



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Southern AIDS Living Quilt?

The Southern AIDS Living Quilt, www.livingquilt.org, is a website that illustrates the growing impact of HIV/AIDS on women in the southern United States, particularly women of color. The goals of the Living Quilt are to empower, encourage and educate policymakers, healthcare providers, the media and the communities most directly impacted by HIV/AIDS to recognize that, in order to turn the tide on the 56,000 new infections annually, the status quo must change.

Using video testimonials, the Living Quilt shares the personal stories of women living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the stories of their families, their community and healthcare providers throughout the region. The stories underscore the critical importance of making HIV screening a routine part of medical care in order to ensure earlier diagnosis and prevent the spread of the disease. The Living Quilt provides links to valuable resources and fact sheets about the epidemic to empower those directly impacted to make informed healthcare decisions and to help others understand the power of knowing their HIV status.

The Living Quilt is designed to grow organically, with women throughout the South continuing to add their stories to a collective community that is sure to become more powerful with each new voice.

Why was the Living Quilt created?

The South has the highest number of adults and adolescents living with AIDS in the United States: HIV/AIDS is currently the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 and 34.

Using personal stories, the Living Quilt highlights the need for routine testing and prevention services, early diagnosis, and increased access to care for those living with HIV/AIDS in the South.

How do I share my story?

Initially, stories for the Living Quilt were collected in the southern United States during interview sessions at local HIV/AIDS service providers and AIDS conferences. Participants were asked to share their stories of infection, diagnosis, treatment and discuss the impact of HIV on their lives.

Any woman living with, impacted by or inspired by women living with HIV/AIDS in the South is urged to add her voice by visiting the “Share Your Story” page on the Living Quilt website at www.livingquilt.org.

Who supports the Living Quilt?

The Living Quilt is a project of the Southern AIDS Coalition and supported by Gilead Sciences.