

ensure that our prevention dollars use the comprehensive "ABC" approach, Abstinence, Be Faithful, use Condoms to prevent the spread of HIV.

In the 24 years since AIDS was first diagnosed, America and the world have made tremendous strides in battling HIV. The average life expectancy of someone infected with HIV has risen dramatically since the disease was first identified. Despite our best efforts, the war on AIDS is still not won. Even the most optimistic estimates predict a vaccine may be another 10 years away. As Americans, we must do everything in our power to expedite the defeat of this disease.

I urge my fellow senators and the Bush administration to do everything in their power to find a cure for the AIDS pandemic and adequately fund research and treatment of HIV/AIDS. While our efforts have been great, the toll AIDS has taken on the world has been far greater.

It is my hope that our unwavering dedication to helping the countless victims of HIV/AIDS will continue well beyond World AIDS Day. It should be our goal to band together to work to find the cure for this deadly illness which transcends gender, race, and nationality.

On this day, I encourage people around the world to take time to ponder the vast scope of the AIDS pandemic, and remember those we have lost. But let us not remember them in sorrow but, rather, let their memory inspire our efforts to prevent any further devastation from this virus. Amidst our many domestic and international problems, let us remember that AIDS has cruelly cut short tens of millions of lives, more than that of any warlord, dictator, or natural disaster in human history. This disease has ravaged a continent, orphaned innumerable children, and torn apart entire communities. Millions more will die of AIDS this year, and millions more, including newborn infants, will become infected. Until the day when this virus no longer threatens the lives of millions of innocent people, we all must pledge to keep this fight alive.

It is our responsibility as representatives of the people to take action now to eradicate this deadly disease. Each day we wait is another day when someone's loved one will fall victim to this virus. Silence is approval, and it is our duty to raise our voices for those whose voices have been silenced. It is our duty to further the strides taken since the first case was diagnosed in 1981, so our generation can celebrate the day when the last case is cured. As I have said before, "I was there in the beginning, and I plan to be there in the end."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE COMMUNITY HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable organization in my home State, the Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana. Each night, nearly 600,000 Hoosiers go to bed hungry, including 190,000 children. The numbers are heartbreaking, particularly during the holiday season, but thanks to the Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, our State is making strides to end this terrible tragedy.

The Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana has been a leader in the efforts to eliminate hunger across Indiana. Each year, Community Harvest collects and distributes more than 7 million pounds of donated surplus food through a network of more than 550 social service agencies. Each of these agencies offers invaluable assistance to hungry children, the working poor, and the elderly and helps ensure that every Hoosier has access to a healthy meal. Recently, the organization was named the 2005 Food Bank of the Year by America's Second Harvest—an honor never before awarded to an Indiana food bank. This award recognizes the hard work, dedication, energy, and efficiency of the organization, as well as its inspired leadership under Jane Avery.

With Jane at the helm, Community Harvest has achieved organizational excellence, while continuing to do God's work, making sure that all our neighbors are cared for and fed. One of the lessons I learned from my parents was that life is not about what you take out of it, but what you put back in. Jane lives that sentiment to the fullest every day. Her work has made Indiana a better place to live for all of us.

This year has been particularly hard on many Hoosier families and communities, making the work of Community Harvest especially critical. Businesses across the State have suffered layoffs, and families have lost their homes in recent tornados and storms, all while gas and heating prices have continued to increase. The Community Harvest Food Bank allows families to stretch their budget further, so they don't have to face the impossible decision of choosing between paying bills and putting food on the table. Each week, between 50,000 and 54,000 children and adults in 9 counties in Indiana are able to sit down to a hot meal because of Community Harvest's work.

It is part of the fabric of life in Indiana that we all look out for our neighbors, aiding them through tough times and celebrating in good times. The Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana is the kind of organization that keeps the Hoosier tradition of compassion alive and makes me proud to be a Hoosier.

It is my great honor to recognize Jane Avery and the Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana for their service to the State of Indiana.●

CONGRATULATING MASON CORINTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Mason Corinth Elementary School of Williamstown, KY. Mason Corinth Elementary School is recognized as the recipient of the Fitness for Life Around Grant County, FFLAG, Silver Award for the Worksite Wellness Program.

FFLAG was created in 2002 to raise awareness about physical activity and proper nutrition. In September of 2005, FFLAG expanded their program to focus on worksite wellness by inviting Grant County businesses and organizations to take part in the Workplace Wellness Program. The program focused on budget allocation for worksite wellness programs, employees' personal dedication to fitness, communication about wellness in the workplace, and on environmental changes that can help make our offices, stores, schools, and factories healthier places to work. I am proud to say that Mason Corinth School is one of the worthy recipients of the Silver Award.

Sadly, the State of Kentucky is suffering from a health epidemic. Over two-thirds of adults in our State suffer from obesity. And this epidemic is not only hurting our waistlines, but also our pocketbooks. In 2003, over \$1.1 billion was spent by Kentuckians on health problems caused by obesity. That is why programs which promote healthy living, such as FFLAG, are so important for the future of our Commonwealth.

Mason Corinth Elementary School is a shining example of how our Kentucky schools can help Kentuckians lead better, healthier lives.

I congratulate Mason Corinth Elementary School on this achievement. The administrators, teachers, parents, and students of this school are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that Mason Corinth Elementary School accomplishes in the future.●

CONGRATULATING CRITTENDEN-MOUNT ZION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Crittenden-Mount Zion Elementary School of Dry Ridge, KY. Crittenden-Mount Zion Elementary School is recognized as the recipient of the Fitness for Life Around Grant County, FFLAG, Silver Award for the Worksite Wellness Program.

FFLAG was created in 2002 to raise awareness about physical activity and proper nutrition. In September of 2005, FFLAG expanded their program to focus on worksite wellness by inviting Grant County businesses and organizations to take part in the Workplace