

UCEDD *it!*

American Samoa Community College

UNIVERSITY CENTER
FOR EXCELLENCE ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

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UNIVERSAL ACCESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

By: Lia Pelenato



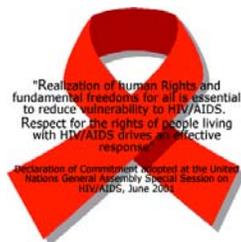
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LATE SYMPTOMS OF HIV & AIDS:

- Rapid weight loss
- Dry cough
- Recurring fever
- Swollen lymph glands in armpits, groin and neck
- Diarrhea lasting more than a week
- Memory loss
- Depression
- Nausea
- Tiredness

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a deadly disease that has no boundaries on its victim. It knows no race, gender, age of its victims. This month is AIDS awareness and there is a need for universal access to treatment of AIDS for individuals diagnosed with this disease. The theme for AIDS awareness for 2010 is “UNIVERSAL ACCESS & HUMAN RIGHTS”. This is an effort for global leaders to



work together in providing HIV and AIDS care, prevention, and treatment. Millions of people are being infected each year and there is a need to protect the rights of these individuals as they seek the care and treatment to AIDS. Universal access to these services demands a greater commitment from service providers and society at large.

Individuals infected with AIDS and/or HIV have protection of their human rights. These rights must be respected and more efforts put into promoting these rights.

AIDS is a disease of the human immune system which is caused by a virus known as HIV. This virus reduces the effectiveness of the person’s immune system and leaves the persons system weak and defenseless to virus and infections. The virus is transmitted through a “direct contact” exposure to bodily fluids. It can also be exchanged between a mother and child during pregnancy, breastfeeding and/or childbirth. AIDS is now a pandemic which estimates that 60 million people worldwide have been infected with 25 million deaths according to reports.

There is treatment and care for



AIDS and HIV available but it can only slow the course of the disease. There is NO KNOWN

CURE for this disease. It is important to be informed about this deadly disease but more importantly, we understand that individuals with AIDS are our friends. Everyone has the right to know about AIDS because anyone can easily be infected which why it is also vital that we all must learn how to prevent the infection with HIV and provide the support to those around us who are infected by this disease. Sometimes we get nervous, avoid the subject, look away or just don’t want to know about AIDs, but the fact is, we cannot escape it. AIDS is everywhere and it can happen to anyone we know and to those we hold dear. This month American Samoa is standing together with the world to promote and support awareness for AIDS across our island. Please support by wearing a red ribbon this December and advocate for the rights of those with AIDS.

“DISABILITY TRACK & FIELD”

By: Ernie Seiuli



Children participating in the “Disability Track & Field” in Utulei.

It was early and it was rainy, windy, with low tide but it did not stop the families, friends and individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in participating in the event by the American Samoa Track & Field committee which was led by Ms.

Deanna Fuimaono. That Saturday morning, December 11th, 2010 at Utulei Beach children and individuals with DD attended a Track & Field fun-filled day made especially for them. The morning was cold, but did not discourage more than 20 participants of the event. The main purpose of the Track & Field event was to have the individuals with developmental disabilities and their families experience the same opportunities with individuals without DD in the field of sports.

It’s often difficult to be different, but the differences manifest themselves in so many ways. These differences can send a strong message that whether athletes or individuals are ambulatory or in a wheelchair, they can participate in many of the events offered in any sport. Individuals with DD are able to become an athlete and can be a team member to any sport. During this day, individuals were classified by their age group and compete against others. Games that were introduced include running, coconut throwing, jumping, and swimming. The emphasis was on ability rather than disability. The idea whether sports is an event indoor or outdoor, all can

participate and can have fun regardless of their disability. Prizes were given out to all the individuals who participated, and were mostly sponsored by private and local businesses. A special acknowledgement and thank you goes out to the American Samoa Track & Field Association and Ms. Deanna Fuimaono for making this activity more realistic to our individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and the DD community at large in American Samoa.



LOAN REPAYMENT Program

Today, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services announced the launch of the new application period for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program, which offers primary care medical, dental and mental health clinicians up to \$60,000 to repay student loans in exchange for two years of service at health care facilities in medically underserved areas. Through the Affordable Care

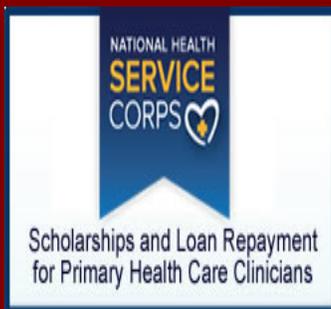
Act, \$290 million in new funding is available for the program, which seeks to address shortages in the primary health care workforce and translates into greater access to healthcare for those in underserved areas.

To view the full press release, go to or click on the following website:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/11/20101122b.html>

For more information about the program and to view a list of participating sites in Hawaii, go to or click on the following website:

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>



JANUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Conference Call	4 P & P meeting	5	6 Webinar	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 VOCA meeting	21	22
23	24 MDRT	25 DV meeting	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Schedule of Events

- } Jan 3: Conference Call for Security Training
- } Jan 4: Policy & Procedure Committee meeting
- } Jan 6: Domestic violence & Stalking webinar
- } Jan. 20: Meeting with VOCA program
- } Jan. 24: MDRT meeting
- } Jan 25: Domestic Violence Committee meeting

WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP 2011

The White House has introduced and posted its Internship program for individuals to gain a valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. The program is designed to mentor and cultivate young leaders today in helping them understand their strength and prepare them for future public service opportunities.

President Obama believes in the capacity of young people to move American forward and is committed

to providing young leaders from across the nation an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and fostering a continued commitment to public service through the White House Internship program. To learn more about the program, please visit:

Whitehouse.gov/internships

A complete application includes two essays, three letters of recommendation and a resume.

To apply for this internship

you would have to visit:

- www.whitehouse.gov/internships
- <http://whitehouse.gov>

If you or someone you know is interested to be an intern at the White House, please feel free to apply at the links provided.



University Center for Excellence on Developmental

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American Samoa Community College **OUR MISSION**

The University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) assures that individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages and their families participate fully in activities that will design and promote self determination, independence, integration and inclusion in all facets of life in American Samoa. The UCEDD will ensure the delivery and purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Act through culturally competent activities.

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Fax: (684) 699-8843*

Please consider our environment before printing.

<http://asucedd.org>

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ACRONYMS/MEANINGS

- AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- DD:** Developmental Disabilities
- DV:** Domestic Violence
- HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- MDRT:** Multidisciplinary Response Team
- NHSC:** National Health Service Corps
- UCEDD:** University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities
- USDHSS:** United States Department of Human & Social Service
- VOCA:** Victims of Crime Advocates

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

We would love to hear from you if you have comments about our newsletter, or if you would like to be added to our newsletter list!