



CONTACT:

David Haney, Director of Strategic Communications
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
309.671.8404 | dhaney@uicomp.uic.edu

Pam Briggs, Executive Director, Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
309.671.8418 | pamb@uicomp.uic.edu



December 1 - World AIDS Day

PEORIA – (Dec. 1, 2013) The Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center is reaching out to nearly 7,000 high school students in Peoria County today with AIDS awareness information to help eliminate the disease and commemorate Dec. 1 as World AIDS Day.

“We want to encourage our youth to get the facts about all sexually transmitted infections, including AIDS, so they can be the first generation that’s entirely HIV-negative,” said Pam Briggs, executive director of the Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center.

Educational cards with AIDS facts and myths and wristbands stating “Generation Negative” will be handed out at eight Peoria County high schools on Monday, Dec. 1.

Help us educate the public about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections.

- The Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center provides medical care and services across 15 central Illinois counties
- This year, HIHAC has had 33 newly diagnosed patients – a 19 percent increase
- This year, HIHAC has performed 152 HIV tests. Of those, none were positive
- Peoria County ranked No. 5 (outside of Cook and Collar counties) for Sexually Transmitted Disease, with the largest concentration on the 15-24 year olds, whom account for 75% of all reportable STI’s
- Fact: To date, there is no cure for HIV
- Fact: To date, there are no vaccines to prevent HIV infection
- Fact: Some STDs stay with you for life
- Fact: Any sexual contact puts you at risk of contracting an STD/HIV

The Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center (HIHAC) is a program under the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) Department of Internal Medicine. HIHAC serves individuals within a 15-county area who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Since 1994, the mission at HIHAC is to provide comprehensive care and services with acceptance and respect to individuals and communities affected by HIV in central Illinois.

###

UIC

Chicago

Peoria

Rockford

Urbana-Champaign