

9. Going beyond love

Zanele Mphikwa

Who I am

I was born in Boksburg, South Africa, and I am 37. While schooling in Vosloorus, also on the East Rand, I realised I was different, as I was attracted to women. I became pregnant at 19, but my little boy passed away when he was 3. When I met my life partner, Daisy, in 1999, I started doing voluntary HIV work. We spent almost six years together before I lost Daisy to AIDS on 5 March 2005, just when she was on the brink of starting to take ARVs. I have been working for BroadReach Healthcare since July 2005.

Why I am telling my story

In life we go through the same difficulties, but our experiences and how we deal with these situations are different. I share my story to give you a tool to bounce back if you are experiencing what I have been through. This is dedicated entirely to the memory of my loving partner with whom I shared five years and 11 months. It is the only way I can keep her memory alive in my heart and in the hearts of people who knew and loved her. This one is for you – I love you, Baby.

