HIV positive? : Body Positive help line 01-373 9124 : daily 7-10pm : answered by individuals who are themselves HIV positive / Boody Positive.

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HIV POSITIVE?



HELP LINE

01-373 9124

DAILY 7-10pm

Answered by individuals who are themselves HIV Positive

BODY POSITIVE

51B PHILBEACH GARDENS LONDON SW5 9EB



REG CHARITY NO: 297823

When **Body Positive** was initially set up in 1985 by a group of HIV Antibody people the aims of the organisation were to help people cope with

- the pychological impact of receiving a positive result
- the change of lifestyle that often accompanies having the virus
- · the isolation and rejection
- and to provide information on practical problems including health care, housing and welfare benefits.

Over three years later, **BP** continues to provide opportunity to allow people to help themselves and others with the above issues. However, the situation around HIV and AIDS has also changed and other issues are now confronting people with HIV and AIDS. Some people have died, and through this they and their carers have had to wrestle with many issues around death and dying. Many people have now been living with this virus for some years. Some have gone on to develop AIDS and have had to cope with problems arising from institutional care, employment, personal finances and, again, a new form of isolation and rejection. Most people have remained quite well and over the years many have developed patterns which have given them strengths and an inner peace to deal with their situation. For others, they still grapple with the anxieties and physical problems that this situation brings to them. Others again, who are unaware of their antibody status can endure similar anxieties to the above.

Throughout all of this **BP** aims to provide an opportunity for people who are concerned with the issue of HIV and AIDS in their lives, whether they have recently received a positive result, have been positive for some time or are unaware of their tested status, to develop their own strengths and abilities to deal with this issue in their lives. This is achieved by: creating supportive environments in which to share doubts, fears, experiences, pleasures and hopes; to learn new ways of expressing ourselves, interacting with people and dealing with our emotions; creating opportunities of learning and devising new ways of health care; setting up new personal networks which can provide effective and immediate support in times of need and creating the sense of wellbeing that occurs from new, successful and effective projects.

The work of **BP** includes a daily Telephone Support Line, fortnightly Newsletter, Hospital Visiting Service, Counselling Training, Support Groups, Therapeutic Workshops and Social Events. The **Body Positive Centre** in Earls Court, London SW5, provides a day-time drop-in centre, a meeting place for the many **BP** activities and a base for **Body Positive**.