

## Southern Women – Personal Stories, Powerful Impact

The Southern AIDS Living Quilt features video “patches” of individuals from southern states including: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina.

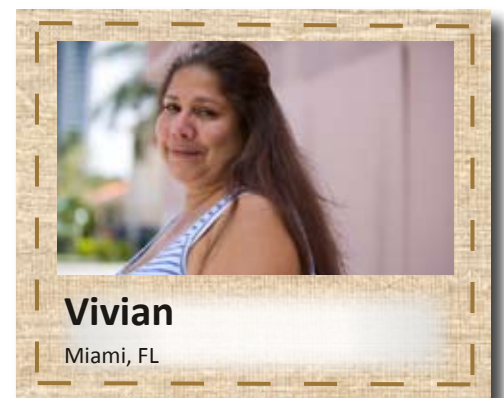


**Joyce’s story:** When Joyce’s HIV test came back positive in 2001, she vowed to make a difference in the lives of other HIV-positive women. She started Aspirations, an organization offering HIV/AIDS and STD testing, peer education, and training for those living with HIV so that women have “no shame or blame in being HIV-positive.”

*“I want to make sure that another generation is not lost to this disease, and if this means my being out there publicly, then my face can be the face of AIDS.”*

**Vivian’s story:** A Spanish proverb says, “When one door closes, another one opens up.” So begins Vivian’s story. She wants to remind women, and Latinas in particular, that HIV/AIDS is not a death sentence, that women need to remain positive about being HIV positive. Vivian is passionate about urging women to empower themselves through HIV testing and to become educated about the disease in order to take charge of their health and that of their families.

*“As a Latina, I would tell my people that they should take care of themselves. They need to go get tested, and if they find out they are positive, there are many advocates like me that would give their all to help you learn to live with AIDS.”*  
*(translated from Spanish)*



**Deadra’s story:** Deadra has been living with HIV for 20 years and credits early testing with saving her life. She now works with the faith community as a liaison from the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council.

*“I am living with HIV. I am 20 years into this thing and I’m still kicking... The reason why I’m still alive 20 years later...is because of early testing. Get tested, get tested, get tested.”*