

WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1 is recognized globally as World AIDS Day. Started in 1988, World AIDS Day was unanimously approved by 140 countries meeting at the World Summit of Ministers of Health. "The day was envisaged as an opportunity for governments, national AIDS programs, non-governmental and local organizations, as well as individuals everywhere, to demonstrate both the importance they attach to the fight against AIDS and their solidarity in this effort." (USAIDS website)

We encourage your group to celebrate this event. Following are two ideas for your church, including collecting AIDS Care Kits and organizing a worship service focused on HIV/AIDS. For other ideas, take some time to search the Web. Specifically, UNAIDS, the United Nations arm dealing with HIV/AIDS, provides great information on World AIDS Day and the annual theme: www.unaids.org/worldaidscampaign.

AIDS CARE Kits

In light of World AIDS DAY assist youth in organizing the assembly of AIDS Care Kits. Each kit contains items that can be used by those who provide home-based care to people living with AIDS. A promotional and information flier about these kits has been provided at www.mcc.org/aids.

Contents: (new items only)

- 1 bar bath soap (90-140 g / 4-5oz.; in wrapper)
- 1 bath towel (medium weight, bright color)
- 1 washcloth (bright color)
- 2 flat bed sheets (twin size)
- 2 pillowcases (standard size)
- 2 yards fabric (poly-cotton, bright color)
- 1 pair rubber gloves (large size; for household cleaning)
- 1 container petroleum jelly (approx. 368 g /13 oz; sealed in plastic bag)
- 1 container of medicated body powder (i.e. Gold Bond; approx. 283 g/ 10oz)
- \$100 to purchase medicines and Bibles for people living with AIDS, to train volunteers in basic home health care and to provide food and travel allowance for volunteers. (Make check payable to "MCC – AIDS Care Kit")

Place contents in a drawstring shoulder bag (see flier or look online for how to make one). Find your nearest kit collection center: Canada 888-622-6337; U.S. 877-517-5673; online at www.mcc.org/aids/kits.



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Located in Mahomet, Ill., ELI is a community-based nonprofit organization emphasizing life skills for emerging youth leaders in third world countries. ELI has been formed by Paul and Virginia who have been working with youth in United States and abroad for more than 30 years. For further information on ELI, please call (217) 377-9444.