



Wilkinson Boulevard Medical Office
3333 Wilkinson Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28208

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 8, 2023

Contact:

Kelly Hurley, Chief Development Officer

Telephone: 704-971-1482

E-mail: khurley@cwwilliams.org

Website: www.cwwilliams.org

The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. Calls for Unity, Commitment and Collaboration During World AIDS Day Event

CHARLOTTE, NC, December 8, 2023 –More than 100 people attended a World AIDS Day event hosted by The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) on December 2, 2023 at New Covenant Bibleway Church in Charlotte. The event was a collaborative initiative with RAIN, PowerHouse, Gilead Sciences, By His Stripes Wellness Center, RAO, Quality Comprehensive Health Center, and Charlotte Community Health Clinic to spread awareness of issues affecting people living with HIV (PLWH), to celebrate gains made in the fight against HIV and the stigma still experienced by PLWH, and to commemorate lives lost to AIDS.

In alignment with this year’s national theme for World AIDS Day, “Remember and Commit,” and global theme of “Let Communities Lead,” event organizers encouraged attendees to reaffirm their commitment to HIV response efforts, while highlighting the collective impact of like-minded organizations working toward the common goal of ending the HIV epidemic. The event featured patient testimonials, a candle lighting ceremony to commemorate lives lost to HIV/AIDS, and networking opportunities. Guest speakers included CWWCHC’s HIV Director, Malcolm Davis, and Mecklenburg County’s HIV/STD Division Health Program Supervisor, Johnathan Wilson.

“The C.W. Williams Community Health Center continues to be at the forefront of progress in the fight against HIV,” said CWWCHC’s CEO, Debra Weeks. “We understand the importance of tailoring outreach and clinical efforts to address specific cultural contexts so that they are more likely to be embraced by diverse populations. Events such as this help to galvanize the community and encourage efforts to maximize available resources. We are proud to lead this 35th commemoration of World AIDS Day,” Weeks continued.

AIDS claimed a life every minute in 2022 (Source: unaids.org). Organizations such as CWWCHC provide essential prevention, testing, treatment, and support services for patients from all walks of life. CWWCHC is part of a nationwide network of community health centers on the front lines of national public health challenges working to reduce health disparities. The organization addresses not only physical and behavioral health needs, but also the root causes of many health issues such as food insecurity, affordable housing, lack of transportation, and other factors that affect health and wellness.

###

Founded in 1981, The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC), designated Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), and healthcare safety net. The Center’s integrated, affordable services include primary and preventive Medical and Dental care, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder counseling and treatment, HIV/AIDS/STI testing and specialty care, Women’s Health services, pediatric care, Holistic Medicine (Acupuncture, Acupressure, Herbal Therapies), 340B pharmacy services, mobile medical and dental services, community outreach, and non-emergency patient transportation services. Each year, CWWCHC serves more than 13,000 patients, representing more than 30,000 encounters. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 866-CWW-4-YOU (866-299-4968).



Event participants prepare for a candle lighting ceremony at a World AIDS event hosted by The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. at New Covenant Bibleway Church in Charlotte