



December 4, 2008

Article unjust, insensitive

Readers

The Desert Sun

For The Desert Sun to pick up an AP wire story like "Critics argue against AIDS funding" on World AIDS Day, while ignoring the dire reality of this problem locally, seems to ignore the standards of balanced journalism.

The current rate of HIV infection in the Coachella Valley is more than four times that nationally. Even so, government funding for AIDS continues to dry up. To report that "AIDS is eating up funding at the expense of more pressing health needs" is truly unjust. Such a front-page article sends an inaccurate message that Desert AIDS Project no longer needs time, talent, and money to continue our missions of care, prevention, and advocacy.

The treatment of HIV/AIDS is too often subject to economic disparity, homophobia, racism and sexism. Until health is recognized as dependent on our cooperative commitment to social justice, we will never wake to a world without AIDS.

With more than 33 million worldwide and 1.2 million in the U.S. living with HIV/AIDS - more than 8,000 in D.A.P.'s service area are affected — AIDS is truly a cause that argues to "think globally, act locally."

Until there's a cure.

David Brinkman
executive director, Desert AIDS Project
