



CELEBRATING



# *Celebration and Remembrance*

In 2019, Piedmont Care is marking 25 years of service to the community. These are some of the celebrations, remembrances, and World AIDS Day activities.



## Tracey L. Jackson

*Executive Director*

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 25th anniversary and to recognize World AIDS Day 2019. For 25 years, Piedmont Care, Inc. has served more than 1,600 people living with HIV and AIDS. We are still the only organization in our community that is 100% dedicated to supporting people living with HIV and ending the HIV epidemic. Over the years, we have evolved our services, reach, and impact to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients and community. In 2004, we started the Community HIV Prevention Initiative and since that time we have educated thousands and provided free HIV testing and counseling to more than 1,500 people.



## Kris Neely

*Professor of Art and  
Director of Interdisciplinary Studies*

Twenty-five years is a long time. On a college campus, it is a really long time!

Most of the students enrolled at Spartanburg Methodist College this semester were born after the Y2K scare 19 years ago. Most of them never partied with Prince like it was 1999. But for those of us who remember the

1980s with the arrival of the personal computer and mobile phones and yes, the founding of Piedmont Care, Inc. it doesn't seem so long ago.

For our current students, there has always been an organization working to serve our community in response to the needs and concerns that arise as we struggle with the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Upstate South Carolina.

It is important for us all to remember the past – those who we have lost and those who continue the fight. It is important that we remember the fear and stigma, the pain and uncertainty. It is important for us to also celebrate brave lives facing down fear, infection, hate, ignorance, and injustice. It is important for us to celebrate the pioneering courage of Piedmont Care and the difficult road to serve those who are in need of medical care, support services, and prevention measures.

I remember the cautions my parents gave in the 1980s. I remember us learning together about HIV and responding to the fears in our community, our nation, and our world. Then, HIV was a mystery. Now, the misinformed thinking and rhetoric that surrounded the disease has been replaced with reliable research, public policy, and good medicine. The mystery disease is now a treatable condition. Transmission and preventative measures are now common knowledge if we listen and learn.

Forgetting and misremembering do not serve us. Our community needs to celebrate and remember how far we have come, how much further we can go, and how much we can do when we work together for a cure.

This year, Spartanburg Methodist College is pleased to help our community celebrate and remember. We are hosting an exhibition that includes a section of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. This section features the pieces honoring the work of Piedmont Care. It also features the names of others who bravely faced the uncertainty of the AIDS epidemic. As we celebrate and remember, we will also host original art from our community. We will enjoy a reception, a talk from Ryan White's mother, and a remembrance service on World AIDS day.

We invite you to join with us in this time of reflection and thanksgiving.

SMC has been a proud partner in Piedmont Care programs for many years. We look forward to continuing to support and encourage our students in confronting fear and pioneering a better future through education, research, and collaborative problem-solving. We all benefit from the legacy of Piedmont Care and we hope you will celebrate their 25th anniversary with us!



# THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

## The NAMES Project Foundation

people understand the devastating impact of the disease. The meeting of devoted friends and lovers served as the foundation of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Today the Quilt is a powerful visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic. More than 48,000 individual 3-by-6-foot memorial panels – most commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS – have been sewn together by friends, lovers, and family members. The Quilt has redefined the tradition of quilt-making in response to contemporary circumstances. A memorial, a tool for education and a work of art, the Quilt is a unique creation, an uncommon and uplifting response to the tragic loss of human life.

We are excited that our own memorial panel is coming home to honor the more than 1,600 people we have served. The Piedmont Care memorial panel was designed and created by artist, Sabrina Myers, in 2011. Sabrina says, "I want to help raise awareness for this disease that has come to light in my lifetime. Piedmont Care does so much work in the area of public education and personal aid, when the call went out for a banner, I had to respond."



*Sponsored by Barbara Lanthier Colvin,  
Phillip Hudson, and Angela Viney*

*Sabrina Myers*

*Quilt Artist*

In June of 1987, a small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help



*George Michael Lanthier and Pope John Paul II*

## *In Memory of George Michael Lanthier by his sister, Barbara Lanthier Colvin*

George was the youngest of nine children. From the get-go, he was an entertainer, and lots of stories can be told of his creative nature and how he liked to escape and explore. George was bright, engaging, and talented. He was involved in theater during his junior and senior high school years. He was the ninth Lanthier to graduate from Spartanburg High School and went on to study at the University of South Carolina. In his early academic career, he was elected Reading Clerk for the South Carolina Senate.

George was an early victim of HIV. In the fall of 1987, he became gravely ill. His symptoms were bizarre for a young man. With the loving care and expertise provided at Richland Memorial, George was ultimately diagnosed with HIV. This was early in the process of identification, diagnosis, and treatment, and very early in awareness and understanding. I absolutely commend the Senate of the State of South Carolina for their compassion and support during George's illness and beyond.

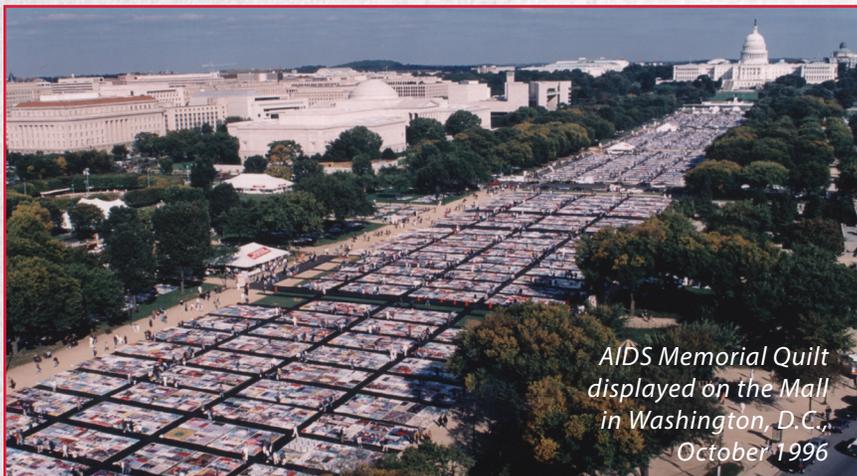
The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a wonderful way to pay tribute to this wonderful young man, and all those affected by HIV and AIDS. The media has been quiet about this epidemic, but it is still very real. The mission and goals of Piedmont Care are alive and well in Spartanburg. Thanks to Piedmont Care, so many have access to early diagnosis, treatment, and support.

## *In Memory of Michael, Tracy, Butch and so many others by Phillip Hudson*

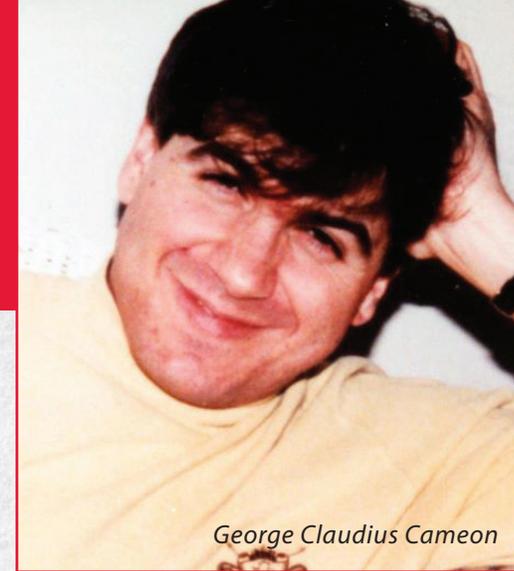
Back in the late 1980s, we started the first HIV support group in the Upstate. It was held in a small, out-of-the-way church in Greer and was a safe space for those with HIV who feared being outed by their status. As the years passed, nearly all of those support group participants lost their lives to the epidemic.

In those years, there was nothing to do but help make them as comfortable as possible for the remainder of their lives. So for me, the AIDS Memorial Quilt was a sobering reminder of all those dead or dying during the late 80s and early 90s.

Many panels on this quilt were created by those who died from the illness or completed by their families and friends upon their death. But in 2019, things are brighter. The AIDS Memorial Quilt offers a different, more positive perspective today. It is now a reminder of how far we have come with a possible end to HIV in sight. Today, these panels symbolize hope. Death rates are down and those living with HIV and AIDS can now live a normal lifespan because of the services provided by Piedmont Care.



*AIDS Memorial Quilt  
displayed on the Mall  
in Washington, D.C.,  
October 1996*



*George Claudius Cameon*

## *In Memory of George Claudius Cameon by his sister, Angela Viney*

In 1992, I experienced the first major loss of my life when my brother died of AIDS. He was 34. George was a special young man who, at the age of 12, announced his plans to become an attorney. He began representing others in high school and organized a protest for clean water in our coal-mining town of 300.

George had goals beyond the aspirations of others in that town and beyond the financial resources of our family. Through hard work and determination, he achieved his goal, and upon his death was working as general counsel for a state college. Near the end of his life, George continued to represent others, telling the medical team caring for him that they could administer new drugs in hopes that it would be helpful to other AIDS patients in the future.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is more important now than ever. It symbolizes the current state of our nation where the "others" are maligned and mistreated because of gender, sexuality, economic status, race, nationality, and religion. The AIDS Memorial Quilt represents nearly 10,000 individual victims of AIDS, but the quilt cannot hold the names of the many affected by this epidemic.



# The Legacy of Ryan White

We are honored to bring the story of Ryan White to Spartanburg as told by his mother and activist, Jeanne White-Ginder. The Ryan White CARE Act, named for Ryan, is the premier federal program serving people living with HIV and AIDS in the U.S. and funds most Piedmont Care, Inc. services.

One week before Christmas in 1994 Jeanne White-Ginder was told that her son, Ryan, a hemophiliac, had contracted AIDS from a tainted blood product. Although the doctors gave him only six months to live, Ryan's outlook was positive and he was determined to live a relatively normal life. He wanted to stay in school and Jeanne was determined to give her son his dream.

What seemed like a small wish turned into a nightmare when the White's hometown, frightened and uneducated about the realities of AIDS, abused the family and refused to allow Ryan back to school. Jeanne turned to the court system and the news wire grabbed the story. Ryan became a reluctant international celebrity and Jeanne became an educator of the masses.

Snapped up as a key player in a frightening new health crisis, Jeanne vaulted from anonymity to being a media regular. Her insight into people living with AIDS and family members affected by AIDS earned her the respect of national health figures and interviewers alike.

*Sponsored by Avita Pharmacy*



# Remembrance and Folding Service



The Remembrance and Folding Service will be observed at Spartanburg Methodist College's Davis Mission Chapel "in the round" on December 1st beginning promptly at 6:00 p.m. There will be portions of the service that focus on remembrance of those lost to HIV/AIDS, honoring and celebrating the support of those caregivers, family members, and those who are living with HIV/AIDS. Join us as we remember all of those in our communities whose lives have been affected by HIV and AIDS. The service will be led by Reverend Carson Rogerson, the Director of Spiritual Care and Chaplain Education at Spartanburg Medical Center.

After the remembrance service, participants will process to Ellis Hall Gallery for a solemn folding service as we send the AIDS Memorial Quilt Panel back to its home.

World AIDS Day is a day of worldwide solidarity to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Observances serve to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic. Each of us has something to contribute – from standing up against stigma and discrimination to educating ourselves about HIV prevention. Wear a RED RIBBON on World AIDS Day to show your support for efforts to end the AIDS pandemic.

# Events Calendar

**November 18 – December 1**

## **AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT DISPLAY**

*Ellis Hall Gallery, Spartanburg Methodist College*

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: Noon until 6:00 p.m.

November 28 & 29: Closed for Thanksgiving

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**November 18 – December 1**

## **ART SHOW HONORING PIEDMONT CARE AND WORLD AIDS DAY**

*Ellis Hall Gallery, Spartanburg Methodist College*

Artists: Nancy Corbin, Brandi Dice, Kris Inman,  
Jeremy Kemp, Scott Neely, Melvin Nesbitt

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**November 19**

## **ART SHOW OPENING RECEPTION CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE: 25 YEARS OF PIEDMONT CARE**

*Ellis Hall Gallery, Spartanburg Methodist College*  
7:00 p.m.

# Events Calendar

**November 22**

## **THE LEGACY OF RYAN WHITE BY JEANNE WHITE-GINDER**

*Gibbs Auditorium, Spartanburg Methodist College*  
11:00 a.m.

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**November 25**

## **EXTENDED HIV TESTING HOURS**

*Piedmont Care*

8:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

*Free and Confidential. Walk-ins Welcome. Appointments Encouraged.*

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**November 26**

## **RED RIBBON COFFEE TALK**

*Downtown Deli & Donuts, Spartanburg*

7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.

*Pick up your Red Ribbon, purchase your favorite coffee/breakfast,  
and visit with Piedmont Care.*

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**December 1**

## **REMEMBRANCE AND FOLDING SERVICE WORLD AIDS DAY**

*Davis Mission Chapel, Spartanburg Methodist College*  
6:00 p.m.

# Thank You

On behalf of all of us at Piedmont Care, thank you for joining us for these important remembrances and events. We look forward to working together to end the HIV epidemic.

*Special thanks to the planning and implementation team:*

**Kris Neely**

*Spartanburg Methodist College Liaison*

**Kristi Ward**

*Piedmont Care Board of Directors and Event Chair*

**Meredith Hardwicke Jensen**

*Piedmont Care Board of Directors and Copywriter*

*Thank you to all our event sponsors:*

**Barbara Lanthier Colvin**

**Phillip Hudson**

**Angela Viney**

**Avita Pharmacy**



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