

## Our speakers care about you

One speaker says, "Speakers in the Schools has given me the chance to help others and myself at the same time. Hopefully, I can help our youth make good choices after learning about our bad decisions."

Dee enjoys working with high-risk adolescents; "A few students have come up to me and told me they *actually listened* to my presentation during the class."

"Speaking [has given Doug] a purpose to keep living...and hopefully young people, who have heard me speak, will think of me when they have to make a decision that could jeopardize their health."

"I want to challenge the youth to be critical and skeptical of any pressure that could lead them to treat their lives carelessly. I tell the young people that first and foremost they must have self-respect; enough to make healthy choices for themselves."

-Jon

"I speak for HIV Alliance because I know what it's like to judge the unknown and then to be the unknown and be judged. Helping others understand what they fear will make all of us more united in making our living environment a happier, healthier place."

-Travis



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For more information, visit our  
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[hivalliance.org/educationprograms.html](http://hivalliance.org/educationprograms.html)

Speakers  
in the  
Schools

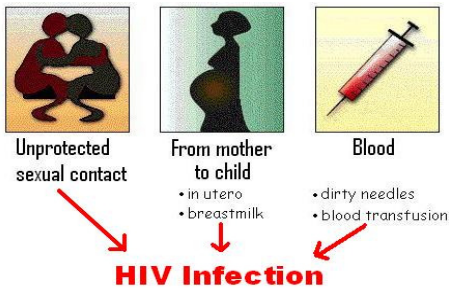


Changing the lives of youth in  
Lane County through  
education and awareness

**Striving For a  
Future Free of HIV**

## Putting a face on HIV

HIV Alliance's youth and community education program is designed to raise awareness of the disease and address HIV-related stigma. Our Speakers in the Schools program puts a face on the disease through presentations by speakers living with HIV/AIDS. This is the only program in Lane County that uses HIV positive speakers as experts in HIV education. It is designed to supplement and enhance HIV/AIDS education with personal testimonials.



## It's not a stereotypical disease

The speakers are men and women living with HIV/AIDS who have a broad range of life experiences. Speakers became infected with HIV in a variety of ways (through unprotected sexual contact, sharing of needles, etc). Individuals share their personal stories of life before, during, and after diagnosis. Through informative and honest dialogue, speakers inspire audience members and help them understand the struggle of living with the disease. They specifically address HIV-related stigma and how it has affected them to help youth understand and personalize the life of someone living with the disease. Speakers volunteer their time because they care about our community.



## The Presentation

Speakers are trained to answer questions and provide information about HIV transmission, risk assessment, safer-sex techniques, and prevention. The speakers present age-appropriate information to engage and facilitate discussion with audiences ranging from just a few students to school assemblies.

Each speaker will address three main components during their presentation:

- **Biology of HIV**
- **Risk Assessment and Empowerment**
- **Advocacy among peers and within the community**

Our Speakers in the Schools program helps school districts by providing HIV/AIDS education mandated by the state. In addition, we speak to adults in drug and alcohol treatment centers, other social service providers and upon request from a variety of community groups.

## Our speakers are more compelling than a video

The speakers go beyond facts and statistics and help students understand the social, financial, health, and emotional cost of being HIV positive. Students and teachers often comment on the emotional connection the speaker made with students and as a result inspired great conversations afterward.

After listening to a speaker, one student says, **“Your presentation not only educated the students about HIV and AIDS, but encouraged the importance of being healthy both mentally and physically. Your story makes people aware of the real world. You have also passed on your strength to us so that we may be strong in the decisions we make.”**

One teacher writes, **“Amazing - the students were very moved by his life experiences. He did a very nice job communicating with 9th graders. I would love to have him again.”**

**“I really appreciate your courage and kindness when you shared your past experiences. The information you provided was crucial to the development of our knowledge on this subject. Thank you.”**  
-High school student

**“I feel inspired to help other people learn about protecting themselves from HIV.”**  
-High school sophomore

**“I think what you are doing for the community by telling your story is great and will actually make a change. I know that it has already changed my perspective.”**  
-High school sophomore