

# This is my story

**W**hen my husband was diagnosed, he would always say “I want to die” but I would get angry and say “why me?” People would say that AIDS is only for homosexuals and prostitutes. I’m a proud mother of three kids. I thought I didn’t deserve it, and then I said, “Silvia, move forward. What are we going to do?”

I always see the poster of the word AIDS but never thought I’d be someone that would have AIDS.

For me it was like the **world would end...**

People ask me: “How do you survive?” I survive because of my kids. I think what would happen to them. I survive so that they can live healthy lives. I tell them about the effects of HIV/AIDS. They are young, intelligent, beautiful, and aware.



Silvia

National HIV Testing Day

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**I**t’s like a taboo that people say. No one asked how it happened. Or with who.

My brother was diagnosed in '93. When we told my father, he didn’t show any pain but he changed his sentiment about my brother. When my father found out about the diagnosis – what HIV was – then his feelings changed.

The disease **united us** as a family and gave us **the ability to love before anything.**

I chose to tell my sons and daughter about HIV/AIDS so that they can begin a legacy in this family of getting tested. I don’t shun my brother. He’s my children’s uncle.

The most important people are his brothers and parents which give him support. I don’t care what anyone else says about my brother because he has the support of us, which is the most important thing.



Josefina

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