

- (SINGING) Dun, dun, dun, dun, dun. [FART NOISE]

- Shouldn't have had that extra burrito.

- I guess not.

- Woo

- OK. We'll be back in a minute. Hang on.

- The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

- Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.

- Give me a homosexual.

- Johnny are you queer?

[INAUDIBLE].

- *After Hours*, every Saturday night at midnight. Right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- If you haven't already, take a moment to fulfill your pledge to KPFT. For your pledge to count, you need to mail in your payment. You should have received a letter from KPFT by now. Just send in your payment in the self-addressed envelope provided.

If you have not received your notice or have any questions, call KPFT subscriptions department at 526-4000. Thanks again for your pledge to refreshing radio. KPFT 90.1 FM.

- We hear the sounds of the waves brush up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.

- You are looking at the sky burning red with the sunset, quickly a car drives up alongside of you.

- You stop for a red light. Suddenly the car is surrounded.

- They circle your blankets coming in closer.

- Bottles are thrown out of car windows.

- The sound of glass breaking. Baseball bats against metal. A hand grabs your hair. Glass at your feet in your face and your eyes. A fist across your face again and again.

Die queer. Kill them. Kill them. Kill them.

- Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write US Post Office box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

- Some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life and this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state, that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

- They've got to understand something. They got to understand something. We are not talking about crutch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live.

And I don't care about straight tolerance. I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding adding our civil rights.

- It was incredible. This morning when they were lining up to march with their contingents and somebody said the people who are supposed to be behind Texas, I don't know where they are. But get behind them and you heard a shout go up. 50 to 100, maybe 200 flags of Texan people.

- We're going to go to the stage now. And here's Troy Perry, Reverend Troy Perry.

- I have waited for this day. You all have to forgive me but yesterday, I had a run in with a group of fundamentalists. And I loved every minute of it.

I am so tired of that group telling us we're going to die and go to hell. Yesterday, they started with me. You're going to hell. Finally, somebody said to me, why don't you give them hell.

No, I'm going to give them heaven. I want to tell you that right now. Yesterday, I upset them. Went at their press conference, I walked in with my lover, took him and kissed him square in the mouth. I'll do it again for you today.

[CHEERING]

My lover Phillip [INAUDIBLE], now would you turn to somebody and kiss them right now. Right now, be affectionate with somebody, all over this mall right now. Today, we are marching. Today, we are here for the half a million people for as far back as I can see to the Washington Monument, the 30,000 people who have died with AIDS, and the thousands who are living with AIDS, we are here today.

For three little boys in Arcadia, Florida, who were burned out of their home. For Ryan White, a young man dying of AIDS in Kokomo, Indiana, we marched today. For two little baby girls that I dealt with today who are here with AIDS, we're marching for them too. Even those who have died, they're marching with us today. They're here too with us.

[CHEERING]

- Say it so they can hear you in the capital.

- For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

- I think that's Robert Tyler on the stage leading the chant, for love or for life, we're not going back.

- And welcome to the National March on Washington DC for gay and lesbian rights and choral reciting. Let's hear it out there. I'm Lea Delaria.

- I'm Bruce Hopkins.

- I'm a dyke.

- I'm a faggot.

- And we're best friends.

- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights march, the official count is over 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong. Look at you. 500,000 strong.

- It's all right, you may all come out.

- 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in the United States history. One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong.

They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about white politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance. And I care about straight understanding.

You better hear me Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights.

- We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance and self indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society, the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men, we'll support their children.

- They've got to understand something. They got to understand something. We are not talking about white politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight politics.

And I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- We are demanding our civil rights.

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

- Come on out. Join us. Bring your friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough.

- We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly-- most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children, then we are indeed everywhere. Every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. Once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

- Do you think if we played this for like four hours, the people in Washington would hear it?

- I'd be happy if the people in Austin heard it.

- I'd be happy if the people in Houston could hear it.

- Yeah.

- Anyway, we're here.

- And we're queer.

- I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.

- And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.

- And here's Allen to say--

- We're queer.

- All the way from San Francisco. Thank you, Allen.

- She certainly is. And there's a whole lot of things going on this weekend.

- You bet.

- Dammit, I just wish I could have gone.

- Unfortunately, they're all in Austin.

- That's what Roger said. He said you couldn't turn around without hitting the queen. But I would like to do something this morning that we don't usually do. We do it every once in a while.

I would like to send this program out as a very special dedication to someone who's very, very important to our community right now. His name is Glenn Maxey. And he's the first openly gay person ever elected to public office in the history of the state of Texas.

- That's the one that's got that sodomy law that says we can't do it but we do.

- [LAUGHING]

- I'm queer and at the police department. Girl, well, now she's in Austin and she's doing it, and they don't like it. But hey.

- Hey.

- Anyway, get over it. We're going to have a lot of good stuff happening for you this morning.

- Uh-huh. Boy.

- Very special guests. A Tisket-A-Tasket, come fill out a little basket. One of my favorite times of the year Easter and something really special happens in the Montrose and we'll tell you about that. Also, we're going to be talking about rallies so hang on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life and this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas. [CHEERING]

We must not and cannot fall into the trap of blaming ourselves even though others are pointing the finger and saying we are at fault. Look at the gentle loving people around. You look at them. Do you believe that these people are responsible for the carnage we have seen and the even greater carnage we are about to see? Listen to their voices. Are those voices filled with the bitterness and hate we hear from others?

- Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

- With courage and guts, he fought for our lives and lost his own in the giving.

- May the light of love be with you every day.

- When Harvey Milk was assassinated, I was nine years old just beginning to deal with my own emerging sexuality, unaware of what had happened in California, unaware of the terrible loss the gay community had suffered. But while I may have been ignorant of Harvey Milk at the time, still his life and death have affected me a great deal. For my entire generation has been the recipient of the work that Harvey Milk and so many others have carried on since Stonewall. So today, I am here to say thank you. Thank you to Harvey Milk.

- Two years after I was elected, I got a phone call from a voice that was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the voice said, thanks. And you've got to let gay people. So that child and thousands upon thousands like that child, will know that there's hope.

I know you can't live on hope alone. But without it, life wouldn't be worth living. And you and you and you have got to give him hope.

- There's got to be a lot more Harvey Milk's. There's got to be. There's too many young kids in little towns in Minnesota.

- I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- *After Hours*, J radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose, 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. We're here.

- And we're queer.

- We certainly are. God, I got to go to the bathroom, girl. Get somebody in here. Is that-- can we say that?

- How charming.

- I told you earlier, I need a neck rub. And now, I got to go to the [INAUDIBLE]. It's a long story, kids.

- Boy, it must be.

- Being a radio guy is no fun at all.

- Yes it is. Don't let him kid you.

- I lied.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 90.1 FM KPFT Houston *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. And Jimmy is here to do his acrobatic act this morning.

- Ta, ta, ta.

- Mary, flown in from the lobby, says--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Richard is calling in.

- Why is that doing that?

- I don't know.

- I don't like it. Stop that. Do this.

- Yeah.

- Wait a minute, girl.

- Don't you have to do this and then do that?

- Well, I don't know. Well, I don't know what's going on. Hang on a minute. We'll be back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Well, I guess the place to be now is Austin.

- So it seems.

- I guess. Is that right, Roger?

- That's right.

- Girl.

- It's really happening up here.

- Well, what's going on?

- Well, it's-- well, at night, it's big party time. And during the day, there's meetings and information and just networking and getting to know people.

- Do you have any idea of how many people are there?

- I don't know how many but jeez, you can't swing your hand-- handbag without hitting a queen around here.

- So what happened today that you can tell us about or what can you tell us because remember, we're live. Be careful.

- Today, we attended the meeting of the National Leather Association. They had a little talk on beyond vanilla.

- Oh.

- And it was very informative.

- Sounds good.

- There were probably about oh-- 50 people or so at that meeting.

- So Austin--

- That was happening at the same time other meetings were going on.

- Austin is full of queens tonight?

- Oh, it's just full.

- Did you get to go to any of the entertainment this evening?
- No, I didn't I didn't get tickets for that.
- What about the--
- Part of our group did get to go to the banquet tonight and got to see Glenn-- Glenn Maxey.
- Yay.
- Dinner. And I hear it was very well attended. And it was very good.
- Great. So, what about the rally tomorrow?
- Oh, it's definitely going to be fun.
- Is the governor going to be there? Has anyone said if Anne Richards is going to show up?
- That's all I've heard so far is that they're hoping.
- So, as far as she's been invited to stop by?
- From what I understand, she has been invited to stop by.
- That would be great.
- But-- there's more pouring in. I think half of Houston's up here.
- Oh.
- Well, the half that's listening to us is still here.
- Yeah.
- I mean--
- Don't steal our audience, girl.
- Faces everywhere. It is crowded everywhere. It's spring break so all the college kids are out.
- Oh, that's right.
- Place is crowded and packed.
- Well, have you seen Frank?
- No, I haven't seen Frank yet.
- Well, if you see him, tell him to call in a report.
- Yeah.
- Well, come back next week and tell us all about the March on Austin. O

- OK.
- OK, baby. Thank you.
- Have a good time. Bye.
- That's Roger reporting live from Austin. And hey, you know what? Next weekend is his birthday. When is it?
- Is it really?
- March the 22nd.
- No kidding.
- Girl, I almost forgot it but don't tell him that. I'm glad he can't hear me. We'll have to do something.
- I know that's right.
- Anyway, we've got some great things happening for you. And we're going to be talking about them I guess in the second.
- Yeah.
- I want to tell you a story that happened. This is a true story. And maybe I can get some backing on this in a minute to get the details on it.

But one year down at Mary's, as we do a lot of years, we had A Tisket-A-Tasket, a tasket, come fill our little basket There's this huge Easter basket that goes up on top of Mary's. And in fact-- we'll be back tomorrow. Ask the manager.

- It's going to happen any day, girl.
- Just watch the front *Post*.
- It's coming in the next week or two.
- Just watch the front page of the *Post* and the *Chronicle* because they report all that gay news.
- Yeah, right.
- I'm just kidding. Listen to us and we'll tell you when it's going to happen. But it is getting ready to happen. But it happened one year as it does a lot of years down in Mary's parking lot.

There's a huge Easter basket and we go drop food in it for Stone Soup. And Evelyn Cox is here with the AIDS Foundation and is going to tell us about Stone Soup in a second. But the story is that I work for the police department.

So Saturday, I went in to drop my food in the basket at the A Tisket-A-Tasket at Mary's, Sunday morning after doing the show, we get off at 4:00. I went to work and someone broke into the pantry and stole the food. And--

- I remember hearing about that.
- Girl, I was so angry because number one we went to a lot of trouble to raise all that money-- and I mean, get all that food. And number two, that week in the *Twit* and the *Voice*, I expected to see on the front page. Stone Soup pantry is rated help-- we need your help. But nothing happened.

It was-- we had a perfect chance to do something for our own self and we didn't. But isn't that life? So many times, we're just so busy in our own little world that we don't take the time to look out the window and do something good for somebody.

A Tisket-A-Tasket, it's going to happen at Mary's soon and god dog golly, I want you to take some food down there, girl. We'll be back in a minute to talk about Stone Soup. It's very, very-- it's very, very important that we support it.

- And in the meantime, we have the song--

- From Phil Collins. Think about it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Just another day for you and me in paradise. It really is when you stop and think about it.

- We don't need to see or hear about anything like that.

- Ever again.

- Right.

- Yeah, you bet.

- Girl, I'm going to throw this thing out the window because it just ain't doing what I want it to do.

- Your cart machine is not working tonight.

- Those radio gremlins.

- Uh-huh.

- Anyway-- well, Austin is hopping. And I have to send a letter of-- what is it called? I'm mad as hell and I ain't gonna take it anymore to Glenn Maxey and tell him that he needs to get those queens in Austin on the roll. They--

- Oh, I'm sure he will. Give him a chance.

- Well--

- He just got in there.

- They swore him in, girl, on Tuesdays-- on Thursday. Is that right?

- Well?

- And nobody up there recorded it. There it is right there. He's being sworn in by the governor. Nobody recorded it on tape.

- Oh.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Like how can we play it back if it's not on tape?

- Yeah.

- Anyway, sorry, we act like this all the time.

- Just a little bitching here.

- Well, how are you?

- Well, I'm fine.

- And thanks for coming by so early in the morning.

- Well, it depends if it's early or late. I haven't decided yet.

- We have in our studio audience here--

- Studio audience. No girl, she's the guest. The guest, Ms. Eve--

- Ms--

- Ms.

- Ms. Evelyn Cox.

- That's right.

- You're the director of the AIDS Foundation?

- That's right.

- We need to talk maybe about the AIDS Foundation someday. Because there's a lot of great things going on down there.

- Yes there is.

- But Bart Loeser's been here a couple of times to talk about safe sex workshops.

- Oh yeah, my children love to say that their mothers talks about sex all day. And I'm-- they're right.

- Bart makes this nervous because there are certain things you can't say. So, when he's here, we, like, worry about what he's going to say.

- If he keeps it clinical, you're fine.

- Oh, that's true. That's very, very true. But anyway, we wanted to invite you by this morning to talk about A Tisket-A-Tasket and Stone Soup.

- Wonderful.

- Actually, we didn't have-- talk about A Tisket-A-Tasket.

- Well, A Tisket-A-Tasket is a mystery-- it's a mystery fundraiser that we're having at the end of the month. But Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus for the last several years has produced A Tisket-A-Tasket, and--

- Faithfully.

- Oh, wonderfully. And bring in three or four van loads of food on Mary's parking lot.

- Yeah, absolutely.

- It's wonderful. And we spend about \$100,000 a year on Stone Soup. But we would--

- I didn't know that.

- We would have to spend \$200,000 if we didn't get the donations. A lot of people don't know that there are cash donations that we require. Up until this year, we actually paid the Stone Soup coordinator salary out of general funds. But we've gotten the state to fund that and so that's a little more money available for food.

- Great. Great.

- But it's quite expensive. And even at that, we managed to provide groceries for 176,000 meals a year and that's a little more than \$1 a meal. So, that's not too bad.

- That's pretty--

- But we could not do it without the groups and fundraisers that go on all the time.

- Quite basically, Stone Soup is--

- Stone Soup is a food pantry designed for people who have AIDS or ARC. You must be a client of AIDS Foundation, Houston. And you must have some financial restrictions. And we have-- we're revising those because some folks, even though they make a little more money than what the restrictions are, they spend it all on medication. And so they're medically-- what we would call medically indigent.

- Are there times when people in our community go hungry?

- Probably. Probably. Stone Soup is not an emergency assistance. It's an ongoing program. We're trying to encourage folks to combine their use of Stone Soup with food stamps and some other things that are available so we can stretch the resources as far as possible.

Because we're increasing our client load by 50 or 60 a month. And we're up to 1060 clients. And half of them last month use Stone Soup. So--

- That's a lot of people.

- A lot of people. A lot of people. We've gotten a couple of rewards for Stone Soup. Medical Center.

One of the unusual things about Stone Soup is that people are allowed to get groceries for seven days. And most food pantries hand you a sack of groceries for two or three days. And that's fine if you're not ill and have no trouble with transportation or rural ambulatory.

But if you're ill-- and it's nice to be able to only have to get out once a week, and they get to shop. Because the disease AIDS creates a different-- some of the medication causes people's taste buds to change. And there's only some food that-- some food doesn't taste good anymore.

- That's right. I've heard that.

- I didn't know that.

- So, the very thing that-- sometimes the very things that people would like to donate, some people can't-- some of the AIDS patients cannot eat.

- What kind of things do we donate? What kind of things do we need to bring to Stone Soup?

- Well, most of the time we need to bring things that are not food amazingly enough because a lot of these fellows can get groceries with food stamps. But they can't get shaving cream and they can't get Tide or anything of washing powder or they can't get toilet paper or they can't get napkins, the kinds of things that we take for granted, cleaning supplies.

- That is true because if you get food stamps, you can't get those things.

- A friend of mine does a nice thing every year at Christmas time. He donates Christmas cards and envelopes and stamps to Stone Soup.

- Yeah.

- How wild.

- We have a two benefactors every year that donate money to the clients that live in McAdory House. We give them money. And that money is for them to use as they wish. And very often, it's their only money and they are able to buy small gifts for their family members or-- and it gives them-- makes them a part of the Christmas season in giving as well as receiving. So, there's some really interesting things that happen with people in the clients of the AIDS Foundation.

- How do you do with area merchants donating things?

- Oh, they're wonderful. Randalls, we pick up bread and day old bakery products and the dented cans and things two or three times a week from Randalls and Kroger's as well. We are-- we have a very good relationship with those folks.

In fact, sometimes we have so much bread we can't give it away. And we try to find-- we give another food pantry. Because it is one of those things that after a while--

- Yeah. You can-- yeah.

- It turns funny colors.

- Is that the same thing like with produce and things like that?

- Yeah. Produce is-- the Colt 45s have-- of course, their trouble fund. And they spend several a week to provide Stone Soup with produce and meat. And so, that's our produce and meat.

So, in addition to the money that we put into it every year, our bill for the wholesalers is like \$3,000 or \$4,000 a month. So, in addition to that money, we have the Colt 45s bringing in-- we order and-- they pay the bill and we order it.

- Oh.

- Now, it's my understanding that if people want to donate cash to Stone Soup, you can use that money and buy much more than the individual could.

- Oh yes, because we buy wholesale. And the dollar that you would spend at a retail grocer, we can buy three cans where you'd buy one.

- Oh. I see.

- So, how do we get the cash to you?

- You can bring it to Stone Soup or you can send it to the AIDS Foundation at 3927 Essex Lane--

- So just make the check out-- just to check out the Stone Soup?

- Well, you may check out the AIDS Foundation Houston and then put note on there Stone Soup-- for Stone Soup. We have a fund accounting system. So anything that comes specifically for Stone Soup stays in that fund. We spend it all. It's-- we never have a surplus in that fund.

- Is there anything that people could donate that maybe you can't buy? Now I've-- I've heard throughout the community and this is why we have you on. You need to donate toiletries because the Stone Soup can't buy those with money donated.

- We have to prioritize the money. And if we happen to have a surplus of money, then we can buy the toiletries. But we usually don't have a surplus. And so consequently, we have to look at if somebody as what do they need?

If they need-- do they need shaving cream or do they need soup? Well, there's not much choice there. It's-- number one, you have to have enough food to eat. But we encourage people to donate the paper items and toiletries.

And the toilet paper is especially important for the folks that use Stone Soup because of the wasting syndrome they have. So many people are spend a lot of time in that little room which you were trying to go to a while ago.

- Diarrhea is a big problem.

- Yeah, it really is. How often does it come-- and how often does it come to that where you have to decide between soup and shaving cream-- or soup-- between food and things that aren't really necessary for sustaining.

- We never know. It's-- I think the last two years what I've seen in the pattern is that about August, any federal funds we have. We have FEMA money that we use for Stone Soup as well.

- FEMA money?

- Yeah. Federal Emergency Management Assistance. And so we get some money from them. We never know how much that's going to be. Or-- and it has to be over and above what we ordinarily spend. And so we spend that up.

And then we have-- the A Tisket-A-Tasket is a big, big help to us. I mean, we just really fill the storage area, the garage and the storage bin. And it lasts for quite a while.

But then there's not much in the way of things to-- anything to celebrate between Easter and August.

- Boy that's right.

- And then there's a big fundraiser every year, the Briar Patch. The last two or three years, Briar Patch Follies has-- used-- has donated money to Stone Soup and from their follies. And it hits about September. And then September on, the fall fundraisers begin.

And there is the-- of course in this time of year, there's a couple of parties that have become notorious in that people bring money are food for Stone Soup. As a matter of fact, April sixth or seventh at the Houstonian is the Aerobics Aerobathon.

- Yeah, that's right.

- And they're raising money for the hospital-- Hope Hospital. But they're asking people to bring food for Stone Soup.

- Sure.

- A lot of birthday celebrations or parties that friends on the invitation that always says bring something for Stone Soup or instead of presents.

- Right. It's like the Classic Car Club had at a fundraiser for Stone Soup. And I picked up 10 or 15 bags of groceries. And if you have-- when you're looking at a \$4,000 a month grocery bill, 10 or 15 bags of groceries doesn't seem like much. But when you have 15 or 20 organizations doing that, it's wonderful.

- It makes a difference.

- It would be \$6,000 a month if we didn't have that. So it's extremely important.

- Maybe we need to talk to some group or organization to do a big fundraiser around Pride Week celebrations.

- I think that'd be wonderful. I think that'd be wonderful.

- I have everybody that comes to the parade brings-- bring something-- toilet paper--

- Good idea.

- --shaving cream, toiletries. You know that kind of stuff.

- A donation.

- Oh, that's a great idea. Two years ago, Stone Soup Float won the parade.

- I remember that.

- With the A Tisket-A-Tasket basket, as a matter of fact, so that was perfect.

- Jimmy wanted to ride in that basket.

- I sure did.

- I think that might be a little untrustworthy.

- He said no.

- I'm not sure it would hold everybody that would like to ride in it.

- And we're talking to Evelyn Cox director of the AIDS Foundation here in Houston about Stone Soup. When you said the guys go shopping, do they go in and pick out what they want. Or do you just hand them the stuff and they say thank you.

- No, they pick out what they want. We have some limits. And don't hold me to how many there are. But for example, they're only allowed to have maybe five cans of soup. But they pick which cans of soup those are.

They can have so many boxes of jell-o. But they pick which flavors of jell-o. And that doesn't seem like much, but when you are not able to get out much, it's not able to shop and perhaps that was your favorite thing to do for years. It's a real big thing.

And it's become a social gathering. Because the same folks come on Thursday every week because they can only come once every seven days. So, the same volunteers that work on Thursday see the same clients on Thursday. And it's become a family affair as it were.

- That's nice.

- It's very nice. Very nice.

- You have problems with transportation? Maybe people have problems getting there or is there something in the works about that?

- Well, every Saturday, the Red Cross has a van. And they-- it's funded with money from the HRSA grant. That comes to the Harris County Hospital District. And they bring a couple of van loads every Saturday. So folks who need transportation nation can use to get it that way. But the big news is last August, the city council voted money for AIDS Foundation for a Stone Soup location.

- I remember that. That was a big deal.

- And it was hurry up and wait. And so we hurried and it's \$115,000. And that sounds like a great deal of money, but it's to buy and refurbish a piece of property in Montrose.

That's-- and then you think about the size you want. Well, we found the property. And we have a contract on it.

We're now waiting for all of the different things that have to be done for with the real estate department for the city of Houston. But I'm looking for-- and we've already decided what we're going to do to refurbish it. So, we should be able to make an official announcement of our location in the next 30 days.

- Hey, that's exciting.

- Great.

- Because I know you ran out of space five years ago at the old location.

- Oh yeah.

- We're working in a place now of 10 feet by 20 feet. And so, three people can go in with three volunteers. And the new location has 1,500 square feet.

- You said a couple of times, the people that volunteer-- or the volunteers are the people who volunteer their time to work at Stone Soup?

- Oh yes. We have five shifts. And there are three or four people on each shift. So, we have about 20 volunteers on a shift. And by the time you add up the-- it's like having two extra staff people.

- Yeah.

- We couldn't do it without them.
- So if you don't want to-- if you would rather give your time, plus--
- We'd love for you to give your time.
- You're always-- what about other programs that the AIDS Foundation has they're-- always looking for volunteers, I guess?
- We have about five or-- 500 volunteers at this point. And they have-- there are five Stone Soup teams. And they have about or five or six on each team.

And then we have-- we're in five hospitals. And we've had three hospitals ask us to create teams for them. And we're in there every night with volunteers.

There's at least one AIDS Foundation Houston volunteer in five hospitals in Houston have really floors of AIDS patients.

- What do they do?
- They visit the patients. They take them juice. It's a friendly word, a comfortable word.

They're very comfortable talking to people with AIDS. And very often, they're more support for the families than they are for-- because some of these folks or families are from out of town. And they need to know where to eat, where to stay.

- Right.
- Or they've just gotten the double whammy of just finding out that--
- Surprise.
- --their son is gay and has AIDS.
- Right. And that's- become very--
- I've had to deal with that.
- I heard that story. I had the pleasure of spending Christmas Eve with the Montrose Singers when they traveled to several of the hospitals and heard that story more than once. We just found out our child has AIDS and now he's gay and dying and just overrun with emotion.
- It's a real-- I think that there's a great deal of denial, because people certainly know but they don't--
- And until it's said, it doesn't exist.
- That's true.
- That's right.
- As the director of the Foundation, the AIDS Foundation, you're right on top of that program in Houston. Are we doing as a community, not-- I'm not talking about the non homosexual. I don't like the word straight because if they're straight, we're crooked.

But the nonhomosexual community as gay people, they're not talking about all those heterosexuals. Talking about is the gay and lesbian community, are we doing all we can do now?

- I think so. I think I have to admire the community for the way it stepped forward from the beginning. There was nobody there. And the AIDS Foundation, of course, was formed eight years ago when people couldn't even spell AIDS, much less understand what it meant.

And they-- it was organized as an educational organization thinking oh, this will be over in a year or so and it wasn't. And they found that our folks couldn't get into the food pantry, anywhere else. And so, we created a food pantry.

There was no-- there were no halfway houses, so we created McAdory House for folks that have 90 day-- living the-- apartments were prejudiced. They wouldn't fix their plumbing. So, we opened an apartment complex. So, most of the funds have been coming from the gay community. It's--

- Well, this is the stuff we like to hear because all too often the AIDS Foundation gets beat over the head for one reason or another. But the people don't hear this side of it, all the things that the AIDS Foundation does.

- Well, for a long time, we were the only game in town. And when you're the only ones there, you make all the mistakes and you-- and you also get all the prizes.

- Well yeah-- it wasn't like you had a format to go by. I mean--

- No.

- That's true.

- Rules up as you go.

- And we did manage to muddle through this on our own. Because the government certainly didn't help. In the beginning, the city wasn't rushing out to give us any kind of donations.

- They're not, still.

- Still not.

- Well, I will say this though. The city has-- the city council did give us the money for the apartment complex, which was \$475,000. And that's not a small amount and \$115,000 for Stone Soup. As far as the health department, they have yet to fund any AIDS programs that were not directly a result of funding they received from the federal government. So, I'm not happy about that and nobody is really but that's the way it is right now.

- So McAdory house is part of the AIDS Foundation? I didn't realize that.

- McAdory house. And it is six years old this year. It was the first privately funded home for PWAs in the country.

- We've been doing this program for about four and half years. And every once in a while, I say, OK, I'm going to get up enough guts and go over, go down the AIDS Foundation, and go over and do a special on Mac House. And I just cannot bring myself to do it. One of these days we will. Maybe I could get you to go with me because you got such a beautiful smile.

- Oh, thank you.

- But I would love to do something on the McAdory house because there's a lot of love. And I had a friend that was over there during the last days of his time here with us. And there's a lot of energy there and AIDS and death, for a very long time, was a lot of things we didn't want to talk about.
- Well, the McAdory House is for people that are ambulatory. They are-- some of them are ill and have to have medication. But very often, they move on out of McAdory House and go into our apartment complex or someplace else. We're very fortunate that Houston has-- as a matter of fact, one of our board members, Eleanor Munger, established Omega House which is a hospice.
- Yeah, exactly.
- And we happen to have their only failure. I give them a bad time about that you see. Everybody--
- Their only failure?
- --to leave Omega House, you must die.
- Yes.
- Well, one didn't. And he's living in our apartment complex. And so--
- It's wonderful.
- We have their only failure. AIDS is a very strange disease. It's-- the people that you think are not going to make it do and the people you think are going to make it sometimes don't. So, it's a very, very strange phenomenon.
- It takes some special people to work at Omega House.
- Would you come back some time when we can talk about other things you want to talk about like at the Foundation and--
- Oh, I'd love to.
- If you have something that you just have to get off your chest and you want to come in and scream me out.
- Well, mostly I don't have things to get off my chest. Mostly, I'm quite pleased with the support that we receive in Houston. The community is very supportive.
- And I'm glad to hear that.
- AIDS makes people angry. And who do you lash out? You lash out at someone that you're safe with. Well, the AIDS Foundation is going to support folks with AIDS.
- So they can say all kinds of things about the AIDS Foundation and they're still going to be there. It's kind of like family. So, I just get used to it. And we haven't-- we've had some pretty good press the last year. So, I'm not--
- Sure have.
- I'm not upset.
- Well deserving.
- Thank you. We're proud of our group.

- A Tisket-A-Tasket coming up very, very soon.

- End of March.

- Always around Easter time, very big Easter basket will be up on top of the bar.

- You bet. So, bring your goodies and your money and don't forget the rest of the year too.

- That's right.

- Anything we haven't left out?

- Oh, I'm sure--

- One thing right here is someone said, please repeat the address and how I can get-- how I can donate food or cash and all that kind of good stuff?

- That's a wonderful thought. AIDS Foundation Houston 3927 Essex, E-S-S-E-X lane. And it's Houston 770274. For questions, you can call 6236796. And if you can't remember that, then there's the AIDS hotline and they can give you all this information as well. 524-AIDS.

- And we see those wonderful billboards all over the city. The AIDS Foundation-- what are the Hours for the hotline?

- 9:00 to 9:00, seven days a week. And that's completely staffed by volunteers. So occasionally, if you get a recording, it's because somebody didn't quite make it in on time or--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Forget all of this, you know you can go call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and find it all out. So, repeat after me. We're all going to take food to the A Tisket-A-Tasket, for the Stone Soup pantry. And Jimmy, we may have to organize something between now and the parade.

- You bet.

- If we get 20,000-- if we get 20,000 to 30,000 queens down here for the parade and everybody brings something, can you imagine? Where are we going to put it?

- Well, we'd have a lot of trips in the van. One thing about it is the parade will go almost right by the new location of the Pantry.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Thank you very much. And you'll come back to see us? You promise? Evelyn Cox-- Evelyn Cox director of the AIDS Foundation Houston joining us this morning to talk about Stone Soup.

- We're very proud to have her.

- And we'll be back in just a minute. You're listening to After Hours on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.

- And we're queer.

- Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]