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## Sero Project Encourages World AIDS Day Focus on PLHIV Networks

### Sero's Network Empowerment Project Releases 'Sing Your Song' Video

*November 15, 2018:* For people living with HIV (PLHIV), connecting with others who also live with the virus can enhance quality of life, provide powerful peer support to combat isolation and stigma and improve health outcomes.

To commemorate World AIDS Day 2018, the Sero Project, a U.S.-based national network of PLHIV, has released a short film "[Sing Your Song](#)" illustrating the life-changing value of PLHIV networks.

*Sing Your Song: PLHIV Networks Change Lives* follows a young man in Mississippi, who finds strength, purpose and social support through his involvement with the Mississippi Positive Network, comprised of other Mississippians living with HIV. Sero and other PLHIV networks are urging AIDS service organizations, policy leaders and others to highlight the important role of PLHIV networks during his year's World AIDS Day commemorations.

"PLHIV networks are as important today as they were in the earliest days of the epidemic," said Robert Suttle, Sero's Assistant Director. "Networks are where we can ask questions of our peers, learn how and find the strength to disclose our HIV status when appropriate and build the self-empowerment critical to our survival."

The film was shot this fall at the "We, the Positive" summit in Jackson, Mississippi, produced by the Mississippi Positive Network and My Brother's Keeper (an HIV and healthcare service provider).

Gina Brown, RSW, Community Engagement Manager at the Southern AIDS Coalition said, "The themes of belonging and community are universal, but some people might be surprised by the sheer level of strength and resilience among people living with

HIV in the Mississippi delta area. Many people with HIV in the region live in poverty, have limited access to healthcare and suffer from profound stigma. Yet by working together they not only survive, but thrive, inspiring and motivating other people living with HIV, including me.”

The Sero Project fights HIV-related stigma, discrimination and criminalization and works to support the strengthening and creation of PLHIV networks across the U.S. and in Mexico.

‘Sing Your Song’ is a project that grew out of Sero’s Network Empowerment Project, which provides a toolkit to PLHIV who are involved with networks or interested in starting a network. To access the toolkit, or to find a PLHIV network in your area, go to [Network Empowerment Project](#).

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