

**MAYOR TORRES WORLD AIDS DAY REMARKS
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RYAN WHITE SERVICES
DECEMBER 1, 2014**

It's an honor to recognize today, December 1st, 2014, World AIDS Day, as well as the 20th Anniversary of the Ryan White Bergen/Passaic County Planning Council.

Twenty years ago the Ryan White Planning Council served approximately 100 consumers. Today, I am proud to say, over 20 agencies throughout Passaic and Bergen counties offer medical and mental health services, substance abuse treatment, case management, housing and many more services.

Allow me to thank the foresight of our Business Administrator, Nellie Pou then Director of the Department of Human Services, along with Charlotte Tobias, Karen Walker and Frank Covello for making this initiative possible.

For too long stigma and discrimination have been obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. People with AIDS have been denied housing and employment, and in some cases have been denied the basic necessities of life.

Allow me to take this opportunity to appeal to all of you, to our community-at-large to take time out of our busy schedule and join forces with agencies who help those in need, and educate ourselves in ways to help prevent and find a cure for HIV/AIDS.

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