

My Friends:

In honor of World AIDS Day I would like to share with you some very staggering statistics that affects all of us in one way or another. Every nine and a half minutes someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV (Twenty percent of the people living with the virus don't even know it) Black teens make up only 15% of the U.S. population, but 68% of new AIDS cases.

In 1982, 13 year old Denise Stokes had sex for the very first time. As a consequence she was infected with HIV. Twenty-eight years later Denise is still fighting - not just for her own life, but for the lives of the 1.2 million Americans that live with the disease. She's also do everything she can to prevent others from contracting the virus.

Today is the day that we should do everything that we can to fight this epidemic that's killing our children. Most teens believe that it cannot happen to them, but we must let them know that if they engage in risky behavior, not only can it happen, but it will happen to them.

This is not what we should do, but what we must do. Today - Tomorrow may be too late.

Your for the cause of love and peace,

Cedric Dean