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Vista Community Clinic Observes World AIDS Day

VISTA—Vista Community Clinic will join other North County organizations to co-sponsor the annual candlelight vigil to mark World AIDS Day at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 at Pilgrim Church in Carlsbad.

The event will feature speakers, music, free HIV testing and light dinner. Pilgrim Church is located at 2020 Chestnut Ave.

World AIDS Day, observed on Dec. 1 every year, is a global effort to raise funds, increase awareness, promote education and combat stigma against those living with HIV and AIDS. It was founded in 1988.

At the same time, Vista Community Clinic responded to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by offering its first HIV services. Since then, the clinic has emerged as a key provider of HIV/AIDS education, prevention initiatives and care programs in San Diego North County.

Each year, the clinic’s 13 HIV programs reach more than 8,000 area residents with education, outreach, prevention services, testing and counseling. The clinic also offers primary care for HIV positive patients; medical case management and treatment monitoring; and support groups for people living with HIV.

“VCC has become a one-stop shop for HIV prevention and treatment services in the community,” said Sue Martin, HIV Services Program Manager. “We work collaboratively with a variety of community partners, community members and agencies to end AIDS.”
Some of the most significant achievements of Vista Community Clinic’s HIV programs in recent years have been large scale testing in college campuses; linking gay men in the area with HIV services; and routine HIV testing of patients in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

“Through routine HIV testing, VCC has identified HIV-positive individuals who normally would not request HIV testing services,” Martin said.

Vista Community Clinic aligns its HIV services with the four goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

- Reducing new HIV infections
- Increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV
- Reducing HIV-related disparities and health inequities
- Achieving a more coordinated response to the HIV epidemic

Vista Community Clinic offers HIV testing at all five clinic locations. To learn more, call (760) 631-5000, ext. 7169.

**About Vista Community Clinic:** With five locations in the cities of Vista and Oceanside, Vista Community Clinic provides high-quality, low-cost healthcare to more than 57,000 uninsured and low- to moderate-income members of the North County community. One in four Vista residents and one in eight in Oceanside receive care from Vista Community Clinic. For more information, please call (760) 631-5000 or visit [www.vistacommunityclinic.org](http://www.vistacommunityclinic.org).