

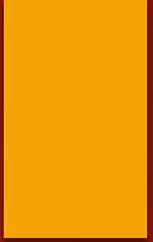


Perspective on *Change* Putting it *All* Together

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF YOUR WORK?

PETER W BYRD

PLWA PEER EDUCATOR & INTEGRATED HEALTH



You must know that what you may considered “all in a days work” or “just doing your job” includes life-changing gifts for me and mine.

I owe an incalculable debt of gratitude to you for what you give, in the course of a workday.

My Providers from 1998 to *Present*

Whitman-Walker (Washington DC)

Chase Brexton (Baltimore, MD)

University of Maryland (Baltimore, MD)

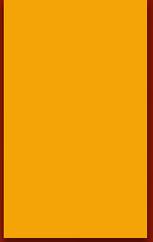
Johns Hopkins Moore Clinic (Baltimore, MD)

Grady Infectious Disease Program (Atlanta, GA)

Positive Impact (Atlanta, GA)

You have facilitated my
development of a new language
that has replaced

- blame with responsibility
- judgement with reflection
- denial with acceptance
- hopelessness with empowerment
- regret with the power of *now*



You have translated clinical,
evidence-based practices into real
life behavioral changes that have
transformed my life and the lives of
the family, friends and community.

Infected with HIV June 1988
(Washington DC)

Became addicted to cocaine
September 1988 (New York City)

Was diagnosed at inpatient rehab
December 1990 with HIV

Moved 47 times (*not a typo*) from
August 1988 to June 2000

Given 30 days to live June 2000

Sent home a week later with 54
prescribed pills per day

You have provided and continue to provide a safe place for me to show my deepest fears, shame, and scars.

You have taught and motivated me to establish and sustain self-care.

Learning to Learn (Again)

Learning to Listen

Everything will be said but you've taught me that I don't have to be the one to say it.

You have taught me how to live without intentionally wounding myself, as a matter of habit.

I have been invited to practice behaviors that do not wound and scar.

You have valued me as a person and offered me options to value myself despite daily societal messages that I am less.

In the safe space you provide, I am not required to pretend that these messages are imaginary.



You have validated my losses and
given permission for me to grieve.

You have identified the trauma
that has driven my isolation, anger
and fear.

Direct Result of Your Care

Own and live in my home since 2003

Co-Chair of CDC / HRSA Advisory
Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis
and STD Prevention and Treatment
(CHACHSPT)

Gifts Direct Result of Your Care

30 years with HIV/AIDS

Undetectable for 10 years

10 years clean & sober

Direct Results of Your Care

Self-published 3-volume 1500-page family history tracing my family back to 1653 in Colonial Maryland to my 7th great grandfather, Robert Perrill, a slave.

“The Son of Seven Daughters –
A 350-Year American Family Album (2013)

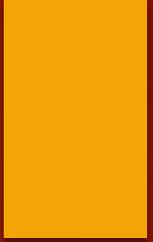
Hats by Peter Byrd Couture Millinery



“It is the great mystery of human life that old grief passes gradually into quiet, tender joy. The mild serenity of age takes the place of the riotous blood of youth. I bless the rising sun each day, and, as before, my heart sings to meet it, but now I love even more its setting, its long slanting rays and the soft, tender, gentle memories that come with them, the dear images from the whole of my long, happy life –

...and over all the Divine Truth, softening, reconciling, forgiving! My life is ending, I know that well, but every day that is left me I feel how my earthly life is in touch with a new infinite, unknown, but approaching life, the nearness of which sets my soul quivering with rapture, my mind glowing and my heart weeping with joy.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky
(The Brothers Karamazov)



A healthy, productive, hopeful,
sober life made possible because of
what you give and how you give it.

Thankful to know what I owe and to
have this opportunity to tell you the
lives you change!!!!

PSA & Media Campaign for Grady

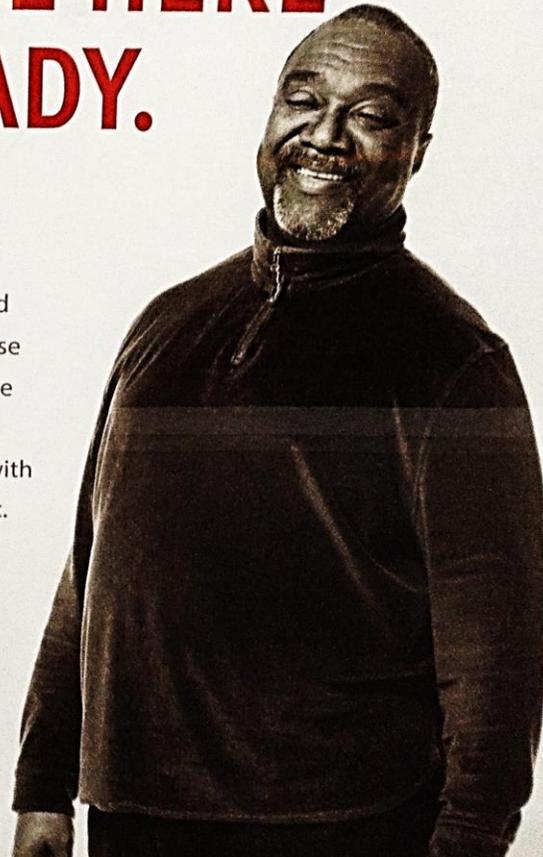
I WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT GRADY.

I BECAME INFECTED WITH HIV 28 YEARS AGO.

A year later, it converted to AIDS. Ten years later, I was given 30 days to live. I moved to Atlanta and connected with the Grady Ponce De Leon Center, Infectious Disease Program. That's where it happened for me. I found there was this army of people who not only had the clinical know-how to save you; they also showered everyone with compassion and respect. These people are really heroic. It's an amazing place to get well.



atlanta can't live without grady



Peter Byrd
Living with Al

