



The 2013 POZ 100: Celebrating Unsung Heroes

A tribute to individuals who work tirelessly on the front lines of the epidemic year after year.

November 16, 2020 By [Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.](#), Joe Mejía , Jennifer Morton and [Trent Straube](#)

In 2013, the POZ 100 celebrated unsung heroes in the HIV community. We wanted to spotlight those individuals who work tirelessly on the front lines of the epidemic year after year but often are not recognized for their efforts.

For the first time, the list was made up entirely of people living with the virus. That year also marked the first time the honorees were nominated directly by the community.

From AIDS service organization volunteers and policy advocates to educators promoting prevention and treatment, the list represented an incredibly diverse spectrum of people living with HIV who were making a difference in the fight to end the epidemic.

Most of the individuals on the list probably didn't consider themselves heroes, but we did. Each person—in a unique way—was taking a brave stand against HIV. And because they were all people living with the virus, they often had a critical understanding of what needed to be done and how best to do it. They knew what it's like to be newly diagnosed and how it feels to deal with HIV-related stigma and discrimination. They understood the challenges of accessing care, treatment and support. By sharing their stories, they not only inspired others living with the virus but also empowered themselves and the entire HIV community.

Our hope was that the people we spotlighted on the 2013 POZ 100 inspired you as much as they inspired us. Armed with power and passion, they continue to effect change in the world and encourage us to do the same.

Catching Up With...

Gina Brown

Gina BrownDaymon Gardner

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

Unless you're doing advocacy for yourself, it's important to get in coalition with other people doing advocacy work. You may be able to lift a table by yourself, but it's a lot less heavy if you have help. Remember: Burnout is real.

Tami Haught

Tami Haught
Courtesy of Tami Haught

Why do you advocate for people living with HIV?

As a person who lived in silence for six years after my HIV diagnosis, I know that speaking out and advocating for people living with HIV is so important. Silence = Death, and I don't plan on being silenced again.

Murray Penner

Murray Penner
Courtesy of Murray Penner

How do you empower others?

People are empowered when they have information and are treated as equals. In all my advocacy, I act with kindness and support, regardless of a person's situation. When people have information and know about what's happening with their bodies, they are more apt to take care of themselves and to speak out on behalf of themselves and others.

2013 Medical Milestone

Istock

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported that global AIDS-related deaths had fallen 30% since peaking in 2005.

The 2013 POZ 100

Jaci Adams

Dorian-Gray Alexander
Brandon Allen
Jeff Allen
Marco Benjamin
Bryant Bergeron
Isadore Boni
Vera Bowlby
Gina Brown
Marisol Calderon
Tony Carlew
Craig Chapin
José F. Colón López
Tommy Dennis
Penny DeNoble
Ruth DeRamus
Jorge Diaz
Sheila Dillon
Deloris Dockrey
Ed Doolittle
Daniel Driffin
Kari Farmer-Coffman
Millicent Foster
Rob Garofalo
Mark Garrett
Benjamin Gerritz
Justin Goforth
Elizabeth Harrington
Tami Haught
Ángel Luis Hernández
Alfredo Hernandez Chavez
Kelly Hill

Jeremy Hobbs
Rick Holman
Arthur Jackson
Anthony Johnson
Vanessa Johnson
Bryan Jones
Freda Jones
Robert Knight
Rob Land
Doug Landreth
Aaron Laxton
Daniel Leyva
Michael Luciano
Jimmy Lucibello
Kevin Maloney
Leon Mann III
Anthony Maselli
Joe McAdams
Richard McMahan
Tom Menard
Robert Menk
Hank Millbourne
Luis Montanez
Joshua Montgomery
Shennod Moore
Jeffrey Newman
Naimah O'Neal
Jeffrey Padilla
Sharon Paul
Murray Penner
Osvaldo Perdomo

Timothy Pitts
Doris Plant-Hill
Stephen A. Puibello
Jaime Rebeles
Ronald Regins
Josh Robbins
Cynthia Rodgers
Ruth Royster Fordham
James "JR" Rude
Donald "Bud" Sadler
Raquel Sapien
Joe Scarborough
Scott Schoettes
Nicole Seguin
Michael Siever
Bob Skinner
D Gregory Smith
Lawrence Stallworth II
Wayne Starks
Cedric Sturdevant
Teresa Sullivan
Coleman Terrell
Justin B. Terry-Smith
Kerry Thomas
Jane Valencia
Nestor Vanegas-Charry
Jason Villalobos
Reed Vreeland
Danielle Wasko
Jeff Webb
Robin Webb

Mike Weight

Robert Westwood

Cassandra Whitty

Erwin Willhite

Kekoa Yap

Mark Zatyarka

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