

# Advocates Speak Out!

December 14, 2010

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Kali Lindsey and Fortunata KasegeMackenzie Stroh

“I was an activist before I was diagnosed, and I’m sure I’ll be an activist until the day I die. I hope

that the work I do engenders greater compassion and dignity for all people with HIV, and that using my voice will help me feel free and help other people living with HIV be free.”

**Kali Lindsey**, New York City

Diagnosed in 2003

“Sometimes people in our community feel that it’s easier to just say, ‘Well, things are going to happen anyway, regardless of my input, so why bother.’ But historical evidence shows that activism and advocacy can bring about change. HIV can be so divisive, but I believe we can

overcome all of that—that we have the resources, intelligence, strength, passion, diversity and faith in our community.”

**Larry Bryant**, Washington, DC

Diagnosed in 1986

“I’m an advocate because I want to prevent future cases of HIV and to give hope to those who are infected. I was diagnosed with HIV while pregnant with my daughter and had to overcome many challenges. It’s important to fight the stigma surrounding the virus and to make it easier for others to do so.”

**Fortunata Kasege**, Houston

Diagnosed in 1997

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