The POZ 100: 71 to 80

November 12, 2010

71. Tokes Osubu The executive director of Gay Men of African Descent provides health and social services to black gay men while battling the homophobia and stigmatization of MSM in the black community. Addressing the challenges of living with HIV as a black American, Osubu helps his people get whole.

72. Karen Pearl As president and CEO of God's Love We Deliver in Manhattan, Pearl sees to it that people living with HIV/AIDS (and other illnesses that keep them housebound) get fresh, nutritious, homemade food delivered daily. The former head of Planned Parenthood sees food and the personal touches offered by her staff that drop off meals as lifelines for people trying to survive. Making patients feel human again is her recipe for success.

73. Jim Pickett The director of advocacy at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago also champions the idea of developing microbicides for rectal use. His work as chairman of the International Rectal Microbicides Advocates is instrumental in fighting for much-needed new prevention methods.

74. Gina Quattrochi The executive director of Bailey House in New York runs an award-winning community-based organization that provides housing, services and technical assistance to people with HIV. Quattrochi adjusts her services to the changing needs of her clients. For example, handing out warm meals and clean needles together.

75. Michael Emanuel Rajner The one-man powerhouse from Fort Lauderdale is a regular on the political scene from local Dade County to Capitol Hill. He calls, and asks, shows up and demands until people hear his words of wisdom. Imagine the impact he could have with more backing.

76. Sheryl Lee Ralph The founder and director of The Diva Foundation in West Hollywood, California, lights up a stage and sends shivers down your spine. Quick, someone get her a gig at the White House. Maybe then the First Lady will listen to the fact that HIV/AIDS is the No. 1 killer of African-American women ages 25 to 34.

77. José Ramirez As youth empowerment program coordinator at La Clínica del Pueblo in DC, Ramirez talks turkey to the teens and young adults he counsels. Whenever this out, gay, HIV-positive young Latino speaks, his peers are all ears.

78. Susan Rodriguez The president and founding director of Sisterhood Mobilized for HIV/AIDS Treatment (SMART) University in New York is living with HIV-and living with a teenage HIV-positive daughter. Her organization provides free treatment and prevention classes for women. She and her daughter provide role modeling for how to gracefully live in spite of the virus.

79. Francisco Ruiz As the manager of the Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities program at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), Ruiz focuses on Latino youth. He's a real up-and-comer.

80. Eric Sawyer The civil society partnerships advisor to UNAIDS has lived with HIV for as many years as we've known it was the virus that causes AIDS. A founding member of the original ACT UP, Sawyer leverages three decades of advocacy experience to help those in need and keep others from landing in the same boat. He's brilliant.

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