



QUILTS OF LOVE

On June 5, 1981, the virus that would become known as HIV was mentioned for the first time in a medical publication. As a result, and during the entire decade of the 80's, HIV/AIDS was closely linked with homosexuality in the minds of most people, because early media reports referred to this condition as a "gay disease", "gay cancer" or "gay plague", reflecting an initial assumption that it struck only gay men. As more cases were reported, this prejudice was overcome gradually, but HIV-positive people were still victims of discrimination, to the extent that they were denied the slightest physical contact for fear of transmitting the virus and HIV-positive children were expelled from schools because of complaints from other children's parents.

In this context of stigma and fear, in mid-1987, a small group of people in the city of San Francisco (USA) decided to join together to pay tribute to friends and family who died because of HIV/AIDS and, at the same time, to appeal to the world to become aware of the real problem of HIV and the cost posed to humanity.



It was thus that the global project "The NamesProject" began. The project seeks to sensitize communities across the world through the development of blankets commemorating the lives of those who died of HIV/AIDS. These rugs, made by friends, family, and any person or entity with a connection to this cause, are deployed in central locations in major cities worldwide with the aim of raising awareness and gaining allies in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In Peru, this initiative is called "Quilts of Love", and for 14 years we have sought to touch the hearts of Peruvians in sharing a message of prevention and non-discrimination against people living with HIV in our country. And while we are the ones who have the pleasure of organizing this event, the success we have achieved would not be possible without the invaluable support of dozens of volunteers and groups that each year add to our cause and help us reach more and more people, either through making blankets or helping us in the various activities carried out on the central day of the event.

As with every year, we chose the 1st of December, World AIDS Day, for "Quilts of Love". This year's ceremony was held in the afternoon in Kennedy Park in Miraflores, one of the busiest and most popular places in the capital. Thanks to the efforts of our staff and volunteers, we managed to collect more than 500 blankets to date, representing the love and hope of thousands of citizens to achieve a future without deaths or discrimination due to HIV/AIDS.

"Quilts of Love" still means the opportunity for affected people to pay tribute to loved ones lost through a blanket, but today is also a place to celebrate life and the important ground we have gained in this fight through scientific and biomedical research, and to renew the strength and enthusiasm that motivates us to continue working together to achieve a cure for HIV.

From the Asociación Civil Impacta, we want to deeply thank all past, present and future allies in this noble cause, without which it would be impossible to realize "Quilts of Love"; and with humility and joy we reaffirm our commitment to continue working tirelessly to combat the HIV epidemic in our country.

¡Thanks for being part of Quilts of Love 2015!

Gonzalo Meneses/Psicólogo Social



WE PARTICIPATE IN...

Participation in the COREMUSA Callao Fair

As part of the Coordinadora Regional Multisectorial de Salud (COREMUSA) of Callao, we participated in the "Informative Fair for HIV Prevention", held on Tuesday, December 1, at the Civic Square of the Universidad Nacional del Callao, in the context of the World AIDS Day. During the event, we had the pleasant opportunity to show some of the Blankets of Love made by some of the CBOs and Educational Institutions of Callao.



Last Open House of 2015

The last edition of Open House 2015 took place on Thursday, December 3rd with the participation of our friends from the Centro Psicológico de Estudios en Sexualidad CEPESSEX, who led a discussion on "Anxiety and Depression" with the participation of our colleagues Lucho Castro and Daniel Alva. Thanks to all our faithful attendees for joining us throughout the year 2015, and get ready for upcoming news on open houses in 2016.



¡See you next year!

Children's Christmas

As in every year, we organize the traditional "Christmas Party" for children whose parents are linked in various ways to our institution, with the valuable collaboration of the headquarters staff of Barranco and San Miguel. In this beautiful celebration, in addition to hosting a children's show full of games and surprises designed especially for them, we brought a message of peace and joy in this holiday season to the homes of each of our clients, without whom our work would not be possible.



Thanks for being part of our family!



LUIS CASTRO
Community Educator at Impacta-Perú
 "It's possible to find answers thanks to your voluntary participation in research studies. Thanks a lot for your help."



Sandro Monsalve
ACSA'S CAB Member
 "People like you are unique. Thank you! Merci Beaucoup! Vielen dank! Obrigado! Gracias!".



CARLOS NIERI
Impacta's CAB member
 "One volunteer's effort today can help a thousand people tomorrow. Thanks for your support!".



MARTÍN LLANCARE PISCONTE
Pharmacist at Impacta-Perú
 "The world still needs kilometers of commitment. You and I can prevent HIV. Thanks for your contribution!".



PETER BRANDES
Psychologist at Impacta-Perú
 "Thanks for trusting us... we wouldn't be able to do what we do, without you."



MARINA SOTO CALDERÓN
Impacta's CAB member
 "I want to let you know that the research studies are a blessing from god. Thank you for making them possible."



MARIA DEL CARMEN SUAREZ
Laboratory Technician at Impacta-Perú

"Huge thanks to all the contributors who offer their time everyday. Thank for your dedication in helping the research. There is still a lot to know. Thanks."



MEY LEÓN
Medical Researcher at Impacta-Perú

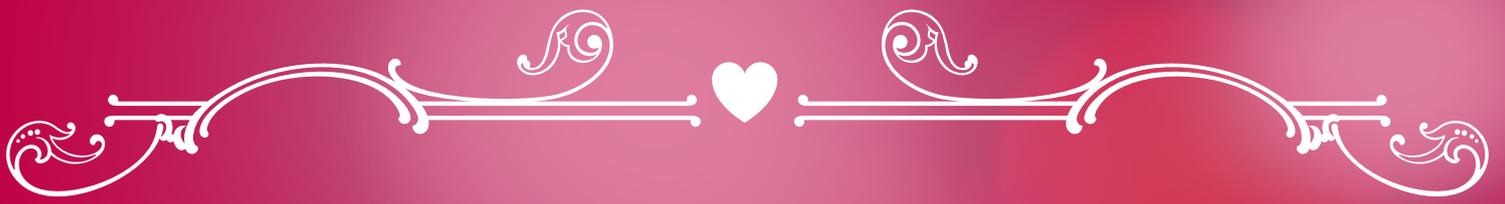
"For you with a lot of affection from your little doctor: "Lets always look forward and pursue our dreams, the future is ours."



LUCÍA RUIZ
Community Educator at ACSA-Iquitos
 "Your participation as a volunteer in the vaccine studies is an act of love for all those around you. Thanks!"

"December 2nd"
ACTG
PARTICIPANT
Appreciation





SPECIAL RADIOS 2015

This year, "Quilts of Love" enjoyed coverage from different radio stations in Lima, which were enthusiastic and eager to share our message of awareness, prevention and non-discrimination with their respective audiences in the context of World AIDS Day. From Impacta, we want to thank each and every one of the radio companies that invited us to spread awareness of this important annual event, and we welcome their commitment to responsibly educating the Peruvian public on such an important and transcendental issue as HIV/AIDS with updated and quality information. Thanks for joining our cause and helping to build a better Peru.

Until next time!



Program: Sexo a la Medianoche
Broadcasting Station: Radio Capital



Program: Andina Radio Online
Broadcasting Station: Agencia Andina



Program: En Vivo con Mónica Delta
Broadcasting Station: Radio Capital



Program: Saber Vivir
Broadcasting Station: Radio Comas



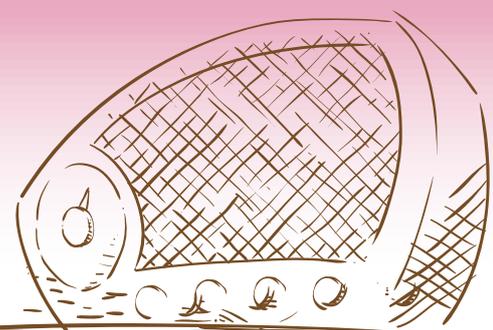
Program: Contracorriente
Broadcasting Station: Radio Capital

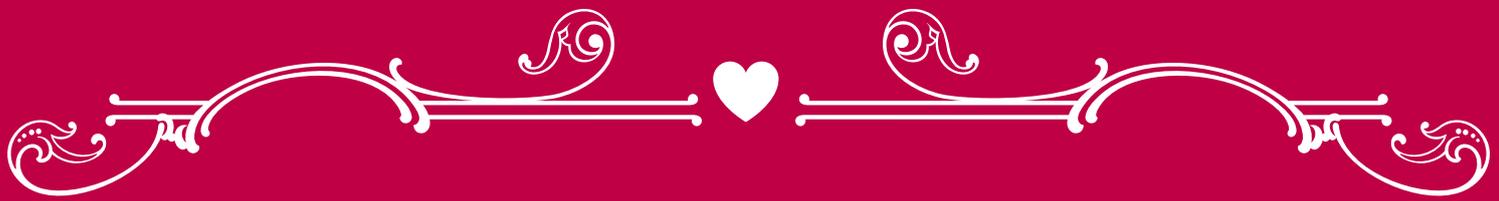


Program: Voces de Lima Este
Broadcasting Station: Radio Canto Grande



Program: En Vivo con Guido Lombardi
Broadcasting Station: Radio Capital





SPECIAL PRESS 2015

We also had the pleasure of being invited by various print media to share the final results of the START study and notify the public at a national level of a new study of antibodies that will begin in early 2016. This new trial, which brings together the biggest research networks in prevention and vaccines of the world, is looking for 800 volunteers from the cities of Lima and Iquitos, and represents an important advancement in the hope of millions of people around the planet to develop an effective HIV prevention tool. We appreciate the initiative of the print media to disseminate this important news with all the Peruvian population through its various publications, and reiterate our commitment to offering our new findings in a clear and transparent manner for appropriate dissemination to citizens.

Thanks for the invitation!



Media: Agencia de Noticias Andina



Media: Diario El Peruano



Media: Diario El Comercio



Media: Diario La República



Media: Diario Perú21



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