



# Scooter Silva

November 13, 2015

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Wilmington, North Carolina

Positive since 2004

I have been positive since 2004. I found out because I used to donate blood to the American Red Cross. My blood type is O positive (the most common blood type), and I was trying to help people. The Red Cross sent me a letter saying I was positive, and so of course I had to get retested to make sure. I was. A very sad day for me.

I don't blame anyone, because I think I could have had sex with someone who didn't know they had it or didn't tell me they had it. Anyway, I am good and healthy. I am on medications. I take one pill at night. It is Atripla. I've been going strong for almost 11 years now. I am HIV positive. I don't have AIDS. I'm not sick.

**What three adjectives best describe you?**

Happy, proud, alive

**What is your greatest achievement?**

Finishing school

**What is your greatest regret?**

Not telling my grandma

**What keeps you up at night?**

TV and worrying about stuff

**If you could change one thing about living with HIV, what would it be?**

The side effects

**What is the best advice you ever received?**

Keep being you.

**What person in the HIV/AIDS community do you most admire?**

My friend Jimmie

**What drives you to do what you do?**

My baby and my dreams and goals

**What is your motto?**

Be happy! Be proud! Be you!

**If you had to evacuate your house immediately, what is the one thing you would grab on the way out?**

My phone, my boyfriend and my journal

**If you could be any animal, what would you be? And why?**

A monkey, because I love monkeys. They can swing, jump and be free.