



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Thomas Peterson**  
Phone and text: (949) 230-5648  
Email: TomPeterson@sbcglobal.net

## **ORANGE COUNTY OBSERVES NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY**

*Event Features Community Health Fair in Santa Ana*

**IRVINE, CA** – AIDS Services Foundation Orange County announces plans for the 4th annual observance of **National Latino AIDS Awareness Day** on **Saturday, October 18th**. This year’s event is being presented in partnership with the office of the Mexican Consul in Santa Ana and will take place from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on 2nd Street, between Main and Broadway, in downtown Santa Ana. The event will feature a Community Health Fair as part of Binational Health Week, an extensive mobilization effort to improve the health and well-being of the underserved Latino population in Orange County. Since 2001, the Binational Health Week in Orange County has reached over 300,000 people.

“Bringing together the resources of AIDS Services Foundation with the community presence of the Mexican Consul will surely make this year’s event the most successful ever,” said Carlos Rodriguez y Quezada, the Mexican Consul in Santa Ana. “HIV doesn’t respect borders and can’t be ignored or dismissed any longer. Education and prevention remain the most powerful tools we have to defeat this epidemic.”

With over half of all new HIV infections in Orange County taking place among Latinos, there is an urgency behind the need to increase awareness about HIV. “We have arranged for rapid HIV testing to be provided at the Health Fair along with screening for a variety of other health conditions,” said Andrea Arguello-Coulson, AIDS Services Foundation’s Director of Latino Community Outreach and Diversity Officer. “We have planned this to be a family event with folklórico dancers, food and beverages, prizes and raffles, and plenty for the kids to do. There’s something for everyone,” Andrea continued.

Invited guests and speakers include **United States Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, State Senator Lou Correa, Assemblymember Jose Solorio, Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido**, HIV pediatrician **Antonio C Arrieta, MD** and **Carlos Rodriguez y Quezada**, the Mexican Consul in Santa Ana. AIDS Services Foundation’s Board President **Jorge Rodriguez, M.D.** will provide a welcome to the event on behalf of the Board of Directors.

To learn more about the event and to get involved, please contact **Andrea Arguello-Coulson** at **(949) 809- 8765** and at **acoulson@ocasf.org**. This is an important event for everyone in Orange County who is concerned about HIV.

*“Te esperamos en la Feria de la Salud el sábado 18 de Octubre!”*

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Founded in 1985, AIDS Services Foundation is the largest non-profit provider of care and services to people with HIV in Orange County, serving 1,600 clients across Orange County. Services include food, transportation, housing, emergency financial assistance, family support programs, mental health counseling, support groups, and HIV education and prevention services. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ocasf.org>.