

POZ Magazine Announces “POZ 100” for 2016

Special issue spotlights the epicenter of the U.S. AIDS epidemic: the South.

***8 of 10 states with the highest rates of new HIV cases are in the South,
69% of women with HIV in the South are African American,
44% of Americans living with HIV are located in the South***

November 14, 2016

NEW YORK CITY, November 14, 2016 — POZ magazine, the award-winning print and online brand for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, today announced the annual “POZ 100,” highlighting individuals working to combat HIV/AIDS chosen from nominations by readers.

This year, POZ focused on nominees located in the South (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, the South includes Washington, DC, and the following 16 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia). The South generally lags behind other U.S. regions in many key HIV prevention and care indicators.

“In this presidential election year, our choice of a POZ 100 theme was clear,” said Oriol Gutierrez, POZ’s editor-in-chief. “We can’t end the U.S. HIV/AIDS epidemic without addressing the impact of the virus in the South, so we wanted this year’s list to spotlight the efforts of those who are already leading the way,” Gutierrez continued.

“This year’s POZ 100 is as diverse as the groups affected by HIV in the South,” Gutierrez said. “From advocates to educators to clinicians dealing with overwhelming levels of stereotyping, stigma and lack of resources, our POZ 100 honorees are in the trenches battling the epidemic in ways many of their counterparts in the rest of the country are not. As always, so many of the POZ 100 are living with HIV and telling their stories to urge people to get tested and help those with HIV overcome the fear, stigma and stereotypes they face. We hope this issue of POZ moves that conversation forward,” concluded Gutierrez.

Not every honoree this year is HIV positive, but they are all making a big difference in battling the epidemic. Among this year’s POZ 100 are Steven Romeo and Alex Smith, whose photo project “IAMHIV” puts a face—literally—on the epidemic; Robert Adams-Ghee, who with Nashville Cares, is working to have an impact locally and globally; Dazon Dixon Diallo, founder of SisterLove, which

seeks to reach black women, who are the largest group of women living with HIV in the South; and Arianna Lint, a transgender Latina refugee working in Florida and across the nation to educate and advocate for trans women of color living with HIV.

Go to poz.com/100 to see this year's full list.

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POZ is an award-winning print and online brand for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Offering unparalleled editorial excellence since 1994, POZ and POZ.com are identified by our readers as their most trusted sources of information about the disease.

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