



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

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National Office - Washington, DC: 202-835-8373

Administrative Office - Tampa, FL: 813-258-5929

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Media Contact: Michael Ruppal, (813) 258-5929, [MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:MRuppal@theaidsinstitute.org)

**THE AIDS INSTITUTE SUPPORTS**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**  
*American Indians / Alaska Natives / Native Hawaiians*

Washington, DC - March 20, 2008, marks the second annual **National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**. On this special day, The AIDS Institute acknowledges all those working to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in the native communities targeting American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiians.

"Leaders within Indian Country need to build self-sustaining approaches to overall wellness. No one is going to do it for us. Addressing the whole of the person has been successful in meeting other health challenges that Indian Country has faced. It's time for Indian country to exercise our sovereignty and push for realistic prevention and intervention." Said Kory Montoya, Jicarilla Apache from New Mexico and a person living with HIV/AIDS since 1991 as well as a volunteer advocate for The AIDS Institute. He went on to say, "Could you walk in an AIDS patients moccasins and survive the intolerance and discrimination? Could you survive the daily effects of HIV/AIDS drugs that must be taken diligently? The family dynamics are changing and the need to educate is greatly needed in spite and the decreased prioritization of health for Native Americans."

According to the CDC, the numbers of HIV and AIDS diagnoses for American Indians and Alaska Natives represent less than 1% of the total number of HIV/AIDS cases reported to CDC's HIV/AIDS Reporting System. But when population size is taken into account, American Indians and Alaska Natives in 2005 ranked 3rd in rates of HIV/AIDS diagnosis, after African Americans and Hispanics. American Indians and Alaska Natives make up 1.5% (4.1 million people) of the total US population. The rate of AIDS diagnosis for this group has been higher than that for whites since 1995.

Member of The AIDS Institute's Board of Directors, Marie R. Kirk, who is also the Prevention/Education Coordinator for The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board stated, "As part of National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we are having our first AIDS Walk, Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> (for more information go to [www.aaihb.org](http://www.aaihb.org) events section ) This Walk will serve a two-fold purpose: 1) To celebrate the significance of this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual awareness day; and 2) To help raise money for our 2009 HIV/AIDS Conference. By having this walk, our hope is that we will bring awareness to our communities that this disease is here to stay for now. We want our people to have the knowledge about this disease and make healthy choices when it comes to risk behaviors so that we don't have individuals coming home to die."

**For more information about the first National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, please visit:**

- The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) CBA program provides services in two areas of HIV prevention - organizational development and HIV prevention programming. For more information, contact NNAAPC at (510) 444-2051 or visit [www.nnaapc.org](http://www.nnaapc.org).
- The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) is a tribal organization whose mission is to support leaders of tribal governments in Arizona and throughout the nation by increasing self-reliance and self-determination. For more information, contact ITCA at (602) 258-ITCA or visit [www.itcaonline.com/nshapp](http://www.itcaonline.com/nshapp).
- The Colorado State University's Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE) provides CBA for strengthening community access to and use of HIV prevention services, using the highly successful Community Readiness Model. For more information about CBA services, contact CASAE at (970) 491-0251 or visit [www.happ.colostate.edu](http://www.happ.colostate.edu).

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For more information and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, please contact The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: [Info@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:Info@theaidsinstitute.org) or [www.TheAIDSInstitute.org](http://www.TheAIDSInstitute.org) The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit agency that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education.

# FUN WALK



**Date: March 22, 2008**

**Time: 10 a.m.—12 p.m.**

**Pre-register by: March 14, 2008**



**Proceeds will benefit the HIV/AIDS Infected/Affected Scholarship Fund for the Circle of Harmony HIV/AIDS Wellness Conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico—March 2009.**

**Sponsored by:  
The Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc.**

*We look forward to having you join us on this Fun Walk.*

•Registration fee is \$20.00 per person

The 2008 Circle of Harmony AIDS Walk to benefit the Infected/Affected Scholarship Fund and to celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The length of the walk will be 1 1/2 mile and will start at the parking lot of Value Options, across from Coronado Mall and back to the parking lot of Value Options. Look for the Signs! There will be light refreshments and a water station at the registration site. If you plan on bringing your pet, don't forget a "pooper scooper".



T-shirts and Water Bottles provided to all participants.

**For more information or to register call: (505) 764-0036 Ext. 116**

**Contact person: Marie R. Kirk**

**Mail form and entry fee to:**

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, Inc.  
ATTN: Marie Kirk  
5015 Prospect Avenue NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Phone: 505-764-0036  
Fax: 505-764-0446  
E-mail: mkirk@aaihb.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size: S M L XL

Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Age on race day \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of parent or guardian if under 18 years of age. \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE** - I release the AAIHB, its directors, employees, Board of Directors, agents, successors and assigns from all liabilities, claims and causes of action, of any kind or nature whatsoever, breach of contract or any other fault, in any way relating to our arising at any time out of my participation in any activity

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_