

the healthadvisor

DOH Mission:

To promote & protect the health & safety of all Floridians.

Nov./Dec. 2002

world AIDS day focuses on stigma & discrimination

ACROSS THE GLOBE, THIS YEAR'S WORLD AIDS DAY ON DECEMBER 1 will focus on the role of stigma and discrimination as a major obstacle in effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. "AIDS does not Discriminate: Live and Let Live" and "AIDS does not Discriminate, People Do!" are the slogans of the two-year World AIDS Campaign 2002-2003.

Unfair and inaccurate stereotyping and individual opinions reinforce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Such messages may include HIV/AIDS is a "woman's disease," a "junkies disease," a "black disease," an "American disease" or the "gay plague," and it continues to be presented as something others get.

This type of rationale may make it easy to justify the stigma and discrimination; however, fear and denial continue to keep silence, exclusion and isolation as the "norm" of the HIV/AIDS world. Consequently, stigma and discrimination limit the ability to provide the care and services needed by people living with HIV.

The goal of World AIDS Day, therefore, is to address the growing importance of involving all people in the fight against HIV/AIDS. There is a need to encourage people and leaders to break the silence and the barriers to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Only by confronting stigma and discrimination can the fight be won.

HIV/AIDS in Florida

■ In 2001, Florida ranked second among states in the number of reported Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases with 5,138 cases. Source: Florida HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS).

■ In 2001, Florida ranked second among the states that report Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) with 5,744 cases. Source: Florida HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS).

■ As of Aug. 31, 2002, a total of 88,957 AIDS cases were known to have been diagnosed in Florida and reported to the Department of Health. Of these cumulative cases, 48,179 (54.2 percent) were known to have died.

■ HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-Americans between 25 and 44 years of age.

The first World AIDS Day was December 1, 1988, following an international summit of health ministers who called for a new spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day has been recognized on December 1 ever since with emphasis on local, state, national and international activities.

The Florida Department of Health, local health departments, churches, community-based organizations and media outlets will be participating in World AIDS Day. Activities include HIV screening, candlelight ceremonies, AIDS Quilt displays, educational sessions at community events, church services and health fairs.

The public can become involved by working in their communities to coordinate events for the day, getting tested for HIV, stitching a quilt panel for someone who has lost the battle with AIDS, distributing literature and speaking publicly about HIV/AIDS, hosting and facilitating HIV/AIDS education and discussion sessions, attending an open house of a local AIDS organization, reading the names of AIDS clients who have died, or joining a performing troupe see AIDS DAY p. 4

resource center lives up to its name

palm beach county's united deliverance community resource center makes a difference

While Palm Beach County, Florida, makes headlines for world-class beaches, favorable winter temperatures, the location of the nation's first anthrax-tainted letter and even its ongoing voting predicaments, there is a lesser-known gem contributing to the health climate here.

United Deliverance Community Resource Center in West Palm Beach stands out as a shining star among HIV testing sites in Palm Beach County. The center has been a community partner with the Palm Beach County Health Department since it became an HIV testing site in October of 1999. The Rev. Lewis White and his wife, Sandra, say they felt a personal calling to become involved. White is pastor at United Deliverance Church of God in Christ in West Palm Beach.

"We had to do something for our community," Mrs. White said during a recent interview about the center's contributions. "There was a strong need for the churches to start testing. We just have to help our neighborhood," she added, acknowledging the ongoing need to test and educate.

The number of HIV infections among African-Americans continues to rise at alarming rates. In Palm Beach County, African-Americans make up approximately 14 percent of the population, but right now account for 65 percent of HIV and AIDS cases. Black women are hardest hit here, as they make up the largest group of new HIV-infection cases. Palm Beach County ranks third among Florida's 67 counties, behind Dade and Broward, in reported HIV cases of female African-Americans.

United Deliverance has tested hundreds of people since 1999. The dedicated staff has made an incredible difference for HIV-infected individuals and for the community. What started as a personal calling with extraordinary outreach has led to recognition and financial assistance in the form of grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and an international pharmaceutical company.

On any given weekend and during the late hours of the night, the Whites and their teams go out into the community to offer free testing. The Reverend drives his big red bus—the mobile testing site—and parks it at a corner. Like any well-orchestrated mission, the teams disperse. Some of the volunteers go out into the community telling the late-night locals that testing is available. Others stay on the bus priming the testing site.

No needles, no blood required for testing here. Those who enter are offered the OraSure antibody test, which is placed in the mouth, between the cheek and gum where antibodies are drawn out of the tissue through the mucous membranes. Before clients exit the bus, they are educated on risk reduction and safer sex. The message from the resource center is direct and clear: Abstinence is a valid choice. But if you do not abstain, protect yourself and use a condom each time you have sex. Clients are told to return for results in two weeks.

Forgetful some might be... and here is another example of how United Deliverance Community Resource Center stands apart. They go out looking for those who do not return for results—whether HIV-positive or HIV-negative.

Florida guidelines stipulate that individuals who test positive for HIV must be located, but the guidelines don't require any follow-up with clients who are HIV-negative. United Deliverance employees and volunteers see it differently and make it their mission to find all those who tested but failed to return for results. How? By going out into the community and tracking them down. Why?

"We want them to know their HIV status," says Rev. White. "We want to help them stay HIV-negative. We talk to them about ways to stay HIV-negative. If they are HIV-positive, there is a lot of hope and treatment options to stay healthy," he added. "If we don't do this, who will?"

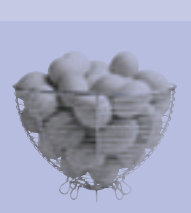
During National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2002, United Deliverance tested 75 people. As for plans on December 1, "World AIDS Day is coming up. We'll be out there testing," says Sandra White. "We will be here for our community. We will make a difference."

CONTRIBUTING WRITER LOU T. REITER, PALM BEACH CHD



"World AIDS Day (December 1) is coming up. We'll be out there testing," says Sandra White. "We will be here for our community. **We will make a difference.**"

environmental health promotes food safety



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH'S BUREAU OF FACILITY PROGRAMS CELEBRATED NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH IN SEPTEMBER by educating the public about the importance of proper food safety practices. This year's national campaign focused on four key points to help reduce food borne illnesses: Clean—Separate—Cook—Chill.

Bureau staff promoted the message at the Food Safety Showcase Sept. 13 and 14 at Governor's Square Mall in Tallahassee by distributing information and talking with mall-goers of all ages to reinforce the message of proper food handling.

An emphasis was placed on proper hand washing prior to touching food or working in food areas because so much of the food borne illnesses can be linked to improper personal hygiene. Also discussed was the importance of separating foods to prevent cross-contamination, and the significance of chilling cooked foods in a timely manner to reduce the potential for growth of bacteria and other microorganisms.

In addition to the mall event, the bureau promoted food safety awareness in September that included displays at the Capital Circle Office Complex Eat's Cafeteria and in the lobby of Building 4042, and through food safety reminders posted on Tallahassee Community College's reader board.

The Bureau of Facility Programs works to control or remove disease-causing links between the public and the environment and serves as the regulating agency to businesses such as some food service facilities. Please contact the Bureau of Facility Programs at 850/245-4277 for more information.

PADRAIC JUAREZ, BUREAU OF FACILITY PROGRAMS

Many people do not think about food safety until a food-related illness affects them or a family member. While the food supply in the United States is one of the safest in the world, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year 76 million people get sick, including the 300,000 who are hospitalized and the 5,000 who die from food borne illness. Preventing food borne illness and death remains a major public health challenge.

5 fundamental five of safe food service

These are the five fundamentals for safe, sanitary food service. Although good sanitation includes other details, if any one of these basic five points is missing, the prevention of food contamination is significantly jeopardized.

Clean hands. Dirty hands spread germs. Hands and fingernails should be washed thoroughly with soap and water before work, after using the toilet, and every time they are soiled or become contaminated.

Clean service. Handling utensils the wrong way may spread disease. Single service items should be handled carefully to keep them sanitary. Other utensils should be washed clean, sanitized as recommended by the health authority, then carefully stored and handled.

Clean food. Food may be infected by coughs, sneezes, handling, dirty equipment, vermin, animals, and wastes. It should be protected during storage, preparation, and service.

Right temperature. Cold temperatures slow or stop the growth of germs; heat kills them. Cold foods should be kept cold; hot foods should be kept hot. Prepared food should never be left standing at room temperature except during necessary periods of preparation and service.

Healthy personnel. Food service personnel must be healthy to prevent colds and other diseases from being passed to others. Germs from infected cuts, pimples, or boils can cause food poisoning.

BUREAU OF FACILITY PROGRAMS WEBSITE

2

DOH begins read for health literacy initiative

THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INTRODUCED A NEW LITERACY INITIATIVE IN OCTOBER CALLED "READ FOR HEALTH." The initiative coincides with Governor Bush's "Just Read, Florida!" campaign aimed at promoting literacy for all Floridians with a vision that all children will read at or above grade level by 2012.

The Department of Health wants all families to be able to access appropriate health care, understand and follow basic health care instructions, and interact with their children in ways that will lead to optimal growth and development. Plus, health officials hope to improve literacy among Florida's children and they are encouraging colleagues throughout the state to initiate or continue to incorporate literacy-related activities into services they provide.

"Read for Health" is an opportunity for children's programs to develop opportunities that incorporate reading and literacy initiatives into the scope of their services. Some county health departments already have successful and innovative reading programs in

place, such as "Reach Out and Read" and "Born to Read."



"Scientists now know that during the first five years of life, the brain has many windows of opportunity for learning."

Secretary Agwunobi

"You can start reading to your baby during the first few weeks of life," said Secretary Agwunobi. "Scientists now know that during the first five years of life, the brain has many windows of opportunity for learning."

In the earliest years, a parent or caregiver can help a baby's brain develop properly through appropriate nurturing. In addition to healthy

foods, nurturing means reading books to your baby, singing songs and giving baby all the things necessary to grow and thrive. It means playing music, telling stories, holding and making eye contact with baby. It also means a safe place to live and regular doctor check-ups.

awareness of breast cancer lasts all year

EVERY OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH. But the facts about this cancer that bonds women, and the messages to research more and detect early must continue to be spread every day, every month.

The facts are:

- All women are at risk for breast cancer. As women age, the risk increases;
- Finding breast cancer early is key to successful treatment;
- Mammography is the most effective way to find breast cancer at its earliest stages;
- Thirty percent of breast cancer deaths are preventable through early detection (mammograms and clinical breast exams);
- Beginning at age 20, women should have a clinical breast examination; and
- Women aged 40 and older should begin having routine screening mammograms;
- Women should perform breast self-examinations every month. By doing the exams regularly, women get to know how their breasts normally feel. This helps them detect any changes.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 12,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in Florida in 2002, with approximately 3,000 of them resulting in death. According to the ACS publication "Florida Cancer Facts and Figures," death rates are declining for breast cancer. These successes likely are the result of earlier detection and improved treatment.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, excluding non-melanoma skin cancer. It can afflict men, but this disease is approximately 100 times more common among women. About 77 percent of women with breast cancer are over age 50 at the time of diagnosis.

The Florida Department of Health's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program was created in 1994 through a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This program provides assistance to women, ages 50 and older who are uninsured or underinsured, and at or below 200 percent of poverty. There are 16 sites in Florida implementing this program, and all 67 counties have access to program services. Since its inception, more than 27,000 women have received clinical breast exams and mammograms. For information about a program in your area, call 1-888-538-7788.



november is national diabetes awareness month

Most health experts agree that everyone age 45 and over should have a blood glucose test every three years at a minimum—more often for those who have one or more of the risk factors for diabetes. Diabetes is diagnosed using a fasting blood-glucose test or an oral glucose-tolerance test.

The risk of developing diabetes increases:

- **As you age**
- **If you are overweight**
- **If you have a family member (parent, brother or sister) who has diabetes**
- **If you exercise less than three times per week**
- **If your family background is African American, American Indian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or Hispanic American/Latino**
- **If you had gestational diabetes or had at least one child weighing more than nine pounds, or**
- **If you have been told you have high blood pressure or your blood pressure is 140/90 or higher.**

Diabetes mellitus is the scientific name for diabetes—a group of diseases in which the body is unable to sufficiently produce and/or properly use the hormone insulin. Insulin is produced by the pancreas and required by muscle, fat and the liver to utilize glucose—the body's energy source.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates about 16 million people in the country have diabetes. About one third of these cases are undiagnosed, in part because symptoms develop gradually and may take several years before severe symptoms occur. Some common symptoms of diabetes include fatigue, increased thirst, increased urination (especially at night), infections and cuts that do not heal, blurred vision, increased hunger and weight loss.

did you know there are three types of diabetes?

Type 1 (formerly called juvenile or insulin-dependent) diabetes is less common. It occurs when the pancreas no longer produces insulin. Often this form of diabetes begins in childhood or young adult years, but people of any age can get it.

Type 2 (formerly called adult onset or non-insulin-dependent) diabetes is more common. It develops slowly and usually becomes evident after age 40, but can develop in childhood. Being overweight is a common risk factor for this type of diabetes. Often it can be controlled through diet, weight control and exercise.

Gestational diabetes may occur during pregnancy as a result of changes in hormone levels and a shortage of insulin. Although it usually disappears when the baby is born, it requires careful control during pregnancy. Women with gestational diabetes often develop diabetes later in life, as well as during later pregnancies.

complications due to diabetes

On its own, diabetes can have serious, even life-threatening effects on health if not managed properly. Cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke), eye problems (including blindness if left untreated), circulatory problems, foot problems and kidney disease are among the many health conditions related to diabetes.

type 2 diabetes can be prevented

Although people with diabetes can prevent or delay complications by keeping blood glucose levels close to normal, preventing or delaying the development of type 2 diabetes in the first place is even better. A federally funded study by the Florida Department of Health's Diabetes Prevention Program of 3,234 people at high risk for diabetes showed that moderate diet and exercise that resulted in a 5- to 7-percent weight loss can delay and possibly prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes. Study participants were overweight and had higher than normal levels of blood glucose, a condition called pre-diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance. Both pre-diabetes and obesity are strong risk factors for type 2 diabetes.

For more information about controlling diabetes or preventing type 2 diabetes, call the Diabetes Control Program at 850-245-4330.

activities in florida promote diabetes awareness

The Department of Health and county health departments (CHDs) across the state are spearheading efforts to increase awareness of diabetes during November's National Diabetes Awareness Month. The Diabetes Control Program in Tallahassee will be promoting this year's message "Control your diabetes...for life!" through media campaigns, and an audio teleconference for health care providers in the state on November 6 about the Florida Diabetes Medical Practice Guidelines.

Several education and awareness seminars and screenings are being scheduled around the state during the month. Baker CHD's Closing the Gap project will kick off a project with local restaurants to review menus and provide diabetic exchange information. Outreach and screening efforts are being planned at local Farmer's Markets by Hendry CHD and Manatee CHD. Manatee's Closing the Gap project coordinators also are preparing a radio show.

Among the efforts at the Orange CHD, health educators will be submitting articles about diabetes to one of Central Florida's largest Hispanic newspapers, *La Prensa*. Hernando CHD will be presenting information and screenings at faith-based centers. Osceola CHD is coordinating a Healthy Cooking Demonstration to be aired on the Telemundo program "A Tu Salud," and a Health and Safety Fair with community partners that will include diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings. Pasco CHD plans to promote diabetes awareness with self-management classes, screening events and community presentations at the Trinity Outpatient Center.



DOH cares about domestic violence

October 9, 2002, was "Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day," a day during national Domestic Violence Awareness Month when DOH joined other health officials and advocacy groups across the nation in spreading the message about the importance for health care providers to routinely screen women and at-risk men for domestic violence.

Health care and psychosocial care providers can play an enormous role in identifying and making appropriate referrals for victims of domestic violence by asking patients questions to assess for domestic violence. However, a 1999 article printed in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that less than 10 percent of primary care physicians routinely screen for domestic violence during regular office visits.

Domestic violence is a health care issue across the country and in Florida. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) reported there were 124,629 acts of domestic violence reported in the state during the year 2000.

DOH has participated in several initiatives to increase screening for domestic violence, such as the "Train the Trainer" workshops. These workshops are a collaborative effort between DOH and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(FCADV) to train county health department staff and domestic violence center employees on how to screen for domestic violence among women who come for other health care services. Also, nursing assessment forms used in CHDs will be revised to incorporate universal screening questions for domestic violence.

The Florida Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-500-1119) puts callers in touch with statewide and local domestic violence centers and also provides a connection to a legal help line.

CHDs and domestic violence centers distribute the "First Step" brochure that provides information on abuse and resources for abuse victims. The "First Step" brochure can be located online at: www9.myflorida.com/family/mch/docs/first-stepeng.pdf. Information also can be found at the Family Violence Prevention Fund site at www.endabuse.org/health.

see **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** p. 4

medical quality assurance links residents with provider info



NEED A DENTIST? HAS YOUR CHILD'S PEDIATRICIAN EVER BEEN DISCIPLINED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST IN YOUR CITY? DOES YOUR CHIROPRACTOR HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE?

Consumers today want up-to-date information about health care practitioners, and the Department of Health's Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) Division hopes to help by promoting online accessibility of licensed provider information for 43 health care professions.

MQA encourages the public to visit its website to feel informed and confident about their physician and other health care practitioner choices. The public can inquire about licenses to practice in Florida and disciplinary actions. Other detailed information, including educational background and specialty certification, is offered for the following five "Profiled Professions": Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Allopathy, Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Podiatry.

To locate practitioner information online:

1. Go to www.doh.state.fl.us and locate the light blue "quick links" box on the right-hand side of your monitor.
2. Select "Health Licensee and Continuing Education Provider."
3. Now select "License Lookup Search Screen."
4. Type in your practitioner's information. (Tips: Don't guess. If you are uncertain about the spelling of the first name, just type in the last name. You can also use "%" as a wild card—or example, Last Name: Doe, First Name: J%)
5. Press "Search."
6. Locate the name you were searching for and click on the bolded license number.

The Division of Medical Quality Assurance is responsible for protecting and promoting the health of all persons in Florida by diligently regulating health care practitioners and facilities for 43 different health care professions. To learn more about the Division of Medical Quality Assurance, visit online at www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa.

KIMBERLY HATTAWAY, MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

diabetes prevention & control



smokeout highlights a day to "butt out"

NOVEMBER 21 IS THIS YEAR'S GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT, A DAY DEDICATED TO HELPING SMOKERS JOIN FORCES AND QUIT CIGARETTES FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY. The American Cancer Society sponsors the event and expects millions of smokers to quit for the day and possibly for much longer—especially if they use modern cessation and support methods such as those offered by the state's Quit-For-Life line.

The Department of Health promotes its Quit-For-Life Tobacco Use Cessation Hotline for smokers, those who use smokeless tobacco, their families, friends and others seeking counseling or information. The Bureau of Chronic Disease Tobacco Program launched the statewide, toll-free telephone-based service a year ago in collaboration with the American Cancer Society. Those who are ready to set "quit dates" receive counseling, self-help materials and community referrals. Appropriate pharmacotherapy assistance (coupons for discounted products) also is available if applicable. The Quitline number is 1-877-U-Can-Now (1-877-822-6669).

Behind the events scheduled for the Great American Smokeout are the serious efforts of thousands of hard-working health officials and volunteers who visit schools, malls and workplaces to promote the event and distribute information about living tobacco-free.

Across Florida, members of Students Working Against Tobacco (SVAT) report they will be spreading information throughout their schools and communities about the dangers of how addictive tobacco can become and how the unhealthy habit can be linked to one in five of all deaths.

In Charlotte County, SWAT members once again plan to distribute information to local restaurants about the benefits of being a smoke-free establishment. They also will request that restaurants go "smoke-free" for at least the day of the Smokeout. Over the past five years, the Charlotte SWAT team reports between six and eight restaurants participate each year and eight restaurants have remained smoke-free.

DOH employees participate in 5K Way to go DOH athletes! Several state employees participated in the Capital Circle Office Complex 5K Walk/Run on October 9. DOH's Jennifer Hemphill, Tim Callaghan, Joe Baker, Jr., and Jennett Baker were among the top three at the finish line for their age categories.

environmental health association honors DOH employees

The Florida Environmental Health Association (FEHA), a non-profit group with more than 500 members, recently awarded two DOH employees and another retired DOH employee for their contributions to the profession. The annual awards represent FEHA's highest honor presented to deserving members with the purpose to assist in establishing and rewarding esprit de corps, devotion to duty, and dedication to public health among environment health professionals.

Dr. Sharon Heber, director of DOH's Environmental Health Division, received the Billy G. Tennant Award for accomplishments in the field of Environmental Health over a long period of time. Dr. Heber has served Florida residents and visitors for almost 30 years, beginning as a sanitarian with the Broward County Health Department in 1973. Dr. Heber has been at the forefront of environmental health policy and administration for many of those years, having been instrumental in establishing policy, submitting and defending budgets, developing legislative proposals and implementing administrative rules.

Leslie Harris, environmental manager in the Environmental Health Division's Bureau of Facility Programs, received the Charlie Rhodes Award for exemplary behavior and outstanding contributions to the field of environmental health over an extended period of time. Harris has worked in the environmental health field since 1979, both at the field level and supervisory level in three county health departments as well as at the statewide level in the Bureau of Facility Programs.

FEHA also recognizes a member who contributes the best article of the year to the association's quarterly publication, the *Florida Journal of Environmental Health*. The Golden Pen Award was awarded this year to John Heber, who retired from the Environmental Health's Division of Onsite Sewage and Treatment Systems in 2000. Heber contributed two articles on the history of environmental health in Florida.

EDITH COULTER, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUREAU OF FACILITY PROGRAMS

NAACP honors HIV/AIDS bureau

The Florida State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recently honored the Department of Health's Bureau of HIV/AIDS for its consistent efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS within the black community.

NAACP Florida Conference President Adora Obi Nweze presented the Corporate Award to Secretary Agwunobi in September during the organization's 59th annual state convention at Altamonte Springs.

"The Bureau of HIV/AIDS has consistently been involved in the NAACP efforts to reduce new HIV infections in Florida's black communities," said Adora Obi Nweze.

Bureau Chief Tom Liberti added that "through unique partnerships such as this, we will be able to accomplish our goals of reducing HIV/AIDS disparities among blacks."

"The Bureau of HIV/AIDS has consistently been involved in the NAACP efforts to reduce new HIV infections in Florida's black communities."

Adora Obi Nweze

NAACP partners with DOH health awareness and tobacco

In an effort to increase awareness of the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke in African-American communities, the Department of Health's Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco has created a partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

During Florida State Conference of the NAACP's annual convention in September, DOH's Elisa Norton, Diversity Initiative Program manager for the Division of Health Awareness and Tobacco, presented an overview of secondhand smoke in the African-American community. She explained program goals along with current statistics and information about secondhand smoke in minority communities, including how more than 50 percent of African-American middle and high school students in Florida are exposed to second-hand smoke on a regular basis primarily by parents and others who smoke around them.

the advisor

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Please send stories and information for the Jan./Feb. issue by e-mail to **Juli Bergstrom-Wasson** by Dec. 1, 2002. The Health Advisor is available on the DOH intranet and internet websites. Phone: 850/245-4444, ext. 3158 Fax: 850/488-6495 e-mail: Juli_Bergstrom-Wasson@doh.state.fl.us Suncom: 205-4111; Suncom Fax: 278-6495

AIDS DAY from cover

to promote education about HIV/AIDS.

Focusing on providing HIV/AIDS prevention and care messages with strategies to overcome stigma and discrimination creates an empowering attitude that will continue throughout the year.

Call your local health department, community-based organization, church or medical society to learn more about how to become involved. Join the ranks of the educated, caring and helpful members who represent different generations, cultures, races and socio-economic status who have been fighting this pandemic for more than two decades.

BETH SWISHER, HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE from p. 3

For additional information about domestic violence and DOH services, please contact: Dot DeAngelo, DOH, Maternal and Child Health, at 850-245-2957; Wendy Loomas, Pinellas CHD, at 727-824-6916; Sandi Robinson, Putnam CHD, at 386-326-3200 x3236; and Robin Thompson, FCADV Health Care Project Director, at 850-907-0693.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH STAFF