

CHICAGO TOBACCO PREVENTION PROJECT



**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION®**
of Metropolitan Chicago

Press Release

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The Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project observes World No Tobacco Day on May 31 Community partners encourage Chicagoans to imagine a tobacco-free world

The Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project will observe World No Tobacco Day on May 31. Dedicated to drawing attention to the devastating effects of tobacco, which is responsible for more than 5 million deaths each year globally, World No Tobacco Day was created by the United Nations' public health arm, the World Health Organization, in 1987.

Several of the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project's community partners are raising awareness about local programs and policy efforts underway to reduce smoking rates and decrease exposure to secondhand smoke. Following is a list of their special events and activities in observance of this day:

- **Asian Health Coalition** will be launching its anti-tobacco bus shelter and newspaper campaign in the Chinatown community.
- **Hip-Hop Detoxx** will host an open mic community event at Lyric Lounge. For more information call, 877-8-DETOXX.
- **Illinois Maternal** will be launching its Youth Advisory Council Operation Storefront video. You can view the video at <http://www.vimeo.com/23978051>.
- **Y2Kwanzaa.org** will host an event at Shabazz International Charter School featuring Operation Storefront student displays, music, food and cultural performances.
- **National Museum of Mexican Art / Radio Arte** has released a special radio PSA to encourage listeners to imagine a world free of tobacco, and to take the first step in choosing to live a tobacco-free life. Download it at www.lungchicago.org.

"As World No Tobacco Day brings awareness to the important issue of tobacco control efforts, we are committed to helping Chicagoans overcome tobacco addictions to live healthier, longer lives by overcoming tobacco addictions," said Joel Africk, president and CEO of Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago. "Policy changes that make lasting changes to curtail youth access to tobacco products and to increase the number of smoke-free environments in which people work, live and play are also important components of this overall effort."

The Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project encourages people who are ready to quit smoking to call the Illinois Tobacco Quitline at 1-866-Quit-Yes for local resources and personalized counseling. The organization, along with its community partners, also offers Courage to Quit – free smoking cessation classes at different locations in Chicago.

For more information on the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project and local smoking cessation resources, please visit www.lungchicago.org.

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About the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project: As the delegate agency for the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago oversees the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project. Funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, the comprehensive program includes hard-hitting media, outreach to vulnerable population groups, and policy efforts that reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. To learn more, visit www.lungchicago.org/ctpp.

About RHAMC: Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago (RHAMC) has been a local public health leader since 1906. Today, the association addresses asthma, COPD, lung cancer, tobacco control and air quality with a comprehensive approach involving research, education and advocacy activities.

About CDPH: Since 1835, the Chicago Department of Public Health has taken the lead in making Chicago a healthier and safer place for everyone. The Department is currently developing a city-wide public health agenda to address Chicago's major public health challenges --- one of which is reducing tobacco use.