What HIV Elimination Means to Me...

Changes Needed in Arkansas

- Need to have mass testing.
- Stop using the term “high-risk” to test people, everyone is at risk. HIV is not a “gay disease.”
- Track people with HIV regardless if they are in Ryan White programs or seen at ARCare.
- HIV education needs to be in schools.
- Rural doctors need to learn how to provide HIV care instead of referring patients to a Specialist.
- More clinical trial opportunities including shots, not just pills.
- Doctors need to practice universal precautions on ALL patients.
- Test people at community events such as PS2 gaming tournaments.

Arkansas needs better linkage to care.

LaTunja Sockwell
Diagnosed in 1997

Barriers Experienced

- Lack of resources in my rural town.
- Lack of treatment from primary care doctor.
- No local support system.
- Had to travel long distances to receive care in Texarkana.
- Doctor refused to perform a tummy-tuck because of fear “for his staff’s safety” due to my status.
- Stigma in community and church.

Ending the HIV Epidemic

A PLAN FOR ARKANSAS