FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECEMBER 1ST IS WORLD AIDS DAY
MORGANTOWN, WV – NOVEMBER 25, 2015

WORLD AIDS DAY IS OBSERVED EACH YEAR ON DECEMBER 1 AND IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WORLDWIDE TO UNITE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV, SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV, AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. STARTED IN 1988, WORLD AIDS DAY WAS THE FIRST EVER GLOBAL HEALTH DAY.

HIV STANDS FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS. IT WEAKENS A PERSON’S IMMUNE SYSTEM BY DESTROYING IMPORTANT CELLS THAT FIGHT DISEASE AND INFECTION. NO EFFECTIVE CURE EXISTS FOR HIV. BUT WITH PROPER MEDICAL CARE, HIV CAN BE CONTROLLED.

THERE ARE WAYS TO PREVENT HIV EXPOSURE. LIMITING YOUR NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS, NEVER SHARING NEEDLES AND USING CONDOMS CORRECTLY AND CONSISTENTLY. PRE-EXPOSURE AND POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THOSE PERSONS WHO MAY BE ENTERING INTO A SITUATION WHERE THEY MIGHT BE EXPOSED TO HIV OR A SITUATION WHERE THEY MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HIV. THESE TYPES OF SITUATIONS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO A PERSON’S LIFESTYLE AND/OR OCCUPATION.

THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IF YOU ARE INFECTED WITH HIV IS TO BE TESTED. YOU CANNOT RELY ON SYMPTOMS TO KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE HIV. MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE INFECTED WITH HIV DO NOT HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS AT ALL FOR 10 YEARS OR MORE.

IN OBSERVANCE OF WORLD AIDS DAY, THE MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL BE ADDING AN EXTRA SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) CLINIC ON DECEMBER 1ST. DECEMBERS REGULARLY SCHEDULED STD CLINICS WILL BE HELD ON THE 7TH AND 21ST. CLINICS ARE FROM 12:30PM-3:00PM AND AN APPOINTMENT IS RECOMMENDED. STD CLINICS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND HIV TESTING IS FREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL 304-598-5119.

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