



WORLD AIDS DAY

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Communities make the difference!

THE AIDS PANDEMIC IS NOT YET OVER

People of every age group have been affected by HIV and AIDS, but in many places, the pandemic is developing a young person's face. **The Abundant Health Initiative** supports small projects reaching young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the United States.

"Stigma keeps many of us from being tested and treated. ... Rejection keeps us hidden. ... To lose our community is to lose our life."

STOP STIGMA!

On one World AIDS Day, staff at Kissy United Methodist Hospital joined a march through Sierra Leone's capital to promote awareness about the rising rates of HIV infection, especially among young people. The turnout was high, and participants found testing points along the way. The mayor encouraged people to embrace those living with HIV. "Stigma must stop," he said. "When stigma is reduced, there will surely be a reduction of HIV transmission."

FOR MORE ...

Information: UMC Abundant Health at umcabundanthealth.org

Giving: UMC Global AIDS Fund - Advance #982345 at bit.ly/378eAgO

Contact: Kathleen Griffith at kgriffith@umcmmission.org

Resources: UM Global AIDS Committee at bit.ly/2KiVNpg

THE CHURCH CAN ENGAGE IN MANY WAYS

KNOW AND GO

Know the young people in your neighborhood. Know where the local HIV counseling and testing sites are located. Know about HIV and the effects of social stigma. Go out with radical care and hospitality.

PRAY AND PROMOTE

Churches and communities can respond in many ways. Your leadership and advocacy keep people at the center. Pastors, church members, teachers, neighbors, peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV – everyone – can make a difference through your prayer, welcome, advocacy, knowledge and love.

LESSONS IN LOVE

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, NIV)





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