# NATIONAL PARAMETER STREAMENT

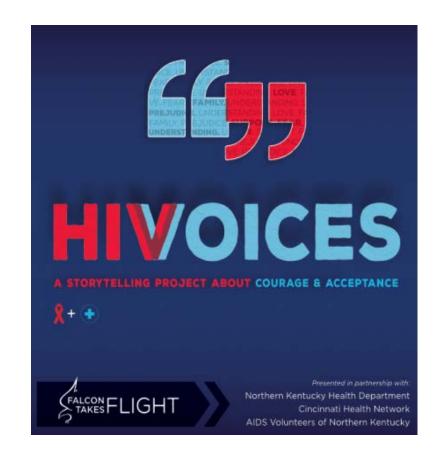


## HIVoices – A Storytelling Project about Courage and Acceptance

Clint Ibele, MSW, LSW, Northern Kentucky Health Department Tara Williams, Falcon Theatre Ted Weil, Falcon Theatre

#### **Project Partners**

HIVoices is a collaborative effort of:
Falcon Theatre in Newport, Kentucky
The Northern Kentucky Health Department
The Cincinnati Health Network
AIDS Volunteers of Northern Kentucky.





#### **How We Started**

- •In 2016, six persons living with HIV from Northern Kentucky were interviewed about the illness and its personal impact.
- •The interviews were transcribed and edited into a series of monologues that are read by actors from Falcon Takes Flight, the community outreach wing of Falcon Theatre.
- •The stories represent the diverse experiences of those who have fully integrated the disease into their lives.
- •The monologues capture a broad range of moods and emotions as they portray the spirit of those living with HIV.

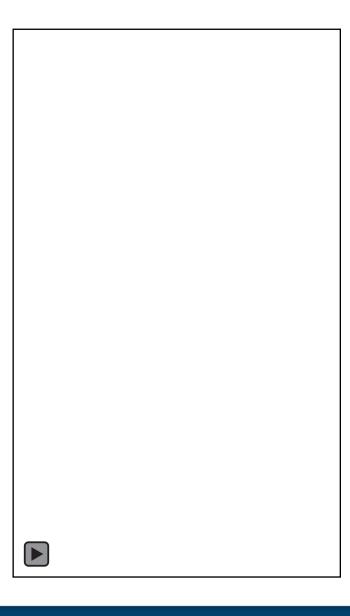


### **Diversity of Story Tellers**

- •Reflects the diversity of individuals living with HIV in Northern Kentucky:
- •Caucasian 3
- African American 3
- •Men − 4
- •Women − 2
- •Straight 3
- •Gay 3
- •Ages range from 26 68
- •All of them have been HIV positive more than 10 years

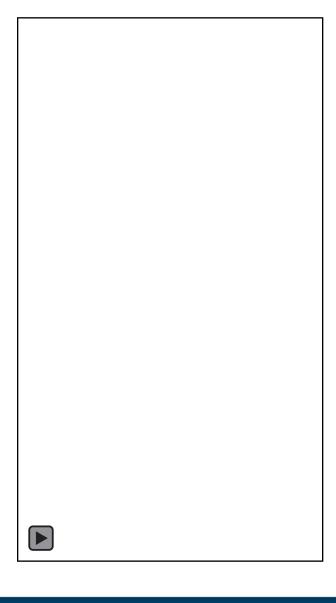


## **Sample Story 1**





## **Sample Story 2**





#### What We Learned

Throughout the story telling process, several common themes were repeated:

- Lack of education about HIV
- Stigma still exists
- Concern about privacy who knows and who doesn't
- Being positive alters relationships
- •I kind of knew what the test results would be
- Relationships with doctors, medical community has mostly been positive



#### **Next Steps**

- •Add to our story tellers increase the number of stories
- Focus on newly positive individuals
- Emphasis on persons who inject drugs
- Assist individuals in writing his or her own story
- Create several different presentation formats
  - Stand alone monologues
  - Documentary-style
  - Several voices speaking to common themes



#### **Contact Information**

Clint Ibele, <a href="mailto:clint.ibele@nkyhealth.org">clint.ibele@nkyhealth.org</a>

Northern Kentucky Health Department

Ted Weil, tweil@falcontheater.net

Falcon Theatre

Tara Williams, taralwilliams74@gmail.com

Falcon Theatre

