



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIDS WALK LAUNCHES “COMMUNITY PARTNERS” PROGRAM

HIV/AIDS Service Organizations That Participate Will Receive Half the Funds They Raise

WASHINGTON – AIDS Walk Washington invites DC-area HIV/AIDS service organizations to join this year’s Walk as a “Community Partner” and keep half the money they raise. AIDS Walk Washington, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 2, raises funds for HIV/AIDS services at Whitman-Walker Clinic. Participating organizations must be a local non-profit with HIV/AIDS care, education or prevention as a prominent component of their mission or programs.

“We wanted to encourage more participation in the AIDS Walk among other HIV/AIDS service providers,” said Don Blanchon, executive director of Whitman-Walker Clinic. “Now, these organizations can form teams, raise money for the Walk, and receive 50 percent of the money their team raises. Everyone who takes part will benefit.”

“In this difficult economic time, this program offers an opportunity for local HIV/AIDS organizations that may not have large fundraising bases to not only bring in additional funds, but receive additional exposure to the community for the work they do,” said Blanchon. “This collaboration offers a great opportunity for area nonprofits to leverage their fundraising operations and strengthen their ability to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS.”

“AIDS Walk is truly a community event,” said Don Blanchon, executive director of Whitman-Walker Clinic. “You can see it at the event, as all different parts of the DC-area community come together to support their neighbors living with HIV/AIDS. This year, we wanted to return to an old custom of the

Walk and share that support with our fellow HIV/AIDS service organizations. While we all have different missions or programs, we are all in the same fight. This year's Walk is an opportunity to show DC a united front in the fight against the epidemic in our city.”

All organizations must be approved by Whitman-Walker Clinic to participate. For more information on application guidelines, call 202-332-WALK or e-mail aidswalkwashington@wwc.org.

For more information on AIDS Walk or to register, call 202-332-WALK or visit www.aidswalkwashington.org.

Established in 1978, Whitman-Walker Clinic is a non-profit, community-based provider of health care in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Through two sites in the District of Columbia, the Clinic offers primary medical and dental care; mental health and addictions counseling and treatment; HIV education, prevention, and testing; legal services; and medical adherence case management. Whitman-Walker Clinic is committed to meeting the health needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and people living with HIV/AIDS.

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