



## Media Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Elected Officials and Urban Health Plan Ban Together in the South Bronx To Keep the Promise and Stop the Spread of HIV and AIDS**

There is no refuting the devastating effect that HIV and AIDS have had on our community. According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the death rates for AIDS in Hunts Point and Mott Haven (two South Bronx neighborhoods within Urban Health Plan's service area) are three times higher than in New York City as a whole. The incidence rates of HIV and AIDS have reached pandemic proportions and the numbers of reported cases still continue to rise. Now more than ever before, it is imperative that each and every one of us do our part to make a difference. At Urban Health Plan (UHP), we are committed to working together to promote dialogue, reverse prejudice, and educate the community about the importance of taking preventative measures to stop the spread of this deadly disease.

To promote awareness about the significance of HIV and AIDS in our community, we will participate in World AIDS Day, an international observance that aims to serve as a day of reckoning and call to action in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Throughout the course of the day, there will be HIV rapid testing performed, information tables and the unveiling of an AIDS quilt created by our friends and staff.

Local elected officials will later gather with Urban Health Plan and community residents for a candle light vigil at 6 PM.

**What: World AIDS Day Celebration**

**When: Friday, December 1, 2006, 9-5 PM (HIV Rapid Testing and Information Tables),  
6 PM – Candle Light Vigil**

**Where: Urban Health Plan, El Nuevo San Juan Health Center located at  
1065 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10459**

**Who: Staff from UHP, South Bronx community residents, Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., and Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr.**

Urban Health Plan, Inc. (UHP) is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 federally qualified community health center licensed by New York State as an Article 28 Diagnostic and Treatment Center and certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). UHP has more than 30 years experience delivering quality health care services to the residents of the South Bronx communities of Hunts Point, Morrisania and Mott Haven. In 2005, UHP delivered care to over 26,000 patients who accounted for 149,000 visits.

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