

A book of poems
from women affected by
HIV & AIDS



Poetry Book

Let's Talk About It

"When I close my eyes..."

Introduction

The Rural Women's Health Project and the Let's Talk About It program are pleased to present the following poems written by women in the North Central Florida area. Women were asked to share poems focused around the theme of, "When I close my eyes..." Inside this book you will find the words and experiences of these inspiring women.

Enjoy!

"When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid." ~Audre Lorde

This program is supported by ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Programme, WellFlorida Council Inc. and the Rural Women's Health Project.



Author: Brenda Cook

“When I Close My Eyes...”

When I close my eyes I see my past...
Pain, fear, doubt, anger rolling in a deep dark cloud.
But only for a moment
Then I blink...

When I close my eyes I see my present...
Joy, laughter, love, happiness glowing in the light of sunshine.
But only for a moment
Then I blink...

When I close my eyes I see my future...
A rainbow of hope, promise, potential...

I can now open my eyes with jubilation
For all that I was, am, and will become...



2nd
Place

Author: Christine Collis

“When I Close My Eyes...”

When I close my eyes, I am happy because I know sleep will soon follow.

When I close my eyes, I am sad for my brothers who gave up the fight, for my sisters who close their eyes forever because of the disease.

When I close my eyes, I feel the soothing caress of my higher power, soothing my fears, worries and loneliness that comes with living HIV positive.

When I close my eyes, I am scared, never knowing what life may bring; will my meds be covered? Will I survive if they are not?...Fear of the unknown.

When I close my eyes, I am full of courage knowing I will fight another day when I wake.

When I close my eyes, I am tired of a seemingly uphill battle with society, government, my family, stigma.

When I close my eyes, I am recharged knowing I will have victories over society, government, my family, stigma.

When I close my eyes, I am angered by a disease that is so powerful it makes my own body betray itself.

When I close my eyes, I am confident I am making a difference in my small corner of the world.

When I close my eyes, I am relieved knowing the battle is more in my mind than anything.

When I close my eyes, and rest for eternity, I will rest content knowing I made a difference.



3rd
Place

Author: Marvene Edwards

“When I Close My Eyes...”

When I close my eyes,
I don't see the woman I used to be,
but the beauty that GOD brought out of me.
I see the joy in a child's eyes, and the pain when her mother cries.
I see the ignorance of H.I.V in most people that I meet,
I see a world that always blames, in many ways have not changed.
Know when I pray it keeps hope alive just one more day!
Soon the day will come we can all come out to see the
sun that would be the day that
we have WON!

YEAH WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES

THAT IS WHAT I SEE MORE FREEDOM

MORE FREEDOM FOR U AND ME!!!!

Honorable Mention

Author: Debbie Geib

“When I Close My Eyes...”

What do I see, I see darkness so dense it is hard to pass.
I opened my eyes to a world that was out of control, man
killing man.

Children taking guns to kill, drugs that are sold to children
with no thought as to what would come about.

When I close my eyes I look for the good of the human
race and only find a few.

They are the ones that take the time to educate and care
for those who seek the help.

When I closed my eyes I was scared I would never wake
up...I died on 12/7/12 and felt all was gone but I pulled
through and now I know that when I close my eyes I am
blessed by God and I will be here to help others understand
why and what reason, why they are on this earth.

When I close my eyes...I know I will wake up for I am
and have escaped 6 near deaths, so you can see that I
can see the silver lining in the gloomy clouds.

Honorable Mention

Author: Pumpkin

“When I Close My Eyes...”

When I close my eyes I see a flower from Heaven

That is an image of me

Growing to be a beautiful young lady

With a lot of spirit and laughter and prayer

Honorable Mention

Author: Savona Brady

“When I Close My Eyes...”

When I close my eyes I see my children small and running and playing
When I open my eyes my children are grown adults and serious

When I close my eyes I see my children happy and fearless
When I open my eyes my children are pretending and carefree

When I close my eyes I see my children loving and caring
When I open my eyes my children are selfish and greedy

When I close my eyes I see my children living happily
When I open my eyes I see my children unhappy and lost

When I close my eyes I see my children scared little children
When I open my eyes I see my children as scared adults

When I close my eyes I see myself in my children
When I open my eyes I see I scarred my children

