



Presbyterian AIDS Network
A Network of the Presbyterian Health, Education & Welfare
Association (PHEWA)

Dear PAN Members and Friends,

We honor World AIDS Day on December 1, 2015. Not long ago HIV and AIDS looked unbeatable. It devastated entire generations, leaving behind countless orphans and ravaging many countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa. But partners came together to counter the deadly disease and we have made great progress. Over 17 million lives have been saved and now 8.1 million people are on antiretroviral therapy for HIV. (1) However, this is no time to relax our efforts. Despite advances in science and innovative solutions, tremendous challenges still confront us. Adolescent girls are contracting HIV at a terrible rate in southern Africa. We have made little progress in eliminating new cases in the United States and world-wide the global epidemic infects about 6,000 people each day. Many more lives are still at risk. The “graying” of HIV raises important questions for the care and management of HIV through the aging process. A recent outbreak in rural Indiana and Kentucky has reignited debate over syringe service programs. We must concentrate on several key areas including adolescent girls and women, advancing human rights, decriminalizing the disease, as well as building resilient and sustainable systems for health.

As world leaders work to formulate Sustainable Development Goals to improve the lives of billions of people, we know what can be achieved within a context of faith. If you and members of your congregation are not yet a part of PHEWA’s [Presbyterian AIDS Network](#), we strongly encourage your membership and participation.

Please use our World AIDS Day resources to provide relevant educational activities within your church communities as well as advocacy, fund raising, direct service or partnering with other concerned churches and organizations. Seize the momentum and the magnificent display of human spirit that has brought us to this point. Develop a special service honoring the faithful advocates. Let’s come together near World AIDS Day to raise awareness and increase support. Join us as a member of PAN and share with us the vision of an AIDS free world.

Sincerely,

Ann Jones and George Kerr, co-moderators for Presbyterian AIDS Network

(1)Results Report 2015