The mission of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive Project is to preserve the powerful images and stories contained within The Quilt while expanding AIDS awareness and HIV prevention education efforts.

The Quilt--then made up of almost 2,000 panels of this size--was first displayed in 1987 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., covering more space than a football field! Today, over 48,000 individual panels have been created by friends and family members, making it the world's largest community project. It's estimated that 36.7 million people were living with HIV in 2015, with 1.8 million being children.

On January 24 at 7 p.m. in the West Lounge, the UNC Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) will host a public event in front of the AIDS Memorial Quilt panels. The event will include insights into fighting against HIV and AIDS in NC, as well as an opportunity for students to shine their cell phone lights onto the quilt in an act of unity.

More media cover: