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2008 marks 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day

Campbell River – On the 20th anniversary of World Aids Day on December 1, local non-profit AIDS Vancouver Island is reminding the community that the struggle against HIV/AIDS continues.

"We've come a long way since 1988, there is still much more to be done," said Katrina Jensen, executive director of AIDS Vancouver Island. "There are people in communities across Vancouver Island living with HIV who need our support and we must not give up efforts to prevent the spread of HIV."

AIDS has killed more than 25 million people globally, with an estimated 38.6 million people living with HIV, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. In 2007, there were 57 new diagnosis of HIV on Vancouver Island.

Services offered by AIDS Vancouver Island in Campbell River include advocacy and support for those affected by HIV, as well as prevention activities.

"If you would like to show your support for World AIDS Day, we invite you to come down to our office, pick up a red ribbon, and learn more about our services," said Leanne Cunningham, health promotion and positive wellness counsellor at AVI. AVI's Campbell River office is located at 1249 Ironwood Road.

AIDS Vancouver Island has provided community health services focused on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis since 1985.

For more information about AIDS Vancouver Island, please visit www.avi.org or call 250-830-0787 in Campbell River.

– 30 –

For more information, contact Leanne Cunningham, AIDS Vancouver Island at 250-830-0787.