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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Pacific Pride Foundation Hosts Holiday Reception and World AIDS Day Event**

**Santa Barbara, Calif., Nov. 29, 2018** – Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF), providing programs and services to more than 10,000 people in Santa Barbara County, is hosting “A World of Good” - a holiday reception and World AIDS Day event.

On Saturday, Dec. 1 between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. all are welcome to join Pacific Pride Foundation at their headquarters for drinks, appetizers, and activities honoring the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Guests will have an opportunity to donate to Pacific Pride Foundation’s programs and services with a giving tree, participate in activities honoring the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and come together to kick off the holiday season with the spirit of gratitude, hope, and giving back. PPF will also be presenting a Certificate of Recognition for leadership and services to the HIV/AIDS community in Santa Barbara County to Curtis Greenhaw and Dr. Lynn Fitzgibbons, who will speak about their experiences.

This year’s theme for World AIDS Day is “Know Your Status”, and PPF will have their Health & Prevention Team onsite for free and anonymous HIV testing. This team travels to Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara each week and administered 1,085 tests last year to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the community. However, 500 people in Santa Barbara County live with HIV/AIDS, with many more are unaware they have the virus.

According to UNAIDS<sup>1</sup>, 36.9 million people globally live with HIV and only 59 percent have access to antiretroviral therapy. However, new HIV infections have been reduced by 47 percent since the peak in 1996, and with proper treatment, those living with HIV can live long and healthy lives - many can even reach a point where the virus is untransmittable. Many are unaware of the facts surrounding HIV, including how it is transmitted and what life is like

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet>

living with the disease. PPF not only provides testing services, but educates individuals and local organizations about the disease to decrease stigma and increase awareness.

Pacific Pride Foundation is not only committed to preventing the spread of HIV, but also to provide support for those living with the virus and for the community that has been impacted by HIV/AIDS so deeply. Counseling, testing services, support groups, and events like A World of Good are examples of many programs and services PPF offers to Santa Barbara County to keep our community healthy and thriving.

*PPF is the largest LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving all of Santa Barbara County, and partnering with 35 other educational and nonprofit agencies to create a thriving and visible LGBTQ+ community and prevent the transmission of HIV and HEP-C. PPF provides services and programs to more than 10,000 clients in the inclusive and diverse LGBTQ+ community including youth programs, elder programs, counseling services, sensitivity trainings, community events, and advocacy on LGBTQ+ issues.*

*PPF directly prevents the transmission of disease through its HIV/AIDS and HEP-C testing and prevention outreach and education, delivering 1300 free tests in the past year. PPF is the leader in programs for LGBTQ+ youth, serving 200 kids with mental health, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying programs, while providing them with a safe place and leadership opportunities. PPF is addressing the opioid crisis through the only clean needle exchange program in the county, which collects about 100,000 used needles every year, and distributing Narcan kits, which have saved 90 people from potentially fatal overdoses in the past year.*

*For more information or to make a donation please visit <https://pacificpridefoundation.org>*