

Originally from the Astoria Projects in Queens and now a pillar of our Rochester community, Tracie Adams has faced more challenges than most can imagine. She has lived with HIV for over 22 years—proudly undetectable—and has survived incarceration at Bedford Hills and Albion. But instead of allowing these experiences to define her, Tracie has transformed them into a powerful platform for advocacy and change.

As a leader within VOCAL-NY's Positive Leaders Union, Tracie has become a fierce advocate for people living with HIV, especially those who face additional challenges like homelessness and incarceration. She has been instrumental in our "Housing is Healthcare" campaign, where [she has shared her deeply personal story](#) to highlight how essential stable housing is to maintaining health and dignity for those living with HIV.

Beyond her work with HIV advocacy, Tracie has also been a vocal supporter of initiatives like Elder Parole, which seeks to offer older adults who have served long sentences a chance for release. Her commitment to justice extends to her work in promoting harm reduction, ending the overdose crisis, and fighting against mass incarceration.

Tracie's courage to speak out, to stand up for others, and to lead with compassion is what makes her such a vital part of VOCAL-NY. She embodies the very spirit of our mission. We are proud to honor her at our gala this year.

[Read more on our website.](#)