The 2011 POZ 100: People, Things and Ideas We Love

The year we honored 100 people, things and ideas that helped fight HIV.

November 16, 2020 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr., Joe Mejía , Jennifer Morton and Trent Straube

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For our second POZ 100 list, we celebrated 100 people, things and ideas that reinvented or improved how we tackle HIV. The idea to depart from spotlighting only people was inspired in part by one of the biggest headlines in AIDS history.

Earlier that year, it was revealed that the first person cured of HIV was Timothy Ray Brown, a man known as “the Berlin Patient.” In fact, POZ featured him on the June 2011 cover.

Further, in addition to fresh hope in the fields of cure and vaccine research, it was also shown that treatment works as prevention. Global health experts were saying that the correct application of our resources could start to end the HIV epidemic.

The trick was to capitalize on that amazing progress, parlaying science into policy and turning optimism into cash to improve the lives of people living with HIV. Our contribution to that effort in 2011 was to depart from honoring only people to also highlighting organizations and concepts that we believed deserved attention.

The survival of people living with HIV has always depended on a one-two punch: leadership from the top and from the grassroots level. As a result, the 2011 POZ 100 list included celebrities and people involved in government and global efforts as well as folks who were fighting in the trenches, acting as essential thorns in the side of the establishment, working as watchdogs, wielding the press to expose corruption and serving as role models. They proved that a single soul can change the world.

Catching Up With...

Michelle Braxtonsteve morrison

Michelle Braxton

Why do you advocate for people living with HIV?

I advocate for my community because living with HIV is not a death sentence. I have been living with HIV for 29 years. If you are informed and get tested and treated for HIV, you can live a fulfilling life.

Jack MackenrothClay Patrick McBride

Jack Mackenroth

How do you empower others?

I try to take away the fear. There is a lot of misinformation dispensed globally. I try to keep it simple: Get tested, and confirm your HIV status; get on antiretrovirals as soon as possible, and take them as prescribed; get your CD4 cell count up and your viral load undetectable so you can’t transmit it to other people (#UequalsU); and resume your normal life.

Edwin Bernard courtesy of HIV Justice Worldwide

Edwin Bernard

What advice do you have for people doing HIV advocacy work today?

One person can change the world, but we can achieve even more when we work together and when our work is adequately funded.

2011 Medical Milestone

The HPTN 052 study found that taking antiretrovirals reduces the risk of transmitting HIV through vaginal sex by 96%, launching the treatment-as prevention era.

The 2011 POZ 100

“15 by 2015”

ACT V

AIDS.gov

AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)

The Ali Forney Center

Alpha Workshops

amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research

APICHA’s Transgender Clinic

AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC)

B Condoms

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi

Beauty Queens with a Conscience

Edwin Bernard

Susan Blumenthal

Bob Bowers

Michelle Braxton

Governor Jerry Brown

Timothy Ray Brown

The Reverend Calvin O. Butts III

The Cabinet

Jim Campbell

Catholics for Choice

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Chris Collins

Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus

Jeffrey Crowley

JD Davids

Joe De Capua

The Denver Principles

Desert AIDS Project

Ambassador Mark Dybul

Wafaa El-Sadr

Kenyon Farrow

Anthony Fauci

Kevin Fenton

Dab Garner

A Grassroots History of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in North America

Robert Greenwald

Hairdressers Against AIDS

Harm Reduction Coalition

Mark Harrington

Health Gap

Health HIV

Todd Heywood

Kathie Hiers

Marjorie Hill

The HIV Law Project

The HIV Story Project

James Houston

The International AIDS Conference

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

In the Life

I Stay Healthy

La Toya Jackson

Sir Elton John

Sheila Johnson

Paul Kawata

Michel Kazatchkine

Alicia Keys

The Reverend Charles King

Mark King

Larry Kramer

Annie Lennox

Life Ball

Jack Mackenroth

Jordan M.

The Moore Clinic

David Ernesto Munar

The NAMES Project Foundation

The National Black Clergy for the Elimination of HIV/AIDS Act of 2009

President Barack Obama

Over-the-Counter Tests

Michael Petrelis

Jim Pickett

Positive Justice Project

Positive Women’s Network

The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

“Prison Health News”

The Rachofskys

Michael Emanuel Rajner

The Robert James Frascino Foundation

Carlton Rounds

Chris Salgardo

Sangamo BioSciences Inc.

Kathleen Sebelius

Michael Sennott

Matt Sharp

Michel Sidibé

Kimberly Smith

Joseph Sonnabend

Stop AIDS Project

Andrew Sullivan

Dame Elizabeth Taylor

Sandy Thurman

Treatment as Prevention

VOCAL-NY

Court Justice David Wake

The Well Project

Phill Wilson

ZamBama

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