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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Judy Reeves



00:02

Hi there, I'm hosting live here the awareness day about HIV and AIDS. Um, what is HIV?



00:12

Well, it's aids. It's an infectious disease.



00:15

Do you know how you can catch it? Yeah. And how's that



00:18

through transmitted fluids? Body of blood transfusion? unprotected sex drugs. IV.



00:27

What do you know about HIV and AIDS? I know that is spreadable. Okay. How is it? How do you know how I mean? How through blood? Right. Okay. through sexual intercourse? Are you familiar with AIDS and HIV here in Houston? Pretty much. Yeah. What do you know about it? Like the baddest the kind of diseases going out in the public? Caitlin? Are you familiar with HIV and AIDS? Yeah, I've heard about it. You've heard what have you heard about it?



00:59

They don't have a cure for that. It's



01:01

like Do you Do you know anybody that's HIV positive or flicked in rage? What is HIV testing positive for the virus but not having full blown AIDS? Do you know what HIV and AIDS is? Yes. What is it



01:20

diseases you get 90 likes



01:25

is that the only way you can catch it how would you protect yourself from AIDS I mean you know the the medications or any of the awareness programs that are out there? No, no. So if you you feel safe that you don't know much about this HIV or AIDS now I doubt they're really thought about it before.



02:29

See behind these windows and newspaper reports a stone gazing at two people down below me all my life of watching maritime hide up you will know hungry for the history of stitch shown me all my life and memorizer faces knowing them as they will never know all my life paths a day



03:12

take some money every man who free walk just one day and then I'll be content with my share



03:48

they're among the Millers and the weavers and their wives through the roots in gables. I can see them. Every day the shamans go home and go about their lives to get up them.



04:13

Scrolling by the sad face the morning



04:29

sorry about that.



05:00

I can't hear the music coming through



05:19

and welcome back that was course Brian Sullivan who's actually volunteered to sit there and sing us on a live cutting version. We're it's it was, wasn't his fault. The audio, he wasn't able to hear the music but he did a great job. That was actually kind of nice. Thank you, Brian. Of course, you're also listening at 9.5 Galston, 90.1 KPFT sama cast again for the next hour in your local access when we welcome you to the HIV AIDS Awareness Day here in Houston. Joining me is Judy and Jimmy Carper. Both of them are longtime. Why are y'all laughing at me with longtime activist and longtime local residents here, Jimmy? Jimmy, you



Jimmy Carper 06:01

say that as if we're a couple. This is Judy. Judy Reeves. YEAH.



06:07

Jimmy Carper is that's okay. It works. It works. Jimmy Carper. Of course. Judy, I would like to love to hear from your angle and your point of view and everything like that. I understand that. Yes, it was she wanted to sit there. She was gonna sit there and go, No, I'm here for moral support. And well, I mean, you've you've been so involved with the community, you've been so involved in fighting the educating and creating programs and assisting people that have been HIV positive and HIV negative for numerous of years.



Judy Reeves 06:44

Women have a very different role in all of this. And it's been a very important role. As far as I'm concerned, as far back as the man Yeah, early, early, early 80s. And I met Jimmy in 89. Because of the national tour, the names project was doing their first tour. So yeah, I've been involved in it for just about as long as anybody around here. You're saying I'm old? That's okay. No,



07:11

I didn't do it off. Then do that not yet. At night, how many years ago. But Jimmy Carper you want to most people will probably recognizing you now or they recognize that voice from after hours where they can send Dirty Picture.



Jimmy Carper 07:29

Yes, you were on the air for 18 years,



07:33

18 years, brainchild of KPFT, which is Otis is here. So I



Jimmy Carper 07:39

want to run a thick my KPFT family for having the simulcast also 90.1 and 89.5 and Galveston, thank



07:50

you. Yeah, I want to thank Duane and Ernesto for and Renee for actually helping me get to where I'm at now, you wanted to share with this, all of that you've gone through, basically, you want to sit there and spin about maybe six or seven minutes or 10 minutes how long it ever takes, and you wanted to tell your story of living with HIV. So what I'm about to do now is ladies and gentlemen, listeners viewers and around the world send dirty pictures to KPFT after hours dot O R G. Jimmy Carper. Why don't you tell us and share for tears personal story, the listeners and viewers out there. Take as much time as you want to. Firstly, for



Jimmy Carper 08:31

those of you out there who know me and know me from after hours, you know, I don't do monologues. That's one of the reasons I have Judy Whitney, because we're going to be doing a conversation here about AIDS in the early years. Because I remember back in 19, summer of 1981, my lover gets a little pamphlet called the mortality and morbidity report. And in it, there was a little blurb about this gay cancer that was hitting gay men in New York in San Francisco. And I didn't think much of it. Most people didn't. I didn't think much of it for a number of years. As a matter of fact.



Judy Reeves 09:19

They really didn't know what was going on. No. And it was a hit and miss thing it was you know, they found it. A lot of times I found it in an autopsy situation where they found it. When it was too late to just sit and watch. Yes, there was nothing they could do. And they were running around scratching their heads and saying, Why is this happening? Where's it coming from? And we were all sitting back saying to a bunch of numbers. What is it? It's not cancer? It's not polio. It's not something you can name and relate to a bunch of numbers and letters. Yes,



Jimmy Carper 09:50

it took a while to get the name of AIDS. Yes, it was the gay cancer then it was grid, gay Related Immune Deficiency. And then finally, it became aids. However, it took several years after that for our president and government to ever even say the word, we were knee deep in the

epidemic before that happened. And I want to talk about what it was like in the early 80s. And later 80s. And, and into the 90s. how we felt about this. I know the gay community fought it, because it was suspected that it was transmitted through sex, and nobody wanted. Nobody wanted to go there.

 Judy Reeves 10:38

Now, you can't admit that, because that changes your whole life, it changes your whole

 Jimmy Carper 10:42

life. And the gay community had fought for recognition for many, many years, based on the flower power of the 60s, that's when I was a teenager. And the sexual revolution was spearheaded by the gay community. And it was the first time ever, that the straight community gave us any respect at all. Because we told them it was okay to have sex. made them happy to Yes. So while we're making inroads, along comes this disease.

 Judy Reeves 11:20

What I can remember, a few little small meetings in Houston itself back back then, of course, right here was in the middle of all that. Can't be without racing. And then the names project started out. And that was in San Francisco, of course. And people in Houston, were outraged, not as an instructor, but just at the whole thing. It's like, How dare you tell us we can't do what we want to do what we need to do what we have to do for ourselves, because no one else accepts us as human beings. And it was more anger than it was fear at the beginning, at least that's what I remember. What

 Jimmy Carper 12:04

I remember is, soon after it hit the I was part of the preppy gay community at that time. Soon after that hit my friends, and I would look around and none of us were ill. And we looked at the people who had died. And we had decided that, oh, this is the leather community, this doesn't affect us. So we don't have to worry about that. We're not one of those. Exactly. And it took us a long time to get from we're not one of those to us, all of us. All of us.

 Judy Reeves 12:43

Anyone from all of us to everyone. Yes.

 Jimmy Carper 12:46

For me, it took the death of my first death in my circle of friends, which was in 1986. But things had been going on long before that. Oh, yeah. The first people who came to help because the government was not acknowledging us, city or state or national, the first people who came to


help the gay men with aids were the lesbians.

 Judy Reeves 13:15

Hey, we got to save our brothers. That's right. And there was no guarantee at that point that that we weren't going to be as hit as hard as the men. DREW. Everyone said it wouldn't happen. And in fact, it didn't. Not in that way. But yeah, all the mothers had to come together and take care of the

 Jimmy Carper 13:33

yes guy. I think that was I think that was took a lot of courage. Because we weren't sure of the transmission. We didn't know if if you coming to help. Take care for me if that was

 Judy Reeves 13:49

being in the kitchen sitting on the same chair. Exactly.

 Jimmy Carper 13:51

Yeah. Oh, remember the mosquito thing? Yeah. Oh, Stresemann. by mosquitoes. Can you kiss? Who knows?

 Judy Reeves 14:00


Can you hold hands? Can you do any? Yeah,

 Jimmy Carper 14:02

there's lots of questions. And no one there with the answers.

 Judy Reeves 14:07

At the end, if anything good ever came of this whole thing. It was that I learned how to hug man and then not go crazy. Because I'm a hugger at heart. Yes. You know, people will just you know, so I could hug man and it was okay, at that point wasn't okay. They hated it was like no, no, it's like, no, I can do this. And but I didn't we didn't think of it as courage. We didn't think of it as anything other than these are our brothers and they're getting sick and we have to be there. So it wasn't a matter of courage or anything else. It was a matter of somebody had to step in and do it. And that was us. Yes. And we're still doing it today.





Jimmy Carper 14:44

So 1986 my first friend died. And it continued after in 1987, January of 1987. I got tested. And of course I was positive.



Judy Reeves 14:57

You see a course When you share your positive No, actually,



Jimmy Carper 15:01

I heard Brent talking about this just a while ago. And even if you're sure you're positive, when you hear the words, it's like a brick wall has fallen on you.



Judy Reeves 15:16

It makes it great when you hear it out loud. And in 1987.



Jimmy Carper 15:18

Getting a positive result meant death.



Judy Reeves 15:26

That's a 1988. Yes, that was just the simple truth.



Jimmy Carper 15:30

Yes. So I spent that whole year depressed, and decided this year, and I'm this store. I decided that in 1987, that would be my last Christmas. So I maxed out every credit card, I bought gifts for all my friends. And it was fabulous. And I lived to pay it off.



Judy Reeves 15:54

During granites,



Jimmy Carper 15:56

no, no regrets. But my friends still laugh at that, that every time Christmas rolls around, you know, is this the last one? This is the last one. Well,

—



Judy Reeves 16:05

everyone thought you were Peter Pan, and you suddenly turned into Santa Claus. Yeah, yeah. And then you met buddy.



Jimmy Carper 16:12

And then I met buddy. Yes. And then started with after hours. But even before that, I was interested in the community. I started with the game switchboard and started getting involved because I could, I had nothing to lose. This was the 80s. This was the era that if you were a single man and lived in zip code 7706, you could not get health insurance. This was an error. If you were era at that. When you went for a job interview. If you were a single man, they gave you a blood test. But they didn't do it with anyone else.



Judy Reeves 16:57

This is an era when gets an act up. That's right. And I put my energy.



Jimmy Carper 17:03

I went, I went right to act up. And I remember all of those. I remember Brian Bradley changing himself to the freezer at Randles. I remember marching into black neighborhoods and saying recognize this disease, because it's coming your way. And we were met with deafening silence.



Judy Reeves 17:35

It's not like gay man. No.



Jimmy Carper 17:38

But I joined act up because I did. I had nothing to lose. It didn't matter to me that people knew I was HIV. And that was an era when everyone who was HIV positive was closeted about it.



Judy Reeves 17:54

You had to be Yeah, that's the only way you could Yeah, you could walk up the street safely. That's right. And we had to and we targeted a lot of the insurance company. Yes, we did. The drug companies, everybody. This



Jimmy Carper 18:03

we did act up was screaming to get everybody's attention to this disease. And then once people had once we had their attention, then it was to work on medications.

J Judy Reeves 18:22
The trials and tribulations of

J Jimmy Carper 18:23
medication? Yes. Oh, gosh, yes, I've been on so many of them. Nowadays, people think oh, you, when you find out you're HIV positive, you take the pill, and that's it. I take 40 pills a day 40. Some of them are for HIV, some of them are other things to help build my immune system. And others I take because of the side effects of the medications for HIV. So I'm taking pills to counteract those side effects. Now

J Judy Reeves 19:03
you say you take 40 pills a day, that means you get up in the morning, you get a cup of coffee and you put 40 pills in

J Jimmy Carper 19:08
your mail. Yeah, no, it's throughout the day. And the bulk is in the morning and then some throughout the day, some with meals, some without meals, right some with me or some without a walking calendar. You have to be you have to be

J Judy Reeves 19:23
is it important that you take them that way? I mean, you can't just pop 40 in your mind. You have to take them a certain Oh, absolutely.

J Jimmy Carper 19:28
Because these pills have to be in your bloodstream at a steady flow. So that's why you take them in the morning and taking them at night. So you

J Judy Reeves 19:40
don't just live with the disease. It runs your life. It literally

J Jimmy Carper 19:43
I try not to let it but yes it goes run by life doesn't

J Judy Reeves 19:49
ruin your life. runs your life.

J Jimmy Carper 19:53
I also remember 1996 Because that's when my tea said ELLs were 8787 Naturally, in a healthy person, the T cells are anywhere from 500 to 1200. I had 87. And a diagnosis of AIDS, wonderful diagnosis of AIDS is when your T cells fall below 287, I had realized that I was going to die. I was moving into a new apartment, because this was the place where I wanted to go, where I was gonna die. I was it was peaceful. And then along came protease inhibitors,

J Judy Reeves 20:44
better drugs.

J Jimmy Carper 20:46
And then I had to fight. This whole way of thinking of dying and, and realized that I was going to live. I was going to see my 50th birthday. I was gonna see the year 2000.

J Judy Reeves 21:02
And I was determined you were gonna see. Right?

J Jimmy Carper 21:06
You were right there by my side.

J Judy Reeves 21:09
That's where I belong. We're not joined here. I guess we're buds. Yeah, yeah, we are. You got through the thick of it with me too. I mean, I had my ups and downs and my, my funerals and my buddies and my, you know, that with me, that had to be really hard for you. And then because at the time I was so wound up in, the things I was doing and the protests and the buddies and so on, and losing people right in the left. And whereas I knew where you stood in all of this, I would still lean on you and you would still be there. Yes,

J Jimmy Carper 21:43
thank you. I do remember, well. It's a little difficult to face right now. But 20 years ago, I had a close circle of friends. Today, I am the only one left. Yeah, there's a bit of survivor's guilt. But


why why not? them? Why not one of them? What? Find me.

 Judy Reeves 22:12

But I'm here, because you're determined, and you need to be here. Yes. And one

 Jimmy Carper 22:16

of the things that really helped. And I want to bring this up because I don't want people to forget is the names project. And you were one of the people who were was in on the beginning for the names project, Houston.

 Judy Reeves 22:36

Yes, actually. Yeah. There were, whatever technically three of us there were two of us who started the the chapter in Houston, Larry Replogle, and myself. In fact, the original charter is in my name. Yes, my other name. It's in my other name. And we handle that for quite a while we started the chapter here after the first national tour, and let Larry's started getting sicker. He was not really strong when the names project came here originally. And he he really had to drop out, he had to just back off a little bit, which is one of the first symptoms you recognize. Or at least we as helpers recognized so quickly, is it okay, they're backing off? If he's backing off, there's a reason. And usually the reason is, they don't want to be friends around them. They want to back off so that when they die, they die alone. And nobody's gonna grieve for him. Boy, is that wrong?

 Jimmy Carper 23:38

But I know, but I can understand, Oh, absolutely. I understand that as well don't want to hurt or put more hurt on the people you love. And

 Judy Reeves 23:47

I understand it. I just refuse to comply with. You can't get rid of me once I'm there. But Larry had to back off. And as a consequence, about two years later, I did too. I was I had some major burnout. And that's one of the things people don't talk about is the helpers and the buddies to lesbians and others, you do suffer

 Jimmy Carper 24:09

bisexuals and

 Judy Reeves 24:13

forget them. They're part of us. But you get to a certain point. For

J Jimmy Carper 24:18

those out there who have no idea what the names project. Yes, yes.

J Judy Reeves 24:23

There are people who do not know what the names project is. The names project was started in San Francisco and I know I'm going to forget names I can do this. And it actually the first panel was on a brick

J Jimmy Carper 24:35

wall panel. What's the panel? Well, a

J Judy Reeves 24:38

panel is okay. It's more than it's a quilt with a quilt Okay. A panel is a four by six three by three by six Okay? swatch of material on

J Jimmy Carper 24:50

which because that is the size of

J Judy Reeves 24:51

offensive content, and that you do this better than me. On which you can do anything you want for death. coloration or for remembrance of someone who has died from AIDS or AIDS related causes. Groups of, you know organizations made panels for people in organizations. These panels are sewn together in large squares. There, they're 36 Yeah, 36 panels. And they actually traveled, they did a national tour. There are pictures of it on the Mall in Washington.

J Jimmy Carper 25:30

And today that quilt wouldn't fit on the Mall in Washington.


J Judy Reeves 25:38


What traveled were sections of the quilt because they couldn't travel, the entire quilt couldn't. And I think it would take more than what a legal train of boxcars could carry at this point. So they don't travel with it anymore. It's in various and sundry places. In fact, it's moved its


headquarters. But this quilt made a national tour. And it came to Houston in 1988. I'm sorry. And I was the volunteer coordinator on the executive committee. Yes, 596 volunteers. And I have to say this, I'm going to brag a bit. Okay. Okay. Okay. We did it at the Georgia Brown Convention Center. And we were the only city in the entire tour, who actually unfolded and the unfolding was a huge ceremony we had, there were 16 people, I believe are 12 people who would unfold a panel in a certain way. So there's not to damage it. But in order to get it laid out on the floor so people could see it. We had to lay grids so that people could walk around the panels to see everything it was, it was quite a production. Yes, it was. It was quite a production, and very well worth it. But we were the only city in the entire tour who actually was insistent on unfolding the panel that matched the names that were being called out as they unfold in that panel. Yes, it really important was choreographed, it took us weeks to do that. The people who brought the quilt a, they had a group that traveled with it could not believe we actually did that, but we pulled it off. And we had different individuals and celebrities and politicians and religious people, etc. would stand at the microphone and call the names of the people who were represented on those panels as they were unfolded. It's been an entire weekend here. And I actually didn't meet you then. Because you were so I was sick. That's sick. I could not make it good. Make it. So that was it was right after that, that we started doing a radio show together. That's right. So it's also the end of my relationship. Looks


 Jimmy Carper 27:48


like it's close to the end of this segment. Also. We're I think we're running a little over but I'll wait until Smiley's ready. Hello, smiley,


 Judy Reeves 27:59
smiley, keep talking.


 28:02
Well, I didn't know what we're going. Bar you're wanting to go. And there's but I feel that people actually had an opportunity to see you and Judy and get a get a personal natural offense to what's really out there.


 Jimmy Carper 28:21
Well. I have figured out, I already said that I was tested in 1987. But I figured out that I could not possibly have contracted this disease after 1984. So I'm looking at 21 years plus into this with HIV and I'm living with HIV and I'm thriving with HIV. And you can to HIV is does not have a cure. But you can live with HIV. Not as well as you have. But you can live


 29:10
a couple of q&a for you. Okay. You've you've been living it for about 21 years. Have you seen what have you not seen done? That should be that should be done? A cure,


 Jimmy Carper 29:21
of course, but greater than that


 Judy Reeves 29:25
any efforts towards a cure?


 Jimmy Carper 29:26
Yes. Do you do sometimes I think the drug companies really don't want a cure. They want to just keep selling us medications. Because they're incredibly expensive. This is a very expensive disease. It can run 20 \$25,000 a year just for the medications. The


 29:51
on the education of HIV and AIDS and awareness and the programs out there. Do you think you said there is not enough effort towards finding a cure. But do you think there's enough effort on educating and making aware, especially to our young people? Do you think there's enough effort out there?


 Jimmy Carper 30:10
I don't think there is where young people that we were, we were going fine for a while. And the rates started dropping. But now that with with the different types of education that we can't talk about, we can only talk about abstinence. We can't talk about condoms. We can't talk about safer sex in schools. So all we've seen is the rates rising. I think that's wrong. I, I don't think giving a teenager a condom says to that teenager, go ahead and have sex. I think it means I love you. And I want you to stay healthy.


 30:54
Yeah, a lot of a lot of I mean, a lot of people have taken their time out of their day to come do this, especially you and Judy. Brent, at the Montrose clinic, we have Jeffrey, it's sitting out on the side getting ready to come in here. You know, we have the staff here. Marshall bought us some some delicious Subway sandwiches out there. So when you're done, yeah, I mean, y'all get a snack. But I mean, what do you think people can do more of out there that are watching or listening? On? 90.1? KPFT? What do you think they can do? Maybe different? Maybe just one thing a month? Maybe one one thing a year? What could they do different to assist or help out? Or progress this fight against this virus? I mean, do you think there's something they can do become a volunteer? I mean, they


 Jimmy Carper 31:43
can write a letter to their congressman, or woman?


 31:49
And what should they say in that letter, keep AIDS funding


 Jimmy Carper 31:51
alive.

 31:56
And it's that simple. Just one sentence. Keep AIDS funding alive. Please, someone from the audience sit there and said, Please, as

 Jimmy Carper 32:05
we got that's one of our biggest fights because we've seen it diminish. Actually, it grows but not as fast as the AIDS community has grown. And now we're seeing it in all areas, all all societal areas, straight gay, bisexual, transgender, you name it, all all socio economic classes. So

 32:38
in, in closing, what's the message you want to get out there? What's what's the final say that you want? What do you want to leave with our listeners and our viewers? Arthur,

 Jimmy Carper 32:48
I want them to know that HIV is not a death sentence. You can live with the disease. It's difficult, and you probably will not have as long as a lifespan as other people. And because of that, you should be out there fighting to educate people on how not to get this disease, it's actually quite difficult to get it. It's, it is a semen to blood or a blood to blood contact. That's how the disease is transmitted. Semen to blood, blood to blood. And there are very few ways that that can be done. And if you protect yourself, you can live a long and happy life. Judy,

 33:40
do you want to did you want to put too since a

 Judy Reeves 33:42



Judy Reeves 33:42

whole generation of young adults who have not known what it's like to live without aids in their life? And that's tantamount to people saying, well, they had polio as a kid. Polio is just a word to them to this younger generation. And I hate to say that, to this younger generation, age is just a word. It's a name. It's a disease like cancer, polio, whatever, measles, mumps, chickenpox, everybody gets it. This is wrong. We've got to keep up the education and the education has to start in elementary schools. And whatever you do, you need to get started to fight that system. To get that education started at a very young age so that these people do grow up aware of what's happening and can stay there.



34:26

We've been talking to Jimmy Carper, a long time KPFT program or you can listen to his show after hours 90.1 KPFT on Friday nights 12 to three used to be on Saturdays for one to four I'm sorry, Sunday morning, Saturday morning, Saturday morning, Friday evenings, one to four on KPFT at 9.5 Gaussian 90.1, which you want to thank for simulcasting two hours of this. We want to thank Judy for coming on and sharing hers, her perspective and her her words with us. And hopefully you've taken something from that. Uh, I know that a lot of people out there, you're gonna have to know, don't get comfortable with this there because of the medication out there because of the drug combos. It's not a free ticket to go out there and be risky. It's not a free ride to sit there and participate in all that activity. And you've were able to talk to Brent Pendleton. And you heard about the myth story that doesn't sit there not. Not getting tested. And not knowing is not the right way to do it. If you haven't gotten tested, get tested. And I mean, hopefully you talk to Jimmy that, you know, you can live a normal life, it's might be a little struggle for you, it might be a little harder. But no, don't get comfortable. It's going to be a continuing fight. Even for people that do not have HIV or AIDS, don't think that you're not, you're not immune to it, you're still at risk. And because you don't have it, don't think that it doesn't affect you. It does affect to Jimmy Brent and everybody else there. They live with us. They're our neighbors, they're our friends, we work with them, we talk to him. And hopefully you'll be able to take something out of that we do have another little segment break that me and Alex went out there on the streets of Houston worked out. And after you check that out, if we're ready to go ahead and roll with that, we'll be back in about five minutes. And when we come back, we'll have the former president of HATCH Jeffrey Faircloth, and we're going to talk about the educational standpoint, and the views and perspectives of what he has to say, which is a lot. We'll be back. What do you think they could be done more to educate? I mean, you're what would you what would you want to know about AIDS right now that you don't know? That's a good question. I don't know. I mean, I guess you just educate us on educating the young, what do you think they could be doing different? In your own words? What would you do different? If you listen to the old girls? Do you think that they're doing enough education or enough awareness? I mean, do you think they're educating people enough?



37:03

I think that everyone's trying to do their education to, to everybody. I mean, it's it's been in everyone's face for years. So I mean, we we all are aware of what's going on, I just think that there's a become complacent, perhaps, you know, that. They just think that you know, they're invincible when you're, when you're 21 years old, nothing ever happens wrong. You know, they have to be aware that you are susceptible to HIV, and you know, they've got to learn to play safe.



37:31

But in school, did they teach you anything on HIV and preparations? And how to be how to protect yourself? Or? Yeah, it might help class, they talked about it, can you can you tell me a little bit of what they talked about? Basically, they say like, that we will get really sick from it. They didn't tell you how you can contract it or how it's passed. Yeah,



37:54

they certainly can be passed on sexually or my like.



38:00

I don't really know. Do you think there's enough education out there for your daughter to be aware of that this? There's this disease out there? I



38:07

hope so. I know. We talked about it. So at home, school? Once



38:13

you've never been tested for HIV, or I mean it has your school ever talked to you or offered to touching



38:18

anything? Yeah, they've talked us about it before. Can



38:21

you give me kind of roughly what they said?



38:26

I don't know. I wasn't really paying attention.



38:28

wasn't paying attention. You've never met anybody that's been HIV or AIDS? No. So anything

wasn't paying attention. You've never met anybody that's been HIV or AIDS. Not so anything that you've learned has always been on television. What you read about? Yeah. Okay, so what did they teach you about HIV, the spread of it, ways to protect yourself from like, just use



38:47

100%? That you use a protection all the time and just stay away from it?



38:54

Do you have any friends that are HIV positive? And no, not at all? Do you think that not enough? People are know what's going on out there? I mean, what's the I think



39:00

not enough people care?



39:02

What so and overall, just real quick, do you what do you think that the the people should do more? Should they be educating more? I mean, what do you think they're not doing?



39:12

I think they should educate earlier earlier in life. I mean, if you wait till they already 1415 years old, they're already starting to make their own decisions. But if you start that from, say, eight years old, then and grow them up to know that afternoon is the best way to go. If you want to live, that's a serious deal.



39:31

Tell me some of the education that Russia does. I mean, what kind of, do they promote?



39:36

They have spent I think they have a HMB funds or something like that. So what they do I think the schools and the other educational institutions in Africa, like special education about the using contraception and usually come down Sunday, nobody eats and just given general understanding what is that?



39:54

As so so diverse as well are? Well think the world is doing enough paying enough attention to

AS AS AS diverse as y all are? I all think the world is doing enough paying enough attention to The HIV and AIDS Do you don't think so? What do you think they could do more? Like



40:04

I would just give, give more attention to African countries? You know, in Africa, it's a real problem right now. And probably, you know, more funds are supposed to be spent like an international funds, maybe you and maybe some of the things like musicians have to spend more money, just, you know, to take care of Africa. People travel and, you know, cause more problems for



40:24

the world who think this is enough education out there? Definitely not. What more what more can you think they can do to sit there and bring awareness? We definitely need education, people think it is only in the gay community. And it's not, I want to help you real quick. Why do you think there's such a lack on educating young people? I



40:47

mean, I think a lot of that has to do with parents, the people's parents, you know, want to be the ones that are like, either educate their children or decide not to educate their children on such things. And I think parents really have a bigger deal to do with that than anything.



41:02

And that is harmful, isn't it?



41:05

I think it is. Because I think a lot of parents would like to think their kids are not going to have sex until they're married, or until they're in their 20s. And logically, that's not going to happen, especially in the day and age that we're in today. More kids are having sex than they ever had before.



41:19

If you could talk to those parents, well, how would you explain to them? Or how would you tell them to make them want to educate you?



41:24

Well, I would tell them that, you know, I'm going through it. The first part is always the hardest, but it's not something you've found a cure for. So it's not something you can really get rid

but it's not something you we've found a cure for. So it's not something you can really get rid of. So if you really do love your kids, you would really want to educate them. Because kids are there individuals, they're trying to find themselves but they're still individual people. And they're gonna do what they want to do and what their friends are doing or what their peer pressure is going to do. And just let them know, you know, if you really love your kids, then I think that you should, you know, educate them on all parts of life, sex, STDs, HIV, AIDS, and everything.



42:00

Welcome back to The International HIV AIDS Awareness Day. Once again, you saw some video that we went around the city of Houston asked people questions and their thoughts and views and perspective and what they knew about HIV. Joining me now is the former president of HATCH, very young and attractive young man, very educated, very smart. Jeffrey Faircloth, he's going to Bergen is going to do some q&a and bantering back and forth, basically focusing on educating the young the lack of that education to the young lack of the HIV awareness and education. And to the in the lack of in schools and everything like that. So I want to first start off there, if you saw in the beginning how easy it was for me to get tested. Simple little questionnaire, I answered just a couple pages. It was a one on one counseling, he did a little pinprick, of course, you have your options to go through the swab. And you I'm still wearing the bandana. And of course, I've gotten the results of that. And later on in the program, I'll let you know the results of that HIV test just kind of keep you in suspense. Jeffrey, I want to thank you for actually coming here. Oh, and it's definitely my pleasure to be here. It's, it's awesome. I'm looking forward to this. And, in fact, I have I made some notes up in here, but you pretty much have an idea of what you want to discuss and how you want to discuss about it. My focus is on the lack of educating the young people. The fact that it's not there that you're not allowed, definitely



43:34

it is it is completely not there. It's just a disgrace. The lack of education that we have in today's society, one of the things that I was thinking about when I was getting ready to come on the air is you know, every student in this country, when they go to public school, it doesn't matter if you're homeschooled. Or if you go to a private school, or in public school. Every single student in this country when they leave school, the overwhelming majority of them are going to know that the capital of the United States of America is Washington DC. I mean, this is just general knowledge that everybody knows if they go to school here in this country. And even if you don't go to school in this country, you know, you're going to know that Washington DC is the capital of the United States of America. But when we're talking about AIDS and HIV, we have a problem when when students, you know, get out of school and they don't have all the facts. They don't know it, like they know that the capital of the United States is Washington DC. And I find that to be really disheartening, especially when, you know, Jimmy was talking about the early days of the epidemic of HIV, you know, in the early 80s and the late 80s. And, you know, back then they didn't know what this disease was, you know, he talked about how they call it a gay cancer and grid. They didn't know what it was they didn't know how it was transmitted at They just didn't know anything about it. And it took several years before they knew all the details. And but we're now 25 years into this epidemic getting close, you know, in five years, it's gonna

be 3030 years. And it's a disgrace that we live in a society now where where kids are going to school, and they're not getting all the information. They're not getting all the facts. And that's just a disgrace. And



45:25

it's, it's, it's kind of like the fact that that lack of money, no one wants to put forth the money, they put this, this key into that abstinence don't have sex, which, of course, I mean, I'm not much older than you. I mean, you're we were both sexually active in high school. I mean, you know, this absent thing doesn't work. It's not going to do it, we hear it. But they don't follow it. So what how would, how would you approach? I mean, you're yourself being closer to the younger generation that's coming up. Now. How should we approach these these kids out there? These high schoolers, these junior High's? I mean, like you said, you can't walk up and give them to a condom, because mommy and daddy don't want to give them an okay to go have sex? But how should? How do where? Where can we share the knowledge wherever we can we express the fact that they need to be aware that this disease is out there. And if they go out there and have promiscuous sex, that they're susceptible to the virus,



46:25

we're going to swell, I think the first step is to just start talking about it. And I don't think that that's happening. I, you know, I you know, in the last segment they talked about AIDS is just a word for kids. We it's just a word. Now, for our generation, it's just a word, it's, it's not, it's not this in your face disease, that the early, you know, in the early days of the epidemic, people were dying. And our generation has not seen that, you know, they talked about the drugs, and how the drugs are keeping people alive longer. So, you know, a lot of people in in my generation and your generation, they have not, they have not seen the in your face people dying, they get comfortable, they get comfortable with it. And I think the first step is to start talking about it and discussing, you know, what this disease does to people, you know, how it ruins your life, how the drugs that you take are not, they're not something that you want to be taking. I know there's a myth. There's a lot of younger people in my generation, they they talk about, well, AIDS is not the disease that it once was, you know, we have the drugs, they're keeping people live longer, you know, a lot of people point to Magic Johnson, how he's lived for many years, you know, because of the drugs. And he's still alive today. You know, and so there's this idea that, you know, AIDS is not what it once was. But, you know, those drugs that you take, there's so many side effects from those drugs, that you wouldn't want to be on them. I mean,



47:55

yeah, you take one drug, and you have to take two other drugs to counter the side effects of that when there's a drug combo for that. And I mean, that's where the comfortability comes. In fact, in fact, have you ever heard of the bug chasers, the ones that purposely go out there and just catch the virus, so they don't have to worry about? Not, you know, for whatever reason they have, I believe that the reason is that they want this virus and so they can go out and have unprotected free sex or whatever how they ever want to be. I think, when I was talking to the high school kids at the mall, when some of the videos that I've been watching, it was when I

asked them, well, what does the school teach you in, in HIV and awareness and education? And most of them said there and for one girl was like, oh, that's that sex disease that you can get by having sex? Right? And I when I asked her, did you learn that in school? She couldn't remember she said she wasn't paying attention. Maybe it's the way that we introduce it. Do you think that there might be I don't want to sit here and sound like an old fart saying this, but I hipper way of expressing or sharing this. I mean, you what, what I want to ask is by just talking about it, we didn't lose the lack of interest because they have that mentality. They get that comfortable. Like you said, the drugs and you know, it's like, Oh, not me, I'm gonna it's not gonna happen, or whatever. How can we where can we go? What can people do? What can the listeners and viewers do to sit there and change that mentality change that chain of thought? I mean, do we need to put them next to a house next to a bed to someone's actually dying to the virus, give them first, just kind of a shock? Shai? I



49:43

think that that's where we need to start is you know the shock and awe that you're talking about. There definitely needs to be an in your face. You know, this is a real disease. And this is what it does to you. And this is not something that you want to get and young people are not getting that today. They are just not getting that you know No, and that's real sad, you know, one of the things that when I was co president of HATCH, I felt very, very strongly about, you know, HIV and AIDS, AIDS education, because kids are just not getting it. And one of the things that I had, during one of our programming on a Friday night was I had some men that have HIV come in and discuss, you know, what their life is, like, with HIV, and it was very, very effective, very effective, you know, because when, when you put a face to something, it, you know, it really, it shows a lot, it shows a lot, and it shows that this is a very real epidemic. And I think that it was very effective for kids to see that. And I think that's one of the things we need to do is start putting faces to this disease. That's one of the things I like about the names project, because it you know, it puts names to this disease, it says, Hey, this is a real disease, this is affecting people. You know, and I think that's what we need to start doing in the schools. And, you know, you mentioned while ago about the abstinence education, and I feel very strongly about that, I feel that we should be teaching abstinence, you know, abstinence education in school, as well as safe sex education. Right now, and a lot of schools, they only want to do the abstinence only education. They don't want to talk about, you know, the safe sex education. And I think that's, that's terrible. Because if you look at the statistics, and today's society, kids are having sex younger and younger and younger, to say, don't have sex, and not give them all the information is really to me, it's kind of like giving them a death sentence. You know, when I



51:49

was when I was in school, her name was Miss King. It was seventh grade Life School chain. Intermediate School, I think I was in seventh grade. But she showed us how to use a condom on a cucumber. They're not doing that anymore. I mean, I don't know that was years back. But, you know, I mean, I guess what did they consider that too risky of behavior, showing kids how to open up a condom package and how to erect it? I mean, that's how that's what we learned. I don't know if they're teaching that now. I don't know. I can't get any facts and information. What I keep hearing is no condoms allowed. No. No education, and no, no safe sex education. In school. There's abstinence, like you mentioned, like we've talked about earlier. But there was a couple of kids that I talked to that they did say sit there and say to kids, that in fact, I talked

to sit there and said, Well, you can go to your nurse and get information. You know, that's how I learned about it, or that in the health classes, that's what they talked about. What programs are out there? Are there any kind of programs out there besides HATCH? And the Montrose clinic? Are there any other programs that you're aware of that might be able to? Like the what is it the gay straight alliances? I mean, do they do any kind of HIV AIDS awareness in the schools? Are they allowed to do that?



53:09

Well, as far as I'm aware, I do not know. I do not know the answer that question. As far as you know, as other groups, the only groups that I currently know of are HATCH, and the AIDS Foundation of Houston. Those are the only groups that I know that are doing any, any sort of education on HIV, maybe PFLAG as well, parents, families and friends of lesbians, lesbians and gays, they might be doing some education as well. But as far as I know, those are the only real groups that I have ever come in contact with, that are ever doing some hardcore education about HIV and AIDS. You know, this is AIDS. This is what it does. You don't want to get it this is not something that you want to risk. You know, having a night of fun, you know, and getting it Do you



53:59

think that church church organizations out there, the Catholic society, the Baptist, Presbyterian, for the castle's whatever denomination out there? Do you think they're doing any HIV awareness for the young kids on Sunday school or anything like that? No,



54:12

I do not think that they're doing anything. They as far as the religious institutions, I mean, I was raised Assemblies of God, you know, and when I went to church, and Sunday school and youth groups and everything, that they did talk about AIDS, AIDS, I mean, AIDS is a word in our society. Now, you can't live in our society and not know what AIDS is, you know. But the way they handled it was, well, this is this is a disease. And if you are sexually promiscuous, and if you live any moral lifestyle, and go out and do IV drugs, you're going to get this. So there wasn't really this education on you need to use a condom. You know, there was there was no edge education like that at all. It was just don't have sex. And until you're married, you're not married. Yeah. And, you know, in an ideal world, that's, that's a wonderful romantic idea, you know, to tell kids not to have sex, you know, until they're married. But we don't live in an ideal world. This is not a perfect world. And we need to be giving kids a well balanced education. And, you know, on the issue,



55:26

the simplicity of all that what I hate is the stereotype, there's still those discriminations out there where the kids are out there going, Oh, it's only a gay disease, you know, you can't get it, or I'm not gonna get it. We have a lot of walls to break down. And what I mean, with with about three minutes left, in that three minutes, would you would you just sit there and get a message

to the listeners out there that, you know, real quick want to thank 90.1 KPFT, they're about to go ahead and cut off into their segment, appreciate them simulcasting this in two hours. And hopefully, something's been learned about that. And can you go ahead and next three minutes, send a message out there to the listeners and viewers that are paying attention to this program, what they need to do what they have to do to break down those barriers, break down those walls, go get tested. Three minutes, years, just get a message out there?



56:28

Well, as far as dealing with the younger generation, and the schools and education, we need to be giving more education on this. That's just what it all boils down to, we need to be talking about it more, we need to make this a shock and awe thing for kids. This is AIDS. This is this is a disease that you don't want to get. We need to we need to get past the sexual taboos, we need to, we really need to reach the younger generation because they're not, they're not getting the education that that they need. And that's what it all boils down to, is just talking about it in the schools. And we need, we need to educate our teachers. And we need to educate the people that are in the school system teaching safe sex, education, teaching health, education, teaching abstinence only education, we need to give them all the facts and all of the knowledge on HIV and AIDS. And until we can get to that point, we're going to keep seeing the rise in HIV go up in the younger generation, we're going to continue to see to young people every hour get HIV and, and that's just a disgrace. And we really need to, to share the knowledge with everybody. And make sure that we get everybody in society on the same page. And until we can do that, we're still going to continue to see the rice go up. And



57:53

you know, we were we talked about, we just we got the chance to sit down for a few moments, man, you before we came out here the day before. You made an excellent point. Parents need to educate themselves before they talk to our teams, the parents, the mom and dad need to go out there and they need to learn about it themselves. They need to learn the ins and outs, learn about the testing the way to the way to contract it the risky behavior involved in the drug addiction. You have mom and dad learn it first. And then discuss it with your child and they need to be like you said in their face. Yeah. And I you know, I support the fact of you know, take your child, take your child to a heart to not a hospice I want to say a hospice



58:40

or a hospital or a foundation to the AIDS



58:43

Foundation and let him Let him Let him talk to someone that is dying and let them see the medication and the drug combo that they're taking. Let them experience themselves. How how I personally will affect because if you don't pay attention, if you don't get out there and get tested. If you don't use condoms if you do not. Listen to what Jeffrey and Jimmy and Brent are

saying you're gonna die. We'll be back after this break right here. Thank you for KPFT simulcasting this for the next two hours, which they stay the next hour. Jeffrey, thank you so much. We'll be back after this.