



For Immediate Release

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THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS - NORTH AMERICA (GNP+NA) CELEBRATES ITS YEAR OF SUCCESS AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

(Washington, D.C.) The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS – North America (GNP+NA) celebrates its year of success, and on reflection of World AIDS Day, looks to the challenges facing people living with HIV/AIDS around the globe.

GNP+NA has made several achievements in the past year, including:

- Active representation through GNP+ on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Forming a partnership with the International Community of Women-North America (ICW-NA)
- Registering as a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service

For 2005, GNP+NA sees several major challenges that must be addressed to help people living with HIV/AIDS:

The Global Fund: The United States Congress appropriated a record \$2.3 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for FY2005, a \$690 million increase over FY2004. GNP+NA commends the Congress and Administration for committing a record amount to this vitally needed fund. However, contributions from all countries is still woefully lacking. In addition, significant restructuring of the fund is needed to ensure that dollars and resources meet the persons most in need.

Travel Ban: The U.S. ban on travel for HIV infected persons into the United States must be eliminated. GNP+NA calls upon the Bush Administration to put into action its words described in a recent World AIDS Day letter to legislators to “show compassion and bring hope to those suffering from HIV/AIDS at both home and abroad...Fighting HIV/AIDS is one of the great challenges of our time, but one worth taking. It is a moral imperative for those who believe in the value and dignity of every human life. The United States will continue to honor its commitment and support the research, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS.” The United States can show leadership in the area of

reducing discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS by making it a priority to get the U.S. travel ban on HIV-infected persons entering the United States eliminated.

GNP+NA is the North American affiliate of GNP+ and operates a unique bilateral organization providing North American PLWHA's with opportunities to network, organize, and become part of a global movement of PLWHA's. The mission of GNP+NA is to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS by creating and sustaining an active North American network of PLWHA's working regionally to address the global pandemic. GNP+NA endorses the vision of GNP+ to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS by lobbying, linking and sharing. The goal of GNP+ is to create, organize and support a base for the global network by: *Lobbying* for inclusion of people living with HIV/AIDS and their interests; *Linking* people living with HIV/AIDS through local, regional and global meetings and conferences; and *Sharing* knowledge and building capacity locally, regionally and globally.

-30-

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