



On Christmas Eve 2012, Kyle Clifford Learned He Had HIV. Now He's Leading AIDS Research

Watch a hopeful message from Kyle Clifford, the incoming CEO of amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

December 28, 2025 By amfAR

On World AIDS Day, December 1, amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research released a message from incoming CEO Kyle Clifford who shares his personal journey with HIV and steadfast commitment to finding a cure for AIDS. Clifford reflects on his AIDS diagnosis, how advances in research transformed his life, and why leading amfAR marks a deeply personal mission. You can watch the video above and [on YouTube](#). A full transcript is below:

"I came out at a very young age in Ireland, but I'm very lucky that I got the love and support of my family. The biggest primary concern and fear that any parent would have had for a child who came out at that time period in the early '90s was that they would die of AIDS.

"I did not know I was HIV positive. So, I was actually told on Christmas Eve of 2012 by our family doctor in my hometown.

"It was unexpected. I wasn't sick or ill. My first blood count scores indicated that I actually had an AIDS diagnosis. I thought it was a death sentence. And so, I didn't hear anything else from the doctor's mouth that day other than thinking that I was potentially going to die.

"I very quickly went on a course of medication to ensure that I didn't succumb to an opportunist infection, and I'm a very lucky and blessed and fortunate man. I'm, frankly, alive because of organizations like amfAR because of the people who are fighting for treatment.

"I did become, for a period of time around 5 years, obsessed around the concept of a cure, and what came up periodically in my research was this organization amfAR, and that gave hope to individuals like me.

"It gave hope that a cure was possible. amfAR plays this very unique role in being the seed funder of old and innovative research. We are a biomedical research foundation. We're here to advance scientific discoveries and to basically save lives. I'm the first HIV-positive CEO at amfAR, but I show

up for work not only HIV positive, but truly committed, passionate in the fight to try and make AIDS history.

“World AIDS Day is a really important day for a whole host of reasons. It’s a celebration of life. It’s a celebration of the progress that we’ve made. No matter what is happening in this world, we’re going to stay razor focused on finding a cure for HIV.

“To people who are living with HIV or people who want to end the epidemic, amfAR stands with you shoulder-to-shoulder in this fight. We are 100% committed. We will not give up until we make AIDS history.

“Together we can achieve the goal.”

[This message](#) was originally posted December 1, 2025, [on amfAR.org](http://amfar.org).

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/christmas-eve-2012-kyle-clifford-learned-hiv-now-leading-aids-research-amfar>