

(Re)Learning Moment

World AIDS Day

In August 1987, James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter conceptualized the idea of a worldwide campaign to bring awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by HIV infection and to mourn those individuals who died from the disease. In 1988, the first observance of World AIDS Day occurred on December 1. In 1996, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) took over the planning of World AIDS Day, growing the campaign to a year-round program focused on communications, prevention, and education. Since 2004, the World AIDS Campaign has operated as an independent organization. Organizers select a theme each year to help share the stories through unique lenses.

(Re)Learn About World AIDS Day

- [2022 UN Theme - Equalize](#) - webpage managed by UNAIDS
- [2022 U.S. Theme - Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV](#) - guide curated by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- [2022 UNAIDS Global AIDS Update](#) - report created by UNAIDS (2022)
- [What Are HIV and AIDS?](#) - webpage managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

AIDS Memorial Quilt

In November 1985, human rights activist Cleve Jones and others taped placards with the names of friends and loved ones who had died from AIDS to the San Francisco Federal Building. Inspired by the wall of names looking like a patchwork quilt, Jones and friends planned larger memorials, which began the AIDS Memorial Quilt project. The inaugural quilt displayed on October 11, 1987 on the National Mall in Washington D.C. during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

35 years later, the quilt includes nearly 50,000 panels dedicated to over 110,000 individuals. View the quilt through the online [Interactive AIDS Quilt](#).