

30 Ways for Your Church to Become Engaged in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

1. Recognize World AIDS Day (December 1) with a prayer in your church.
2. Host a World AIDS Day Event or Worship Service
3. Invite an HIV/AIDS missionary or local leader to speak at your church.
4. Place HIV/AIDS educational materials in a display in your church. There are good factual materials and good materials for Christians available. (SM)
5. Educate yourself about HIV/AIDS.
6. Collect some information for your pastor to read. (SM)
7. Set aside some prayer time at your church during National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (the first full week in March)
<http://www.nationalweekofprayerforthehealingofaids.org>
8. Partner with a local AIDS Service Organization (ASO) to provide assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS in your community.
9. Challenge your church to set aside some funds to provide assistance to people living with AIDS. (gas vouchers, food cards, utility bill assistance).
10. Host an HIV/AIDS Support Group.
11. Make your building available to the AIDS community for meeting space. Provide snacks!
12. Teach your congregation about HIV/AIDS. (SM)
13. Pray for people who live with HIV/AIDS both overseas and within your own community. (SM)
14. Mention HIV/AIDS in your church bulletin or newsletter (World AIDS Day or National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS).
15. Host an HIV testing event at your church.
16. Include HIV/AIDS information whenever your church provides a health fair or missions fair.
17. Call the Executive Director of a local AIDS Service Organization (ASO) and find out how your church can provide support.
18. Send someone from your church to a local HIV/AIDS Community Planning meeting. These take place in every community (sometimes called Regional Community Planning Groups) and are open meetings. Faith-based groups need to be a part of the community!
19. Find out what your church denomination is already doing to help people who live with HIV/AIDS.
20. Ask your pastor to pray about HIV/AIDS from the pulpit. (WEB)
21. One of the best ways to become involved is to become educated. Learn more about HIV.
22. Do a service project for people who have HIV/AIDS.
23. Talk to your pastor about starting an HIV Ministry in your church. (WEB)
24. Include HIV/AIDS materials in your youth group studies. (SM)
25. Talk about HIV/AIDS in your bible study group or Sunday school class.

26. Find out what HIV resources are already available in your community and explore how your church can fit in. What gaps exist? What does your church already do well?
27. Host an AIDS Memorial Quilt display. www.aidsquilt.org
28. Participate in community wide missions events such as Operation Inasmuch (www.operationinasmuch.com) and make sure that the opportunity is there to serve the AIDS Community.
29. Ask your pastor to preach a sermon about HIV/AIDS.
30. Explore the Bible in relationship to a Christian Response to HIV/AIDS. Materials are available at www.samaritancentral.org/resources.asp.

Resource Abbreviations:

WEB – Samaritan Ministry website - all materials downloadable at no charge
– www.samaritancentral.org

SM – Print materials available from Samaritan Ministry - make requests at
samaritancentral@gmail.com