



The 2017 POZ 100: Celebrating Women

This list spotlighted the work of women advocates—many of which are members of Positive Women’s Network-USA.

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

When our staff first brainstormed ideas for the 2017 POZ 100, we figured it would be an opportune time to highlight women, not only because women account for 25% of people living with HIV in the United States but also because, like many people, we expected our nation to swear in its first female president that year.

Although that didn’t happen, the election of Donald Trump as president instead coincided with the rise of the #MeToo movement and attacks on Planned Parenthood and women’s health care, all of which underscored the need to celebrate women fighting the HIV epidemic.

Honorees in the 2017 POZ 100 consisted of cis- and transgender women, both living with HIV and not, ranging from clinical researchers and boardroom executives to on-the-ground advocates, HIV testers and community organizers. Many of the women on the POZ 100 list did advocacy work around domestic violence, immigration rights, sex work, homelessness and harm reduction, illustrating how HIV intersects with these issues and relates to the overall well-being and health of women.

“The idea that HIV affects only gay and bisexual men is a myth,” said Oriol Gutierrez, our editor-in-chief, when promoting the POZ 100. “Because of this long-standing myth, women are often ignored or dismissed as an afterthought in the larger discussions surrounding HIV/AIDS.”

We were thrilled to spotlight 100 of these women in 2017, including those who graced the cover, several of whom were members of Positive Women’s Network-USA, the national advocacy group that aims to get HIV-positive women more involved in public policy and decision-making.

Catching Up With...

Tori Cooper

Tori CooperJonathan Timmes

Why do you advocate for people living with HIV?

I advocate for people living with HIV because I understand that with greater visibility comes greater responsibility. Each of us must use our privilege to create more opportunities and access to those with less privilege and access and fewer opportunities. None of us achieves viral suppression without help. Finding a doctor and accessing supportive services often come through folks' networks. HIV advocacy is about creating villages of support.

Glenna McCarthy

Glenna McCarthyBill Wadman

Why do you advocate for people living with HIV?

I remember when some people (including me) were ostracized and even disowned by our families. Misinformation still exists, and everyone needs to have a safe space to build their foundation and self-awareness.

Jennifer Vaughan

Jennifer Vaughan
Courtesy of Jennifer Vaughan

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

Know that you are making a difference. It never matters how small or big it is, it just matters.

2017 Medical Milestone

The Food and Drug Administration approved an HIV treatment regimen that contains only two antiretrovirals, instead of the standard three or more drugs.

The 2017 POZ 100

Mary Arbuckle

Ivy Arce

Tranisha Arzah
Gwenn Barringer
Asia Betancourt
Lisa Binkley
Dale Brewer
Cynthia Brinson
Lisa Britt
Vanessa Campus
Barb Cardell
Juanita Chestnut
Ezerae Coates
Tori Cooper
Simone Counts
Karina Danvers
Sharon DeCuir
Pamela Denzer
Alicia Diggs
Sharen Duke
Michele Durham
Marci Egel
Nikki Ferraro
Carrie Foote
Anna Forbes
Geneva Galloway-Pitts
Kathy Garner
Tuyishime Claire Gasamagera
Kathleen Gerus Darbison
Kelly Gluckman
Lillibeth Gonzalez
Grissel Granados
Gloria Guzman

Janet Hall
Mildred Harper
Tami Haught
Kathie Hiers
Juanita Hubbard
Barbara Hughes
Stacy Hyde
Olga Irwin
Tracey Jackson
Michelle Jackson-Rollins
LeSherri James
Stacy Jennings
Monica Johnson
Marsha Jones
Shyronn Jones
Esther Kim
Alleen King-Carter
Arianna Lint
Nichole Little
Barbara J. Lock
Sylvia Lopez
Theresa Mack
Julie Marston
Nina Martinez
Carolyn Massey
Glenna McCarthy
Rita McDaniel
Patricia "Pat" McNeill Shelton
Joyce Mitchell
Candace Y.A. Montague
Johanne Morne

Allison Nichol
Ijeoma Opara
Teresia Njoki Otieno
Julie Patterson
Laura Pinsky
Aracelis Quiñones
Shakyara Ralat
Paige Rawl
Venita Ray
Debra Richardson
Valerie L. Rochester
Connie Roebuck
Diana Rowan
Shirley Royster
Beverly Sha
Judith Shaw
Arianna Smith
Jennie Smith-Camejo
Meta Smith-Davis
Cindy Stine
Blake Strasser
Teresa Sullivan
Chuan Teng
Demetra Tennison-Grant
Desiree Thompson
Julene Tripp Weaver
Evany Turk
Jennifer Vaughan
Brandi Velasquez
Martha Warriner Jarrett
Cynthia Watson-Catha

Marguerite Wheeler-Lara

Lisa Diane White

Terri Wilder

Victoria “Tori” Williams

Valerie Wojciechowicz

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