The 2010 POZ 100: Celebrating AIDS Advocates

The 2010 POZ 100 list was created to uplift those advocates at a crucial time.

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

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The inaugural POZ 100 list was launched to honor some of the bravest, most dogged and downright effective AIDS fighters we knew. One hundred of them, in fact—and we had plenty of reasons to be in the mood to celebrate.

In the previous year, President Barack Obama had staffed up the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, reopened the Office of National AIDS Policy and invited several hundred people, many of them living with HIV, to the White House for an event to celebrate the launch of a National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

What's more, needle exchange was approved in many cities, and the Affordable Care Act had been signed into law, although it wouldn't take full effect until 2014. Further, the travel ban for people living with HIV entering the United States was lifted. As a result, the International AIDS Conference was moving forward with a return to the United States in 2012 for the first time since 1990.

Having Obama in the White House set the stage for a renewed effort to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. Of course, AIDS advocates had been there all along, fighting for what was achieved at the beginning of his administration and making sure more would be done.

The 2010 POZ 100 list was created to uplift those advocates at a crucial time. The folks on the list were among the people on the front lines to ensure that high-level promises were kept. The honorees were selected by the POZ editors only—nominations for the list started in 2013.

Catching Up With...

Jeremiah Johnson

Jeremiah JohnsonClay Patrick Mcbride

Why do you advocate for people living with HIV?

I’m grateful to say that 12 years after my diagnosis, I am thriving, but I realize that I am enormously privileged in that way. Not everyone living with or at risk for HIV has access to the same resources, and I am ready to spend my life dismantling and rebuilding the systems that keep people from comprehensive care and prevention.

Kathie Hiers

Kathie HiersCourtesy of Kathie Hiers

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

One thing I have learned in my 30 years of work in the field of HIV is that change is slow. But don’t let that stop you! We can create positive change if we fight together in smart and determined ways. The one thing we cannot do is give up. So hang tough, my friends. As the great John Lewis advocated, let’s continue to make good trouble.

Paul Kawata

Paul KawataJonathan Timmes

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

Never give up. It’s a long, hard journey and there will be setbacks. But the work and the goal are are too important to quit. It will take even more work to finally bring this epidemic to an end. But it will happen!

2010 Medical Milestone

Dreamstime.com

In 2010, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which expanded access to care and prevention for all Americans. It offered special protections for people living with chronic illnesses, like HIV, and made it possible for them to access and afford health care.

The 2010 POZ 100

David Acosta

Adaora Adimora

Randy Allgaier

Gerardo Angulo

Judy Auerbach

Dawn Averitt-Bridge

Cornelius Baker

John Barnes

David Barr

Jon Benorden

Seth Berkley

Nancy Bernstine

Leigh Blake

Don Blanchon

Susan Blumenthal

Larry Bryant

Christine Campbell

Scott Campbell

Guillermo Chacón

Allan Clear

Chris Collins

Humberto Cruz

JD Davids

Shawn Decker

Lynda Dee

Dázon Dixon Diallo

N.Y. State Senator Tom Duane

Gregory Edwards

Sergio Farfan

Kandy Ferree

Virginia Fields

Ingrid Floyd

Robert Foley

Anselmo Fonseca

Jane Fowler

Kevin Frost

Robert Fullilove

Bambi Gaddist

Ronda Goldfein

Gregg Gonsalves

Robert Greenwald

Mondo Guerra

Rebecca Haag

Catherine Hanssens

Mark Harrington

Marjorie Hill

Debra Hickman

Kathie Hiers

David Holtgrave

Ernest Hopkins

Mark Ishaug

Jeremiah Johnson

Ron Johnson

Fortunata Kasege

Paul Kawata

Naina Khanna

The Reverend Charles King

Kate Krauss

James Krellenstein

The Reverend Stacey Latimer

Jules Levin

Kali Lindsey

Nancy Mahon

Marsha Martin

Terry McGovern

Jesse Milan Jr.

Daniel Montoya

David Munar

Patricia Nalls

Cathy Olufs

Tokes Osubu

Karen Pearl

Jim Pickett

Gina Quattrochi

Michael Emanuel Rajner

Sheryl Lee Ralph

José Ramirez

Susan Rodriguez

Francisco Ruiz

Eric Sawyer

Carl Schmid

Julie Scofield

Linda Scruggs

Pernessa C. Seele

Ron Simmons

Deborah Peterson Small

Wendy Stark

Valerie Stone

Steffanie Strathdee

Sean Strub

Tracy Swan

Donna Sweet

John Tedstrom

Adam Tenner

Ed Tepporn

Lance Toma

Nelson Vergel

Tom Viola

Mitchell Warren

Phill Wilson

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