

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIDS Services Board Chair to Attend International AIDS Conference

(Gilsum) Arne Grandell, Board Chair of AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region, has been selected as a delegate to the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City August 3-8. This annual conference is the most important global gathering for the release and discussion of scientific, programmatic and policy developments in response to the AIDS pandemic. It is the largest and most diverse international meeting devoted to a single global health issue. An estimated 25,000 participants and 3,000 journalists are expected to attend.

The AIDS 2008 theme, Universal Action Now, is the first International AIDS Conference ever held in Latin America. Presenters will gather from the United States and worldwide to emphasize the need for continued urgency and action in the global response to HIV/AIDS. Stakeholders are striving to reach the goal of ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care by 2010. Strengthening health care systems in developing countries and addressing underlying social injustices that contribute to HIV risk and vulnerability -- such as poverty, gender inequality and homophobia -- are essential strategies in the global response to HIV.

México City is the most important economic, industrial and cultural center of México. With an estimated 20 million residents, the Greater México City area (Zona Metropolitana del Valle de México) is the largest metropolitan area in the western hemisphere and the second largest city in world. AIDS 2008 will be held at Centro Banamex, the largest convention and business centre in México City with an emphasis on culture, youth and AIDS.

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