

## **Gloria I**

I never wanted anything as much as I wanted Alicia. I feel that she is a miracle that God has given me. When I hold her in my arms, I feel that I have so much love to give her.

Before Alicia came, my life was a day-to-day struggle. At first, Rudy didn't tell me that he was in to drugs. Then, things started disappearing from our home...the watch he'd given me, the VCR, my purse. I had to do something. I went to stay with my mother. He followed me to her house. He told me he had a drug problem. He told me he couldn't live without me and he promised to get help.

When the nurse in the clinic asked me about Alicia's father, I told her about Rudy. She said that Alicia should take the AIDS test. We talked for a long time. I decided to get Alicia tested. I was so scared...Those were the longest two weeks of my life. I was so happy that she didn't have the virus that me any my sister threw her a party. It wasn't her birthday or anything. We just wanted to celebrate her being healthy.

It's like my life has started over again. I want to be strong for her. I want to take care of her like my mother took care of me. I want to live to see her holding her little baby in her arms just like I'm holding her.

Then I got to thinking about Rudy. I knew he was using drugs again... I could tell. Sometimes, when I do the laundry, there's blood all over the sleeves of his shirt. It makes me so angry, that I curse him right there in the laundry mat. The ladies there must think I'm crazy.

I know I need to talk to Rudy...To tell him to stop using drugs. I know he might get mad. Maybe even hit me. I just have to let him know that I love him, and I'd do anything to help him get off drugs.

All I want is to make a family for Alicia. Like the one I grew up in.

- 1. Characterization:** A 30 year old Latina female with a child and a boyfriend who is an IDU.
- 2. Membership:** Female sexual partner of an IDU.
- 3. Risk behavior:** She has been engaging in unsafe sex practices with her partner.
- 4. Goal:** Increase condom use with her partner.
- 5. Stage of Change:** Contemplation.
- 6. Influencing Factor:** Perceived risk.
- 7. Barrier to Overcome:** Her partner conceals his drug use and she fears her partner's reaction to being asked to use a condom.

**Strategy:** She decides to confront her partner about his drug use and make him understand that she will support him while he tries to quit his habits.

**8. Positive Outcome:** Risk behavior will be reduced.

**9. Source:** The Lower East Side Health Project Role Model Stories Library; June 1991 – Vol. 1, No.1 (B); Susan Tross, Ph.D., Principal Investigator