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September 5, 2008

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ORANGE COUNTY AIDS WALK ANNOUNCES GRANT OPPORTUNITY *Applications Due October 3, 2008 for 2009 Grant Cycle*

IRVINE, CA – Orange County AIDS Walk has released grant application materials and guidelines for the 2009 grant cycle of AIDS Walk. Interested applicants are urged to obtain complete information and guidelines along with a budget outline from the link located at www.ocasf.org. Applications are due on **Friday, October 3, 2008** in the offices of AIDS Services Foundation in Irvine. Direct all grant applications and requests for information to Marc Mullendore, Grants Manager.

“There has been a clear shift in the past few years in the direction of outcomes-based grants among national and regional funders of HIV programs,” said Frank Bianchini, Co-Chair of AIDS Walk 2009. “AIDS Walk is following that lead and has structured its grant program to increase the impact of AIDS Walk funds to serve individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS in Orange County. The bottom line is that we want to make sure that AIDS Walk continues to benefit as many agencies providing services and those people in Orange County with HIV as possible,” he continued.

AIDS Walk is a program of AIDS Services Foundation. “We recognize the changes that have taken place in the HIV epidemic over the past 25 years and have made sure that we modernize and improve our programs in response to those changes,” explained Philip Yaeger, Executive Director of ASF. “We believe that the AIDS Walk grants will inspire grantees to innovate and improve their programs and be focused on results that positively impact people living with HIV. We welcome applications from all qualified organizations,” he added.

Grant eligibility is limited to 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organizations who agree to use the proceeds to provide services to residents of Orange County. The use of grant funding is restricted to expenses for HIV programs.

AIDS Walk 2009 will take place in May 2009 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim and will be the 23rd annual AIDS walk-a-thon in Orange County. AIDS Walk 2008 attracted more than 10,000 participants and raised nearly \$ 800,000 in proceeds that were distributed to 10 recipient agencies across Orange County.

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Founded in 1985, AIDS Services Foundation is the largest non-profit provider of care and services to people with HIV in Orange County, serving 1,600 clients across Orange County. Services include food, transportation, housing, emergency financial assistance, family support programs, mental health counseling, support groups, and HIV education and prevention services. For more information, please visit: www.ocasf.org.