health care and support services that will end the epidemic*

(Los Angeles, CA; November 29, 2016)—Every year on World AIDS Day, December 1, we show support for the nearly 40 million people worldwide who are living with HIV or AIDS and remember the more than 35 million who have died since the epidemic began more than 35 years ago.

In addition, [APLA Health](#) remembers the more than 35,000 people who have died in Los Angeles County and honors the lives of the approximately 59,000 of our neighbors who are living with HIV/AIDS. We also encourage everyone to be a part of stopping the epidemic. Below we've listed just a few of the ways you can help make a difference this December 1 and beyond.

**1. Get Tested!**

One of the most important things you can do in the fight against HIV/AIDS is get tested and know your HIV status. We provide free, confidential, and rapid testing at two locations:

Gleicher/Chen Health Center, Baldwin Hills  
3743 S. La Brea Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016  
323.329.9900

Long Beach Health Center  
1043 Elm Ave., Suite 302  
Long Beach, CA 90813  
562.247.7740

You can also find out where to get an HIV test near you at <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>.

**2. Volunteer Your Time or Donate Funds**

Agencies that serve individuals living with HIV/AIDS are always in need of volunteers. APLA Health has many opportunities for people looking to lend a helping hand. Just visit us at [aplahealth.org/volunteer](http://aplahealth.org/volunteer) to learn more and get started. Donating funds is a critical lifeline for most nonprofit organizations. At APLA Health, our donors ensure we can continue to provide HIV testing, PrEP counseling and management, STD screening and treatment, as well as numerous HIV support services, as well as free and low-cost medical, dental, and behavioral health care. See [aplahealth.org/donate](http://aplahealth.org/donate) for info on how you can give and support our mission.

**3. Walk in a Candlelight March**

Join the Alliance for Housing and Healing, APLA Health, and several other community organizations on Wednesday, November 30, for a candlelight procession through the AIDS Memorial Walk in West Hollywood, followed by a moment of silence and a brief program. The walk will begin at 5 p.m. at the northwest corner of Santa Monica and Crescent Heights boulevards. **The walk will culminate at 6 p.m. at the City Council Chambers at West Hollywood Park, where the Paul Starke Warrior Awards will be presented. One of the recipients this year is APLA Health's dental director, Dr. Steven Vitero.**

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1133119380104584/>.

**4. Visit the Wall-Las Memorias AIDS Monument**

The Wall-Las Memorias hosts the 23rd annual Noche de las Memorias in honor of loved ones who have died from HIV/AIDS. It is an evening of reflection that is filled with music, inspirational speakers, remembrance, and prayer.

The ceremony will be held on December 1 at 7 p.m. at the Las Memorias AIDS Monument in Lincoln Park (3529 N. Mission Rd.). For more information, visit [www.thewallasmemorias.org/noche2016](http://www.thewallasmemorias.org/noche2016).

## **5. Donate Food to Those in Need**

Our annual [World AIDS Day Food Drive](#) continues through December 30. You can help someone living with HIV/AIDS who faces hunger and food insecurity by donating food (as well as hygiene items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, and more) at any of our or our community partners' drop-off locations listed at [aplahealth.org/fooddrive](http://aplahealth.org/fooddrive). Your donations will be given to our clients at one of our eight Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries during the holiday season.

## **6. See panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt**

In honor of World AIDS Day, *The Advocate*, with support from Michael J. Libow and in conjunction with the NAMES Project Foundation, is bringing three panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Los Angeles for display at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and The Beverly Hills Public Library. The panels are on display at these venues from November 28 to December 4. The AIDS Memorial Quilt was originally sewn together by friends, lovers, and family members as a memorial to those who had died of AIDS. On December 1, *The Advocate* is hosting a "Voices of Hope" community event at the Grand Hall of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills for the public to view the installation from 5:30 to 7 p.m. RSVP here: [advocate.com/voicesofhope](http://advocate.com/voicesofhope).

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APLA Health's mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. We are a nonprofit, federally qualified health center serving more than 14,000 people annually. We provide 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County, including: medical, dental, and behavioral health care; PrEP counseling and management; health education and HIV prevention; and STD screening and treatment. For people living with HIV, we offer housing support; benefits counseling; home health care; and the Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries; among several other critically needed services. Additionally, we are leaders in advocating for policy and legislation that positively impacts the LGBT and HIV communities, provide capacity-building assistance to health departments across the country, and conduct community-based research on issues affecting the communities we serve. For more information, please visit us at [aplahealth.org](http://aplahealth.org).