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Contact: Melody Patelis
Chief Development Officer
713-623-6796 ext. 322
patelism@afhouston.org

AIDS Foundation Houston to Receive Prestigious Governor's Award

HOUSTON-AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) has been selected by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to receive the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in Austin, Texas. The award recognizes organizations and individuals across Texas whose efforts help offenders and those who are on parole or probation.

AFH will accept the award on behalf of its prison initiative, Project Wall Talk, which provides HIV/STD peer to peer education to incarcerated men and women in over 90 prisons across the state of Texas. What began in 1999 as a response to the need to combat the high prevalence of HIV/STDs within Texas prisons and jails, is now an integral component in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) health system.

The Wall Talk curriculum provides coping and disclosure skills to encourage and inform offenders living with HIV or AIDS about how to manage their health, and how to share their health information with others in a manner that encourages supportive responses. Through powerful peer education provided by over 1,300 trained peer educators, Wall Talk ultimately gives medically accurate and risk reduction information to over 78,000 offenders annually.

"Since 1982 AIDS Foundation Houston has been working to prevent HIV in our community's most vulnerable populations. Our Prison Initiative Programs, such as Wall Talk, provide direct service to those most at-risk for infection," explains Kelly Young, CEO.

Wall Talk is one of four of AFH's prison initiatives that work directly with the incarcerated and recently released men and women throughout Texas. For more information on Wall Talk and other AFH programs, please visit www.aids-help.org.

For more information about the Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award, please contact Trey Owens at trey.owens@senate.state.tx.us.

About AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH), founded in 1982, was the first AIDS Service Organization in Texas and remains a national leader in HIV/STD programming. Focusing on preventing new HIV infections, and providing housing and supportive services to those already living with HIV/AIDS, AFH provides care to almost 6,000 men; women and children affected by HIV/AIDS and will educate more than 90,000 people throughout Texas. For more information, please visit www.AIDSHelp.org.

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