



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The cumulative reported AIDS cases for American Indians/Alaska Natives was 3,629 and an estimated 2,306 American Indians/Alaska Natives were living with AIDS through 2008, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- WHEREAS: American Indians/Alaska Natives rank fourth in the U.S. (among all ethnicities) in rates of new HIV infections by population size; and
- WHEREAS: According to the National Congress of American Indians, American Indians/Alaska Natives have long experienced lower health status compared with other Americans that includes a lower life expectancy and higher disease occurrence than other racial/ethnic groups due in part to disproportionate poverty rates, inadequate educational opportunities, discrimination in the delivery of health services and access to adequate and quality health care; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, there have been 207 HIV/AIDS cases reported among American Indian men, women and children and an estimated 114 American Indians are reported to be currently living with HIV as of 2009; and
- WHEREAS: *National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* is an observance to call national attention to the plight of American Indian communities and their struggles against the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and
- WHEREAS: This day will challenge us to work in harmony, create a greater awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS to our American Indian communities, call for resources for testing and early detection and for increased treatment options and eventually decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS: Local community-based organizations and Tribal Councils are hosting community events, exhibits, testing opportunities and trainings to recognize this day and its importance to our American Indian communities and all concerned citizens; and
- WHEREAS: It is fitting that we join with these national and local groups and Tribal Councils to express our strong support for *National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the American Indian communities and to provide treatment and support services to those infected and affected by this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2011 as:

### NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the state of Minnesota, and urge all community-based organizations, Tribal Councils, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials, governmental agencies and local residents to support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate this occasion.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Dayton".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Mark Dayton".

SECRETARY OF STATE