High Hopes

April 2, 2013 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

The April/May 2013 issue of POZ magazine is online.

Here's an excerpt from my editor's letter:

I'm a believer in the phrase "hope springs eternal." How else can we explain the perseverance of people in recovery? Or people with HIV/AIDS who, despite living in a world filled with stigma and other obstacles, find a way to live their lives with dignity and optimism?

Jamar Rogers is an excellent example. The semifinalist from season 2 of The Voice has earned admiration from his fans not only for his singing talent but also for his integrity. After Rogers disclosed on the show that he has HIV, he could have chosen to stop there. But he didn't. Through interviews and public service announcements, he has embraced his role as an openly HIV-positive celebrity.

As influential as HIV has been in his life, Rogers also has been forthright in sharing his substance abuse struggles. Substance abuse fuels HIV rates and is prevalent among people with HIV, but it can be overcome. Click here to read more on how Rogers, Lynn Morrow, Michael Weber and other people living with the virus have found the road to recovery.

To read my complete letter from the editor, click here.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.