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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD AIDS DAY

Brewster, NY – Thursday, December 1, 2011 is World AIDS Day, a day set aside to increase awareness of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic globally, as well as in the United States.

Although there have been new technologies brought to the fight against AIDS, such as a rapid HIV test and new treatments that have slowed the progression of HIV to AIDS, the disease remains a major health threat worldwide. While people with HIV and AIDS are living longer, healthier and more productive lives and new research is promising, there is still no vaccine or cure for HIV. Early diagnosis and prompt, appropriate treatment can make the difference in quality and length of life. It is also the key to protecting others from becoming infected.

The World Health Organization reports that about 33 million people worldwide were living with HIV at the end of 2010 and the number is continuing to rise in all regions. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in Atlanta estimates that one in five people do not know they are HIV positive. Chances are these people have never been tested for HIV because they do not believe that they are at risk. HIV testing is available at Planned Parenthood in Brewster, for an appointment call 845-278-7313. Individuals may also call the New York State Department of Health Anonymous HIV Testing Program for an appointment at 1-800-828-0064.

For more information about HIV/AIDS education and prevention, contact the Health Education Unit at (845) 808-1390.

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