

FACES OF AIDS

These are the faces of AIDS. They are the faces of doctors, lawyers, artists and cooks. Among them are people who sold insurance, nursed the sick, preached the gospels and fought to save the environment. They are our sons and brothers, lovers and friends, colleagues and neighbors.

Almost every other day last year, one person in Travis County died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The people here represent just a third of the esti-

PROFILES COMPILED BY STAFF WRITERS
ELAINE AYALA AND PETE SZILAGYI

mated 150 AIDS deaths recorded in 1991.

Of the others, some families chose not to be mentioned, pointing to the stigma they face even within their own families. Some wanted to put AIDS behind them. Some had gone to great lengths to conceal their loved one's cause of death.

Most of these faces are of gay men

who contracted HIV during unprotected sex. A few are intravenous drug users. A few are heterosexuals who received HIV-contaminated blood. One is a child who was born with AIDS.

The statistics say the numbers of gay men contracting the virus are slowing as the numbers edge up among heterosexual men, women, children and teen-agers. The statistics tucked into news reports, however, can be easily forgotten. The faces are harder to forget.



Tom Barr
34, died Jan. 18

Tom Barr was a builder, a brother, a son and a longtime companion. Russ Gregory, who lived with him for 8½ years, says he was also "the most generous man I've ever met." A real-estate agent for 11 years, Barr founded the Barr Co. and ran the firm with his brother while his father and another brother were its financial investors. When the company closed, Barr resumed selling real estate at Eden Box and Co. and was voted its most valuable player in 1987. "It's a real loss," Gregory says. "He was so gracious in his sickness. I've never seen anything like it. I know it's easy to laud the dead, but he really was a wonderful man."



Alan Winter
42, died Jan. 19

The airlines on final approach to Robert Mueller Municipal Airport provided the background roar for parties at Alan Winter's big old house on East 49th Street that had chicken coops and gardens in the yard, his friend Ron Brey recalls. "There would be great big potluck parties with 30, 40, 50, a very large network of hands. It wasn't even necessary for him to organize them. They would sort of happen there," Brey says. "It was a very casual, very warm kind of thing."

Winter, who was a media specialist for Austin Community College, "was adopting chickens and trying to raise a garden... it was the approach that counted not technical expertise," Brey says.



Warren Rose
27, died Jan. 26

Warren Rose dreamed of being an Olympic long-distance swimmer. But a 1984 motorcycle accident interrupted his dream. He received several blood transfusions during the year it took him to recover. In 1988, he was swimming in Deep Eddy when his lung burst. "He got himself out of the pool and drove himself to Brackenridge Hospital," his mother Sylvia Gallo says. Shortly thereafter, he was diagnosed with AIDS. His mother says the disease came from a contaminated blood transfusion. After his death, his mother founded Hearts for AIDS, a non-profit organization that raises money through the arts for AIDS patients and their families.



Lee Overbay
46, died Feb. 3

After he contracted AIDS, former bartender Lee Overbay became somewhat of a media celebrity, describing the experience of AIDS in newspapers and on television.

Overbay took up hand crafts and ceramics as his illness worsened, and made jewelry from arrowheads his father had given him. "Lee was real positive, real gung-ho, a real go-getter. He really believed in living life to its fullest," says Jo Moore, who helped care for Overbay when he was ill.



David Shinder
44, died March 4

David Shinder had a special affinity for the Netherlands, says his sister Vivian O'Daniel. "He visited there several times in his life and requested that his ashes be scattered in the Netherlands." "It's the humanity of the people there, they are so accepting," Shinder once told his sister. He worked for the University of Texas physics department and expressed himself creatively by weaving on a loom.



Kenneth Burges Brown
46, died March 12

Everywhere J. Lillian Brown turns in her home, she sees her son's artistic talent: a stained glass cross, paintings, poems, frames, pictures of his wedding cakes and decorations. Kenneth Burges Brown was an artist, window designer, gourmet cook and ordained minister in the Metropolitan Community Church.

He was also a thoughtful brother. His sister's allergy to milk led him to make her wedding cake. He also made her wedding dress from the fabric of his mother's wedding dress and his father's wedding suit. "He was known for taking things that people threw away and restoring them," his mother says.



Douglas Dyer
48, died April 10

Douglas Dyer was one of the Austin's leading playwrights and directors. He co-founded Esther's Follies and founded the Safe Sex Players. His last production, *Pass for Straight*, was staged in Austin in 1989. In January of his last year, he was awarded a grant from the PEN Writer Fund Committee. "He was a very volatile man," says Shannon Sedwick of Esther's Follies. "He wore his emotions where people could see them. One of the special things about him was he brought people out. If you weren't sure you could do it, he would convince you you could. He made stars out of normal, quiet people."



Terry Hall Dodson
28, died April 11

When the causes of AIDS transmission first became known, Dr. Carlo Klott and Terry Hall Dodson had been monogamous for so many years that "we figured we both have it or we both don't." So in October 1987, when Klott was tested and found to be negative, they figured they were in the clear. Dodson, a continuing education coordinator for a local hospital, was never tested for HIV until he was diagnosed with AIDS.

Klott, a physician who still tests negative, knows better now. He misses Dodson, his companion of nine years, and says "we wasted valuable time."



Albert Joseph Lemke
46, died April 19

When Albert Joseph Lemke was fired from his job at a local paint manufacturer because of his condition, he took his accountant skills to AIDS Services of Austin and worked until he no longer could. A spiritual man educated in Catholic institutions, Lemke was one of the founders of the Austin Immune Health Center, an alternative treatment facility for HIV and AIDS patients. His companion of 12 years, Cliff Taylor, says Lemke's Catholicism was a source of pain for him because of his homosexuality, but "he was able to rise above that and help others deal with spiritual conflict."



Jim Behensky
40, died April 27

He loved people and loved to ride his motorcycle. A computer expert with a scientist's mind, Jim Behensky came from the "I can do it" school and never shied away from tasks, big and small.

His companion, Mark Gurny, says Behensky was "the smartest person I knew," holding degrees from three universities. He wrote computer programs for the Defense Mapping Agency for nine years before moving to Austin in 1990 to fulfill a dream — purchasing a house — with his partner.

He lived to see it happen, and lived in his dream home for about two weeks. Mark Gurny is now fighting his own battle against AIDS.



Kenneth Baze
37, died May 11

"People were always amazed at the network of friends and acquaintances that Kenny had," says August Rothe, his companion of 14 years. "His keen sense of humor made for many years of good times." Kenneth Baze, a longtime Austinite, "just knew everyone, and he lived in Austin since the hippie days and saw all of Austin evolve." He worked for several hair salons and later owned one. "He was like a psychotherapist," Rothe says. "People tell their hairdressers all their personal problems."

Rothe, a wardrobe supervisor for Greater Tuna for nine years, has AIDS.

Roger W. Watson
41, died May 11

When he died last spring, Roger Watson was in a 12-Step program and had been sober for about three years. "He had made a turnaround in his life and still had a bundle of emotional and relationship problems, but he was working on them and was making progress. He had made kind of a spiritual leap forward in the latter part of his life," says the Rev. Richard Thompson of Central Presbyterian Church.

Watson, who had a college degree and had spent considerable time in the military, worked as a custodian at the church. "People were attracted to Roger because he was a good spirit and had a good sense of humor and liked people," Thompson says.

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David Stead
49, died May 20

David Stead, a native of England, had a doctorate in French and a love for classical music, opera and good food. After moving to Austin, he changed careers and became a registered nurse at Shoal Creek Hospital. "He had a real low-key sense of humor and was really funny after you got to know him," says Roberta Long, "his friend of 20 years." He was also real critical, not personally, but he did see everything with a kind of black humor.



Joel Smith
45, died May 22

While Joel Smith was director of the Texas Film Commission, his office attracted to the state 122 major television and film productions, including *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Tender Mercies* and *Terms of Endearment*. Smith, an Austin native, also was a respected Capitol reporter for Houston's KPRC-TV and played a hilarious Adolf Hitler character for the Capitol press corps' annual Gridiron Show.

"A very bright and thoughtful person, and also an outrageous person in the sense that he could be incredibly funny. He had an incredible sense of humor and an incredible sense of enjoying life," recalls Smith's friend and colleague Carole Kneeland. "An absolute tragedy that we should lose him so early."

Larry Palmer
45, died May 25

As a psychiatric nurse at the Austin City Jail, Larry Palmer had one of the toughest jobs in town, and he did it with extraordinary compassion and dedication, his colleagues say.

"He was good at calming anxious, angry patients down," said Dr. Don Blewett. "The tendency is to blow them off instead of listening to their problems."

Palmer, who also worked part time at other mental health facilities, was versatile and could handle anything from troubled children to drug addicts, says Jerry Ybanez of Nursefinders of Austin. "He was quiet yet assertive, a very mature, responsible man, always. Everywhere we sent him they liked him very well. We miss him a whole lot."



Chris Collins
36, died June 4

Chris Collins was an artist, a prankster, a good friend with a caring heart and, sometimes, a slashing wit. "He was a real sweet person," his mother Julia Collins says. "He never complained, and he was always thinking about other people."

He liked mermads, Reddy Kilowatt, roller skating, sunbathing at Hippie Hollow and art in its many forms. A graphic designer by profession, Collins' drawings, cartoons, sculptures and T-shirt designs survive him. He donated his artistic talents to the local Kidney Foundation by designing sets for its Halloween Haunted House fund-raiser in 1989 and 1990.



Nicolas San Miguel
29, died June 16

Living in a city apartment was too restrictive for Nick San Miguel, so he and a friend moved a mobile home onto land they had cleared in Paige, near Bastrop, where he could raise chickens and rabbits and have a garden.

San Miguel, who moved to Austin in 1984, was a bus driver for LaLlaw Transit Co. He often drove University of Texas shuttle routes and the Leander Express Capital Metro route, and he trained other drivers.

San Miguel was "a one of a kind," says his friend Henry Pereda. "Whenever anyone needed money or a ride anywhere, Nick was always there."



Dr. Bruce Curl
28, died July 14

Bruce Curl's parents had no problem listing his accomplishments. He was a National Merit Scholar in high school, a Presidential Scholar when he graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M University. He received his medical degree from Columbia University and was a resident in psychiatry at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York before coming to Austin. His goal was a private practice in psychiatry.

The young doctor also had a myriad of interests. He was a marine biologist by avocation and a theater buff by devotion. He traveled the world and worked in hospitals in Thailand and Hawaii.

Beyond his achievements, his mother says, "he was just a great guy." Those who knew him loved him, but he didn't suffer fools lightly, she adds. He demanded the best of others because he demanded the best of himself.



Philip Stine
33, died July 17

Real estate agent Philip Stine survived the mid-'80s Houston real-estate bust by moving to Austin, where he had always liked the Hill Country and the lakes, and by retaining as a licensed vocational nurse.

"He was always looking for the most positive thing, he wasn't going to be down," says his mother, Melba Stine of Lake Charles, La. "He was always helping somebody, he could be almost broke himself, but if someone came in, he would try to solve their problem."



Scott Lamson
33, died July 25

Scott Lamson, who grew up in Port Arthur, had a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and worked for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Bert Lamson, his younger brother, credited Scott with helping to keep the family tight. "There were four boys, and he was the one who kept the family together," says Bert. "He made sure there wasn't a birthday that went by without a brother getting a card."

"I wish I could have been closer in his life, but nobody knows something like this is going to happen."



John Vitek
41, died July 28

As the Texas Department of Agriculture's assistant commissioner for marketing, John Vitek was one of former Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower's chief operatives. He helped open dozens of farmers' markets in Texas and sought to popularize Texas products nationally.

Vitek was valedictorian of his high school class, and had a political science degree from Yale University and a law degree from Vanderbilt University. And he loved to swim at Barton Springs.

"All the books he read and everything in his life was (focused on) pulling together the less fortunate people and elements of society and helping them," says his friend Ronnie Baker. "People of all ages felt at ease around him, from little baby kids to grandmothers and fathers."



Dan Rapovich
38, died Aug. 2

An ex-convict and 20-year heroin addict, Dan Rapovich stopped taking drugs when he learned he had AIDS. "He wanted to be important, he wanted to say something, he didn't want his life to be for nothing," says his wife, Jo Moore, who met and married Rapovich after she was assigned to care for him by an agency for the terminally ill.

Rapovich talked to youth groups about drugs and AIDS, and did volunteer work at a St. Vincent de Paul Society store. "He wanted to help other people who were down and out," Moore says.



Jimmy Luzod
38, died Aug. 3

Jimmy Luzod was in a folkloric dance troupe as a graduate student at the University of Michigan and had a lot of pride in his Mexican-American ethnicity. "He loved to explore it and share it with other people," says his roommate Mike Hoover. "Together, they bought a house and fixed it up. Luzod especially liked to tend the rose garden and aquariums."

Luzod worked for the state Department of Human Services, devising tests to assure that field workers were up to date on child-protection regulations. "He was free-spirited, a lot of fun, devil may care," says Hoover.



Mike Flack
32, died Aug. 20

Though soft-spoken and shy, Mike Flack made friends easily and enjoyed being around people. He could sense what people needed, a friend says, whether it was fixing a meal or raking a yard.

He suffered from dyslexia as a child, and reading difficulties prevented him from ever getting the education he needed for a career. Flack couldn't get enough of the outdoors, especially after becoming ill. He would take morning walks, sit in the park and listen to the birds.

He was also a detailed planner, making arrangements for the adoption of his cat upon his death and seeing to it that his legal papers were in order. By July of the last year of his life, he had bought and wrapped presents for a Christmas he never celebrated. His companion, Dan Kennedy, died Jan. 25 of this year.



David W. Doss
33, died Aug. 22

Anna Doss knows a mother's tribute can hardly be objective. But her son, David W. Doss, "was a wonderful person and a good kid, and he was my baby."

A longtime employee of the University Interscholastic League, Doss co-authored a book of musical exercises used in UIL student competitions. He majored in music education at the University of Texas and played mellophone in the Longhorn Band. He co-founded Real to Reel Production, a video company that made educational tapes and recorded choir and band concerts for local



Doug Key
39, died Sept. 13

Doug Key knew more than most other folks how to nurture a friendship, says friend Judy Evans. The avid gardener tended his friendships just like he tended his garden — with care and generosity.

A community activist and prime mover in forming AIDS Services of Austin, Key was also a co-founder of Project Transitions, an AIDS residential hospice. Although he was an attorney, his work was in energy management, primarily recycling. He worked as project manager of the Governor's Energy Office and served on the board of Ecology Action. He was also a member of the state Human Rights Commission.

Key graduated from the University of Tennessee and received a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



Steven Osmundsen
32, died Sept. 15

The School of Nursing, women's basketball offices and financial aid offices — Steve Osmundsen left plenty of his work behind at the University of Texas, where he was an interior designer and architect. His friend Scott Landry remembers Osmundsen as a perfectionist and a car nut. He owned three cars.

"Everyone would ask him for his advice on the aesthetics of design, and also personal things," Landry says.

"We are all richer from having known this man," a colleague wrote in a UT newsletter announcing Osmundsen's death.



Rick Binford
27, died Sept. 18

Rick Binford never decided what he was going to do with his life. While attending Austin Community College and studying television and communications, he supported himself by working at local record and book stores.

"He was real happy-go-lucky. Only a mother can say this," says Karen Binford of San Antonio, "but he was also very irresponsible for his age. I loved him. But a lot of his friends said at the memorial that he came into this world to play."

He was diagnosed with AIDS only a month before his death. His mother says he had been tested three years before and was HIV-negative then.



Michael Cain
33, died Sept. 20

Michael Cain was a man in a hurry. With the ultimate deadline before him, he vigilantly worked at perfecting his voice. He wanted — more than anything — to sing one of his compositions at a formal recital at the University of Texas last spring. It was one of

schools. He supported various human and animal rights groups such as Amnesty International, Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund.

Despite the physical pain of AIDS, he always put on a cheery face for family and friends, his mother says. "He tried so hard to be up about it all the time. He would get up and go to work. Most times," she says, "he handled it well."

His parents, Iremate Craig Higdon and several ULL co-workers are making a panel in Doss' honor, which will be added to the national AIDS quilt.

Don D. Smith
40, died Aug. 30

Don Smith, who grew up in a family of 10 children in rural Illinois, won guardianship of two of his younger sisters and raised them when their parents separated. After his employer, an auto parts manufacturer, transferred him to Texas nine years ago, Smith became a quality control manager. He also delivered the *Austin American-Statesman* part time in Southwest Austin.

His sister Dorothy Rigg, who now lives in West Texas, says Smith was a caring surrogate father for seven years. "Don was very outgoing, very happy all the time. He never met a stranger."

Norbert Kossak
58, died Sept. 7

Norbert Kossak, described by a friend as a loner, died very much alone.

Born in Germany near the Czech border, Kossak had no relatives in the United States, and his friends were mostly people who shared his love of radios or German music. For several years, he hosted a German radio program at KGNB-AM in New Braunfels called Musical Journey.

A friend, Eugene Wukasz, says Kossak "was the finest electronics technician I've ever known," and he only repaired radios on Mercedes Benzes and Rolls-Royces.



Marvin Perry
36, died Sept. 12

Registered nurse Marvin Perry moved from San Angelo to Austin in 1984 and worked for several private health care providers caring for terminally ill cancer and AIDS patients. Later, he worked for Austin State School.

For relaxation, he towed his pop-up camper to Lake Marble Falls, Inks Lake and Canyon Lake or visited his sister in Terlingua, says friend Charles Maier. "He liked to be outside, plant and do yard work."

Maier remembers Perry as "introverted, he kept a lot of stuff built up inside, but he was basically kind and generous to a fault. He would work double and triple shifts if somebody called in sick and wanted time off, or they had families and, since he didn't have a family, he would work holidays so they could be with their families."

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his last public performances. Maritta Deatherage, UT voice professor and Cain's coach, says the virus felled a young man before the world really knew his talent.

Cain earned a bachelor's degree in music from Harvard University, a master's in computer science from Brandeis University, a master's degree in music from the University of Texas, and was working on a doctoral degree in music there when he died. His family is collecting his compositions to place in the archives of his three alma maters.



Thomas Moore
40, died Oct. 18

Thomas Moore was an upholsterer by trade and a music lover and record collector by avocation.

"He liked creating things, he liked working with his hands," recalls Moore's friend Paul Westlund. Moore also had worked at nightclubs in various jobs, including doorman and disc jockey.

"He was always very easy-going, comfortable around people, he loved to make friends, he loved to be with people and talk with people," Westlund says. "He had this very unique outlook on life — it wasn't worth worrying yourself to death over some things in life, and he didn't."



Michael Phillips
40, died Oct. 20

The Middle East was Michael Phillips' home for much of his life, which he dedicated to studying linguistics and teaching English to people who speak Farsi, the language of Iran, and Arabic. When he died, Phillips was doing the final edit on his doctoral dissertation in linguistics at the University of Texas.

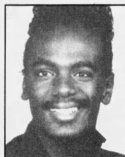
"He was somewhat aloof, very much into learning and doing his own thing," says his mother, Audrey Woods of Hurst. Since her son died, Mrs. Woods has become a care giver for AIDS patients in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



Don Vafades
about 50, died Oct. 22

Don Vafades was well-known among arts organizations, for whom he raised more than \$1 million in the last few years by selling season tickets by telephone. Friends say he donated generously to charities himself, loved camping and the outdoors, and was proud of his Greek heritage, sometimes even flying a Greek flag in front of his South Austin home.

"They remember Vafades as an often gruff man with a heart of gold. 'Extremely volatile,'" says friend Paul Bradshaw. "First and foremost he was a actor and always on. That ran the gamut from tragic characterizations to being extremely charming and witty to being downright mean. He loved for people to be on their toes."



Leon Nicholson
23, died Nov. 9

In the last months of his life, Leon Nicholson was deprived of what he loved best, dancing. Doctors amputated his foot after he was shot in a drive-by shooting.

"Dance was his everything, he really got into music," says his mother, Marilyn Powell. "He won lots of dance contests, so many that they wouldn't let him participate any more."

A Travis High School graduate, Nicholson dropped out of Texas Southern University when he became ill with AIDS-related symptoms. "He was a loving kid who tried to help everybody," Powell says.



Stephen Millard
37, died Nov. 11

"He was very bright, very outgoing, a unique combination of brilliance and friendliness and honesty," he had a great love of life," says Steve Millard's father, Gail.

Millard, a South Austinite, was a designer and architect who graduated magna cum laude from Southwestern University. He loved antiques and he spent a lot of time in the kitchen. "A real gourmet cook," his dad says.



Kevin Todd Boyd
27, died Nov. 12

Phyllis Boyd assumed she'd be immune to AIDS — that it wouldn't touch anyone she knows, let alone someone she loves.

She knows now that she was wrong. AIDS didn't just claim her brother, Kevin Todd Boyd, it took her best friend. "Kevin faced this with so much courage and bravery," she says. "You wouldn't know he was dying."

Boyd was a laboratory technician at the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation. He graduated from Leander High School and served in the Navy for four years. His beloved dog, Bentley, lives with his sister now.



Tom Wetzel
52, died Nov. 12

His colleagues memorialized Tom Wetzel by planting a Xeriscape garden in his name at the Ziker Garden Center. Wetzel, a city landscape architect and pioneer in the Xeriscape movement, loved the outdoors and greenery.

On drives, "Tom always had a running commentary about this bush and that tree. It was really informative," recalls Tony Pellegrino, a close friend.

"Whenever I needed help, there was Tom. He was worth his weight in gold," Pellegrino says. "I miss him, he was a buddy."



Eli Moten
37, died Nov. 16

Eli Moten's family and friends still marvel at how he fought his infection with HIV for years without slowing down. Moten was a professional actor who had a major role in the Capitol City Playhouse production of *Easy Does It* last summer. His fellow cast members never suspected he was ill.

Moten, whose family called him "Cookie," first appeared in a role at Zachary Scott Theatre when he was 11. He was the first male cheerleader at Austin High School and won a voice scholarship at North Texas State University, but left to pursue an acting career in California before graduating. Moten also worked in productions in Dallas and Australia.

His mother, Dorothy Turner, remembers Moten as being relentlessly upbeat and a bit cocky. She also remembers crying at his first voice recital.



Bill Foster
43, died Nov. 21

Bill Foster's best quality, says his companion of five years, was his ability to bring people together despite their differences.

"At his memorial service, there were 150 people in that room, who, if you got them together, wouldn't speak to each other. But Bill managed to be friends with all of them," says his companion.

Foster, director of voter registration for Travis County, was a diverse, active man. He co-chaired the Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus and served on the board of AIDS Services of Austin. In the '80s, he managed a couple of rock groups and ran

Club Foot, a venue for new wave music. For a few years, he also traded stocks. He was an avid reader of everything from car magazines to biographies, especially those of Winston Churchill.



Jeff Woodside
34, died Nov. 25

As assistant manager, Jeff Woodside worked behind the scenes at three of Austin's best restaurants.

He loved good wine and food, says Walt Sobczak, who moved with Woodside to Austin in 1986 and still cares for his friend's pet cockatoo, Opal.

"Most of the time he was mellow, easy to get along with, and happy," Sobczak says. "He made people feel comfortable and special."



Tracy David Terrell
48, died Dec. 2

Learning and teaching languages was a passion for Tracy David Terrell, a Fulbright Scholar who was fluent in seven languages. Terrell held a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Texas and was a professor at the University of California at San Diego. He developed an important language teaching method, the Natural Approach, and wrote college textbooks in French, Spanish and German.

"He taught me to ride a bike, to drive a car, to solve algebra problems ... we learned languages together. He was kind, generous, loving," says his sister, Jane Terrell of Austin, who cared for him the last two years of his life.



Tom McIntyre
36, died Dec. 3

Tom McIntyre was a hair stylist by profession and a jack-of-all-trades by inclination. He was admired by his friends, who still like to talk about him.

"Tom was one of those people who could do anything and wanted to do everything," says his friend of 15 years, Jo Moore. "He was a great cook and made beautiful cakes and could set quite a table. He did catering on the side. He was a carpenter, he built things, he upholstered things, he played the organ beautifully."

Joan Brown, who cut hair alongside McIntyre, remembers that "he had a great sense of

humor, he had everybody laughing all the time. All of his clients loved him and cared about him."



Jason Matthew Briggs
2, died Dec. 8

Jason Matthew Briggs left this world as he entered it: fighting AIDS.

He also was a healer and a teacher. A film about his life, titled *Jason: The Way We Live Today*, is used by medical, religious and social-service groups nationwide.

Since his death, one of his baby-sitters has decided to become a pediatrician. His aunt is studying nursing and wants to work with AIDS babies. His pediatrician resigned her practice to work for a clinic that offers care to the indigent.

Jason's parents, Jim and Gerri Briggs, have shown no signs of developing AIDS, though both are HIV positive.

They're living again, they say, because Jason would have wanted it that way. Gerri, who assists AIDS education programs in high schools, says she dreams about Jason smiling and chasing other kids. No tubes or catheters are in her dreams — Jason's way of telling her that he's OK, and "for Mommy and Daddy to continue living ... He was a great teacher and a super kid. We're so proud to have been his parents."



Keith Curry
31, died Dec. 8

Keith Curry's primary interest, his mother Dottie Curry says, was children. "He spent a lot of time thinking of ways to make the world better for them. His second passion," says the HIV educator for *Informe SIDA*, "was his art."

Even as a child, his art work got second looks. He won contests easily. One of his teachers — artist Amado Peña — took a special interest in developing his talent.

The magna cum laude graduate of Prairie View A&M University, whose silkscreens were shown in the ninth annual Texas Black Artists' Exhibition just a few months before his death, was an art teacher at Pecan Springs Elementary School. His work continues to be shown at local galleries.



Bob Hunter
49, died Dec. 8

Bob Hunter loved pianos. "At one time," says his sister Victoria

Cheney, "he had 23 pianos in his house." In 1974, he left a successful career in banking to open a piano-restoring business, specializing in square grands and player pianos.

But other interests made Hunter unusual. Take his customized canoe, which got more than his fair share of double takes along Town Lake. It was equipped with an electric motor, padded seats, running lights and three large golf umbrellas to shade his passengers. Then there was his kitchen, stocked with restaurant equipment, which produced food for an army of friends.

Toward the end of his life, his passion turned to gardening. Cheney, a volunteer for AIDS Services of Austin, says beneath the brick pathways weaving around her brother's flower beds and trees are yards of irrigation pipe and wiring for indirect lighting. Finishing that garden was his final goal, she says. And by late summer of his last year, he saw it in full flower.



R. Terry Williams III
28, died Dec. 9

As an heir to part of the King Ranch fortune, Terry Williams didn't have to worry about money. But he was concerned about people and served on the boards of more than a dozen charitable institutions. Williams had four bachelor's degrees and a taste for fine art, according to a close friend.

He had an exceptional collection of prints by the designer Eric Cat Mountain. Williams "was very wealthy but he wasn't a snob and didn't care much for snobness," says his friend, who requested that his name not be used.



Bret Stuckey
29, died Dec. 21

Hairylist Bret Stuckey, an Anderson High School graduate who lived in Dallas until last summer, spent considerable time on the road as artistic director of the Toni & Guy Co. styling show. "He had a P.R. kind of personality," says his mother, Jimmie Stuckey.

"He was very, very optimistic, a very upbeat person. I've heard it said by people he's worked with that you never were down when Bret was around. He kept it very up."

Jimmie Stuckey says she still keeps up with Bret's friends she met during his illness. His memory lives "in this whole new set of friends I would never have known," she says.



Jamie McHenry
30, died Dec. 24

His mom, Betty, remembers Jamie McHenry in her kitchen, concocting recipes when he was still a child. He grew up to be a professional chef of some repute, even cooking up a batch of toffee just a few days before his death. "Toumados Jamie" was on the menu at Zan's Restaurant, in Galveston, where McHenry had last cooked.

McHenry, a former Navy medical corpsman, also cooked at Project Transitions, the Austin AIDS hospice where he died.

Mrs. McHenry, who lives near Houston, says her son was "very emotional, sweet one minute, very impatient the next. He was a very forceful personality, the kind of guy you either liked or hated. People who liked him absolutely adored him."