**LGBT Life Center Highlights Dramatic Changes in HIV Care, Treatment and Prevention for World AIDS Day**

**Norfolk, VA** – This Friday, December 1 is World AIDS Day. To raise awareness, LGBT Life Center is making advocacy easy through a red ribbon campaign being promoted by local personalities, communities of faith, businesses and community members. Leading up to World AIDS Day, LGBT Life Center is promoting ‘Red Ribbon Week,’ encouraging members of the community to wear a red ribbon in an effort to raise awareness and spark community involvement. Over 8,000 people in Hampton Roads are living with HIV/AIDS and a large portion of the work LGBT Life Center does is centered around educating people on HIV and how it is not only treatable but also preventable.

Fast Facts on HIV Prevention/Treatment:

* *Undetectable=Untransmittable.* It is now known with certainty that people living with HIV whose medications make the virus undetectable in their blood (as confirmed by lab tests) cannot transmit the virus to sexual partners. With many HIV treatments on the market today, these medications have the ability to lower the HIV viral load in the body, making the disease completely untransmittable.
* *Take the step to PrEP.* A person who may be at risk of getting HIV can take a once-a-day pre-exposure prophylactic (PrEP) pill which is up to 99% effective at blocking the HIV virus in HIV-negative individuals.
* *Suspected exposure to HIV? There’s a pill for that, too.* A person who may have been exposed to the HIV virus has a 72-hour window to take the antiretroviral medication PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), which has the ability to prevent infection.

“In recent years, there has been a lot of incredible progress made in the HIV field in terms of treatment options and prevention. With that being said, the main focus now and always is getting this information into the community in an effort to get people into treatment, reduce stigma, and to educate those who are unaware. World AIDS Day is a wonderful way to raise awareness and get the whole community involved,” said LGBT Life Center Chief Development Officer, Christopher Reybrouck.

Along with Red Ribbon Week, there are plenty of ways for community members to get involved for World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day Events:

* **Annual AIDS Walk of Hampton Roads, December 2,** 10:30am-12:30pm. Walk begins at the AIDS Resource Center (358 Mowbray Arch, Norfolk, Virginia 23507) and ends at Vivian C. Mason Cultural Arts Center (700 E. Olney Road, Norfolk, Virginia 23504)--shuttle services will be provided. Event is free and open to the public and individuals are encouraged to bring poster board size signs with positive messaging about HIV awareness.
* **Code Red Ball, December 2,** 9pm-2am at the Mambo Room (400-B West 21st Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23517). A 16+ night of dancing, ball performances, and contests hosted by Precious Ebony with music by DJ iGnite. There will be a beer and wine cash bar available for 21+ attendees.
* **Arts For Life Benefit Showcase, December 4,** 7pm-10pm at the Todd Rosenlieb Dance Center (325 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510). A variety of Hampton Roads artists will be lending their talent and craft to benefit LGBT Life Center. General admission tickets are available to the public for $25 and are $15 for students. Tickets may be purchased at <http://bit.ly/Arts4Life17>. The benefit will be followed by a reception at Gershwin’s for food, drinks, and raffles.

Members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend these World AIDS Day events to not only commemorate those who have died but to join together in the fight against HIV. For more information on the events, ticket purchasing, or general questions, please visit www.lgbtlifecenter.org or call 757-640-0929.

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**ABOUT LGBT LIFE CENTER**: LGBT Life Center was formerly known as CANDII House, Full Circle CANDII, and ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads until June of 2017 when it expanded its mission and rebranded as LGBT Life Center. LGBT Life Center is a trusted leader that empowers the LGBTQ communities and all people affected by HIV through improving health and wellness, strengthening families and communities and providing transformative education and advocacy.