

Media Placement Highlights

November & December 2025

Notable media placements:

Windy City Times

"AFC closes 2025 with 'State of Zero' – November 17, 2025

<https://windycitytimes.com/2025/11/17/afc-closes-2025-with-state-of-zero/>

- On November 14, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) hosted their end-of-the-year party.
- This year's theme, *State of Zero: A Progress and Partnership Celebration*, gathered staff and supporters to acknowledge partnerships across Illinois while celebrating organizational milestones and accomplishments in 2025.
- Lake County Health Department Assistant STI Program Coordinator Raven Santiago accepted the Collaborator Award.
- The Lake County Health Department, AFC, and other stateside partners, led Illinois forward with the Getting to Zero Illinois Plan 2.0 focusing on improving quality of life for people living with HIV while preventing new transmissions and making new diagnoses earlier.

"Lake County Health Department set to hold annual World AIDS Day event" – December 3, 2025

<https://windycitytimes.com/2025/12/03/lake-county-health-department-set-to-hold-annual-world-aids-day-event/>

- On Saturday, December 6, the Health Department hosted its annual World AIDS Day event at the Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago, Illinois.
- Health Department Associate Director Sara Zamor said the theme, *Without Borders, Without Stigma: Giving Flowers in Life*, "focuses on the right that all people have to dignity and respect in healthcare, specifically HIV treatment free of judgement or barriers. 'Giving someone their flowers' means lifting a person up, celebrating their impact and recognizing their strength."
- Zamor and Health Department Public Health Nurse Veronica Perez will read the names of the people in the county whose lives have been lost due to complications from HIV.
- Health Department STI Program Coordinator Valerie Johanson said the program "works closely with the HIV community as a Ryan White patient-centered health home and provides HIV counseling, testing, and care."
- Health Department Executive Director Chris Hoff said, "Right now, we have not seen direct funding impacts as a result of federal prioritization. We are aware that this could change in the future and are prepared to adapt if and when needed. Due to other federal directives, such as increased immigration enforcement, vulnerable residents are facing new barriers to accessing care."

Press Releases Issued

- [Without Borders, Without Stigma: Giving Flowers in Life. World AIDS Day Event on December 6th](#)
- [Health Department Seeks Mental Health First Aid Instructors](#)

Total Media Placements

November 1 – December 31, 2025

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	3
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	4