

# PUBLIC HEALTH

## PREPAREDNESS UPDATE



### December 2017

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Zachary Thompson, Director

[www.dallascounty.org/hhs](http://www.dallascounty.org/hhs)

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## DCHHS Participates in World AIDS Day and 27th Annual Kwanzaa Fest

DCHHS joined the nation proclaiming World Aids Day Friday, Dec. 1. Over 36 years ago, the first documented cases of HIV brought about an era of uncertainty and fear.

Today, through innovative research and resilience, we are now steps closer to an AIDS free generation with peer advocates to help lead the way in supporting those who have been impacted by HIV.

DCHHS works to end the stigma behind HIV and has made significant efforts to help stop the spread. This year DCHHS commemorated World Aids Day by offering free testing for HIV and STD's to Dallas County residents.

DCHHS Assistant Director Tammara Scroggins, HIV/STD Manager Felicia Barnett, Early Intervention Clinic (EIC) Supervisor Linda Norman and EIC Disease Intervention Specialist Grace Balaoing helped lead staff and volunteers during the free testing day.

In an effort to increase community participation, DCHHS Director Zachary

Thompson and Commissioner John Wiley Price offered free tickets to Commissioner Price's annual community event "Kwanzaa Fest", which later took place Saturday, Dec. 9 at Fair Park in Dallas.

Serving as a platform for many services, Kwanzaa Fest allowed space for DCHHS to administer free flu vaccinations and free HIV/STD testing during the event.

"Dallas County remains sustained and committed to accelerating progress locally," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "Through community partnership and education, we are able to ensure the next generation has the tools they need to continue fighting this disease."

In addition to free testing and free flu vaccinations, DCHHS provided informational materials on public health preparedness, discussed TB prevention and control, educated participants on public health, older adult services and also provided information on how to get started with Dallas County's Home Loan Counseling Center.



## Afiya Center names Director Thompson a community champion



Afiya Center Executive Director Marsha Jones and DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson

With much of his career attainment and personal life dedicated to public health and human services throughout Dallas County, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson was honored to receive the Bold Leadership Award from The Afiya Center.

The Afiya Center was established in response to the increasing disparities between HIV incidences worldwide and the extraordinary prevalence of HIV

among Black women and girls in Texas. This year, Afiya Center recognizes DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson as a community champion at the 2017 Red Gala.

“Working towards the mission to ensure conditions in which people can be healthy has been my life’s work,” said Zachary Thompson DCHHS director. “It is an honor to receive this award from Afiya center.”

## Supporting men living with HIV

Director Zachary Thompson joined Auntjuan “Mr. Community” Wiley in welcoming attendees to the 3rd National Strength Conference for Men Living with HIV. The four day event offered a supportive, educational setting for mentors and participants to share experiences and for new leaders to build skills in supporting men living with HIV.



Left to right: President and CEO of AIDS Walk South Dallas Auntjuan Wiley, AIDS Walk South Dallas Board Member Julie Minialoff, DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and STD/HIV Program Supervisor Monica Tunstle-Garrett

## BAPS Charities Health Fair



DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson and Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia at the BAPS Charities event.

Director Zachary Thompson and Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia attended the BAPS Charities Health Fair along with the DCHHS immunization team who provided flu vaccinations

to participants. Hosting over 380 participants, this year’s Health Fair aimed to expand on practical preventative care and affordable treatment options for community members. BAPS



Left to right: Field Nurse Supervisor Barbara Davis R.N., Clerk Lenora Cartwright, Jenny Wang R.N., Edith Flippin R.N., Cynthia Lopez R.N. and Ester Huang R.N.

Charities focuses on preventative healthcare through global health and wellness initiatives. Locally, the organization harnesses efforts to support community empowerment, educa-

tional services, environmental protection and preservation, health and wellness in addition to humanitarian relief.





## DCHHS supports Chief on the Beat with Police Chief Renee Hall



## Driving away senior hunger

The Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions united DCHHS with other organizations committed to seniors having equal access to food.

DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson participated in the "Get on the Bus to Drive Away Senior Hunger" event providing an overview of the congregate meal program for senior centers in Dallas County.

The program provides nutritionally balanced meals,

nutrition education and nutrition risk screening for participants who are 60 years or older.

The program also encourages socialization and better health through disease prevention and health promotion programs. For more information on the older adult services program call 214-819-1860 or visit [dallascounty.org/department/hhs/olderadult.html](http://dallascounty.org/department/hhs/olderadult.html)

DCHHS Public Health Educator Marisa Gonzales joined Dallas Police Department's (DPD) "Chief on the Beat" health and safety fair while DPD Chief Renee Hall was in attendance.

The Dallas Office of Community Affairs holds special events bringing together many different units of DPD and organizations to engage with the community.

During the event, free health screenings took place in addition

to DCHHS discussing emergency preparedness with families and staff members.

Programs offered through the Dallas Office Community Affairs include 9-1-1 education, family violence prevention, prescription drug safety, personal safety for seniors, drug awareness, driving/seat belt safety and a host of other initiatives. For more information, visit <http://www.dallaspolice.net/communitys/programs>

## Honoring our Veterans at the Northeast Kids Health and Safety Fair



Above: DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson with military veterans who participated in the event.

Saying thank you is only the beginning of how we honor our veterans. In honor of veterans day, DCHHS participated in the Dallas Police Department Northeast Division's Kids Health and Safety Fair "Honoring Our Veterans" Nov. 11.

The fair featured free health screenings, free food, car shows, 1000 free

coats for kids, train rides and a host of other attractions.

During the event, DCHHS provided free flu vaccines and public health preparedness materials to participants. Director Zachary Thompson thanked veterans for protecting our freedom as Americans.



## Vive tu vida! Get Up! Get Moving!



Left: DCHHS Immunizations staff Tomika Wilhite, Dawn Walker and Lesia Turner



DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson, Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and Texas House Representative Toni Rose with guest.

Dallas County Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel and DCHHS participated in the “Vive tu vida! Get Up! Get Moving!” health initiative by offering flu vaccinations at Grove fest this past month.

Marked as the 11th year in operation, the event features opportunities for physical activity, good nutrition, health services and connects participants to year-round activities and services to support a healthy future.

This year, participants were able to enjoy indoor and outdoor activities including tennis, clinics, rock climbing,

fitness obstacle courses and cooking demonstrations.

“Celebrating positive roles of Hispanic culture in health, this event brings together the community and reinforces a culture of well-being” said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. “Along with many other vital community partners, DCHHS celebrates the continuing goals of this event”

For more information about ¡Vive tu vida! Get Up! Get Moving!® Dallas, please email: [pgarcia@theconcilio.org](mailto:pgarcia@theconcilio.org), visit <http://theconcilio.org/events/> or call: 214-818-0481.



DCHHS Director Zachary Thompson discussing event activities.



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### About This Newsletter

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