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AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON ANNOUNCES THE HOUSTON LAUNCH OF THE VIRTUAL AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT
The local nonprofit will launch the exhibit on the AFH website on Jan. 21, 2021

HOUSTON — AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH) announces the Houston launch of the virtual NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt (AIDS Memorial Quilt). Each year, sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, comprised of 48,000 hand-sewn panels that memorialize those lost to AIDS, travel to communities across the country for in-person displays. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 marks the first year of the virtual exhibition of the Quilt across all 50 states.

The exhibition will include digital images from thousands of panels, each telling the story of local loved ones lost to AIDS. The digital display hosted by AFH will feature eight panels that honor friends, colleagues and loved ones from the Houston area and will be launched on the AFH website on January 21, 2021. The entirety of the Quilt is available to view on the AIDS Memorial Quilt website through March 31, 2021.

At the 2020 Virtual World AIDS Day Event held by AFH on December 1, the organization honored HIV activist and AIDS Memorial Quilt founder Cleve Jones with the 2020 Shelby Hodge Vision Award for his outstanding effort to bring awareness to the AIDS pandemic. During the virtual event, Jones spoke to Houston’s role in the early success of the Quilt:

“I’m particularly touched by [receiving the Vision Award] because Texas, and Houston in particular, played such an important role in the early days of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. We received enormous support from the Houston area. One of the stories that has been ignored … is just how devastated Houston was by the HIV pandemic before treatment was available, so I’m grateful for the support we received from Houston in the past, and I’m grateful to accept this honor.”

John Huckaby, CEO of AIDS Foundation Houston, added, “2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS in the United States. The AIDS Memorial Quilt allows us to reflect on the past four decades, remembering those who lost their lives and celebrating the numerous organizations and individuals who have led the fight against HIV. We are proud to display panels of the Quilt that tell the story of our community, and we remain dedicated to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Houston.”
AIDS Foundation Houston Announces the Houston Launch of the Virtual AIDS Memorial Quilt

The world’s largest piece of community art, the Quilt also raises funds for community-based AIDS service organizations like AFH. Throughout the month of December, Houstonians will have a chance to donate in remembrance to the Quilt through the AFH “20 Days, 20 Ways” campaign. Visit bit.ly/20WaysToGive to learn more.


About AIDS Foundation Houston
AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. (AFH), founded in 1982, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that was the first AIDS Service Organization in Texas and remains a national leader in HIV/STD programming. With the goal of creating a community where HIV is stigma-free and rare, and people have equitable access to care, AFH works towards the mission of ending the HIV epidemic in the Houston area. AFH services include prevention education, HIV/STI testing, outreach in Texas prisons, PrEP care, supportive housing, food assistance, a summer camp for children, and supportive services to persons affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, please visit www.AIDSHelp.org.

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