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📅 Thu, Dec 22, 2022 3:40PM ⌚ 29:03

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

positive, people, hiv positive, hiv, houston, dallas, social, functions, person, hiv negative, community, newsletter, personal, correct, aids, talking, call, bill, dealing, dwayne



00:03

I don't want to introduce our guests in the same line. It's privatizing. Right? Whatever. Okay, Howard, come on. I'm not gonna tell you up because I'm just still talking to Stacy. You



00:14

knew Okay.



00:14

Okay. This needs an introduction here. You guys are all so bossy you should be from Dallas but we do have some Dallas boys in the house tonight. We have a Mr. Dwayne Barnett. Dwayne take a bow and Mr. Bill Murdoch Yeah, we'll say something bill. I did. Say hello to your your your Houston audience tonight. I used man whatever, whatever. Okay, Mr. Scott Clark body positive. Hey, of course, Sarah. She's back over here working my dials, you know, because Scott's going down and remember you're listening to what are you listening to? 91 point 90.1 That's why it's written right. Yeah,



01:10

thank you. Well, for listening to we are listing 9.1



01:13

ke O 's in College Station. Ryan. Our phone number tonight gang is 5565738 or five to six KPFT we will be taking your calls momentarily, but first of all, we're gonna get all serious here. Are we not sir? Okay. Basically, let me start us off. Okay. I asked these gentlemen to come down from Dallas this evening because they are celebrating the two year birthday up there. The two year birthday is body purse bottom body personal. Guys, agency.





01:57

Buddy persons in here



01:58

we have we have up a positive personal and basically what positive personal personal is our guys? Do it nonprofit. Okay, Texas lifestyle connection. Go ahead. We are



02:09

under the foundation for human understanding, which is the AIDS Resource Center. We, Bill Murdock and I have formed a newsletter that allows HIV positive people to meet each other on July 15, of 93. So just a little bit ago, we just finished up our second year.



02:31

So it's been two years with with personal pause. Pause HIV positive. Um, is it is it still as taboo as it used to be? Are we moving away? Are we becoming more educated? Are we moving on? Our I mean, is there still a huge closet HIV community in our in our state in both of our cities?



02:54

Well, this has been my experience. Oh, tell us about your experience. Just live. Listening. Is



03:00

your boyfriend, your lovers?



03:04

No, no, no. No, Randy's my Randy. Hi. Bill Murdoch is a very close personal friend of mine. The way that this project got started is we met at the 44th AIDS mastery workshop. And we befriended each other. We both had the ideal of a dating service for HIV positive people going on in the back of our heads back of our heads. We did not know how we were going to do this because neither one of us had any kind of training. So we crashed our ideals together in our apartment, in Irving, and on that apartment and on our kitchen table in Irving positive personals was born. And it has gone through a variety of changes and a man named Lance fuller came on board. And I believe it was November of 93 and changed our layout put together the computer software that was necessary to keep track of this organization we formed under the AIDS Resource Center and began we're small insignificant compared to a lot of other kinds of services like this, but we feel that there's a tremendous need for what we do. Bill, give your input into it.



04:48

I'm gonna once again I told you I was gonna play the devil's advocate, okay, and I'm going to okay, because basically what's going on in this country is that there are a hell of a lot of HIV positive people. Yes, there are a hell of a lot All right. And there are probably more than you and I know Yes. And I got your newsletter in the mail, because I called up. And you know, I requested because I wanted to read over some, and there were maybe 60 ads. I think I'd be more than 60 HIV positive people in this town. Am I correct? Correct? That's correct. Why would an HIV positive person want to call you guys? Why do they want to get involved with this? Why is it the perception? And my mother, my mother gave me this possession for perception that HIV people positive people just want to go off and die? Not at all. Not at all. I want to



05:36

sit there and meet other positive people, and build a relationship and go on with our lives. Okay, giving up and dying is not a wise thing to do.



05:47

Exactly. Now, I'm playing the devil's advocate here, because what's happening is that all of a sudden now, as more and more people become positive, there's someplace else now to go yesterday. And instead of the grave, there's a big turn about, there's a nice there their social activities, am I not? Not correct? Okay, do you just now do just deal with HIV positive people? Yes, just HIV positive. That's so so you're not a care group for the parents of HIV positive, you know, the lovers of HIV positive.



06:23

Now we are not, we are not a sorrow group, we are a positive group. That is what our name implies, we go forward with HIV. We don't try to go backwards with HIV.



06:35

Ya know, in Dallas, since you You are the co founder. On a national level, what's going on



06:42

national with the positive personal, there's about seven, this kind of organization throughout the country, there was another positive personals in Washington, DC. It was not a nonprofit, it was a for profit, but it was forced out. It could not financially support itself. When we went under the A, the umbrella the foundation for human understanding aids Resource Center. It gave us you know, some stability rather than us going out as well as they did. And then the AIDS Resource Center made a grant application to difo, which is the design industry Foundation for AIDS, which supports this service, we take in donations as well. But all of that is put right back into the AIDS Resource Center. There is no money made out of this project whatsoever.



07:43

Okay. So what happens is that HIV positive people, you send out a newsletter, you run basically a classified personal section, am I correct? Correct, correct. Now, what happened is that, I, when I really got interested in this, I phoned up the Dallas and I said, Actually, I saw in twit the advertisement for the social here in Houston. And, and I said, God, you know, no one has done a show like this on KPFT after hours. And I wanted to reach out to that HIV positive audience that we have out there. And to know that there are functions and happenings going on in the city, and I didn't know who to call and I called the number up in Dallas, and I have to ask, I have to tell you, you Dallas queens, were not that organized. When I phoned that phone number. I was on a recording for about 1520 minutes. But anyway, so I said why Mr. Call body positive I got in touch with Mr. Scott Clark Scott, say hi. Hey, welcomes your function with body positive and positive, positive personal is was the overseer of the Houston division. Am I correct? Correct. And what do you do?



08:52

See, Dwayne contacted me through letters, they were positive parcels out of Dallas was trying to reach into the Houston market a little deeper and needed the Houston market. So firstly needed to contact somehow or another Dwayne got my name, wrote me a letter. And it just happened same time that we just ended up a committee meeting through inter agencies, and we were talking about social programs and nobody really had the time to do it. And I basically just took the bull



09:21

by the horns now actually, Body Body Boot person bottles with lollipops. What am I doing here? Positive personal is is celebrating its two year anniversary. Correct. You just had your first function, correctional event, right? We had our first HIV positive so now I'm kind of puzzled because when I called you and told you I wanted to come there, and I wanted to bring someone from the group, an HIV positive person in Houston. There's still a large closeted community correct. It really is. Is it hard getting people to these functions? No, it really wasn't.



09:55

We did very minimal advertising. Dwayne's people ran the ad that everyone saw on the twit. I created a set of flyers with one of my volunteers, we passed them out inter agency in that's like, you know, at the foundation and over at PW a coalition. People started calling and that Wednesday night we had 40 people in the room,



10:14

do HIV positive people only want to go out with HIV positive people.



10:18

Some of them do. Some of them don't. I mean, it depends on state of mind. They're in, okay. It really does. It's like I tell positive people that if they cross people off their list, because they're not positive, you're gonna cut out half to three quarters of the people you meet. What can I tell him? Negative people the same thing



10:36

for an HIV negative person? What is the scariest point of be an HIV positive person? I mean, ultimately, an HIV positive person I would not walk away from I would walk away from probably someone who snow smoke or bit their toenails. You guys, I can raise my legs at high. Don't think they can? Oh, I don't want to see Howard. I'm not a defeat. But Stacy, are you in defeat? No, no. Well, no. Okay. I mean, I mean, on that, on that level?



11:07

Well, for negative people who wonder they've ever been, if a negative person gets involved with a positive individual, their first the first problem that they have to overcome with is what am I going to do when this person really seriously gets sick? And am I going to be able to deal with it? Some people have been through that. And some people have said, I don't want to do it again. Well, how does



11:27

how does this social group affect to change that attitude? And how come you only let HIV positive people in? That? Wasn't that some kind of discrimination? No, you guys, no, no.



11:42

No. So but but but because because a positive person on their own to go out and socialize, say Saturday night in the bar, their meeting, they find somebody they're interested in, they start talking away. They've got to bring that issue up, right off the bat and let that person know that they're that they're positive. That opens them up for rejection at a positive social for positive people only. you've eliminated that line right there. Correct. Yeah. But



12:09

wonderful, positive people. All of them are in the same room deal with any of that right off the bat. So it's like, Great, now we can come out. We we've jumped three hurdles were all the way in the homestretch well, and I can socialize Meet Greet. And I heard about this everybody positive. It was a BRB, right. I heard it was a



12:26

great success. Yeah, at the round up and down a couple of guys



12:29

from my house, were even interested in going over me people encouraged them to go, you know, and I think I think it's great. And you were talking about the mastery thing, you know, I read mastery workshop eight, yeah, I ran the Houston mastery workshop here in town for two and a half years. And, and that is a, it's for anybody that's infected or affected, though, however. So it's it's a mix of both positive and negative.



12:50

Yeah, but what I'm trying to say is that, I realize, I mean, are you asking, Are we creating a subclass of people? Are we deliberately segregating? Because no, I don't say, oh, HIV negative people who would want to be there and who want to be in this organization



13:03

and HIV negative person does not understand how we live our lives from day to day, okay? Because HIV absorbs our life, once we find out that we are positive from there, so does the Jewish mother we have, but from that point, we have to get on with our lives, okay. And that involves a lot of things. And if you're an HIV positive person, and single, all of a sudden you say, Oh, my God, what am I going to do? How am I going to date? I'm never going to have sex again. Right, and all this kind of stuff. So



13:38

that's what keeps Barlow's you're in business.



13:42

We all want to go out, we all want to go out of business.



13:47

This is just another avenue for HIV positive people to feel 100%. Safe. Okay,



13:56

let me ask you this. Do y'all provide counseling as well as social organizations? Social activities, social life? Okay,



14:04

hold on. We're talking two different things here. A social is strictly a social right? At the one that we did, I set this up in my mind. And when I talked to the agencies, and I said, Would you mind getting this to your client base and all this other stuff? I said, under no circumstances do I want you to come in and pass out program materials and flyers and network these people to come back into your HIV party total social, there are enough agencies for a person to receive support counseling, education. That's what everybody's focusing on is the medical aspect and educating the client and saying, you need to do this and these are good things for you. They're just denying right the social side of life. So they sit at home on Saturday, about



14:50

three days a week at a doctor's appointment. You spend two days a week doing this three days a week and that you kill for something social. That's all you need. That's true. There's really a call for Social, you can go to your therapy group and go to Mondriaan scanner, you can do your thing you can do whatever. You do that all week long. You don't need counseling at the session. You need to so



15:10

my question is part of it I what I don't understand is that okay, there are probably let's let's just say for example 30,000 HIV positive people in our country, let's just say right, okay, and you get 40 people what? The outreach to grab the these positive people to these meetings, these personals.



15:33

Okay, first of all, Howard, you've got to take a person and get them to step out of their comfort zone.



15:38

Okay. And there's kind of what goes on now. Excuse me explain. Explain what a comfort zone



15:43

everybody. Everybody has a comfort zone. Okay. Everybody has a comfort zone. Wherever they feel comfortable.



15:52

Chicago Illinois

Chicago, Illinois.



15:56

Okay, go ahead. Okay. So you have to go to Gary, Indiana. That's out of Chicago. Oh, my God. So people don't see me. Right, right. So for for an HIV positive individual, just going out and being open about their status is the first step. So we're providing a location where they don't have to worry about their status. But we're putting them back into socialization.



16:22

How do you get how do you get that that guy sitting at home right now contemplating suicide, thinking he's the only one out there in the whole world is HIV positive. Besides this method, what we're doing right now, but how do you get that person to come to see you to come to the social word of mouth? This is



16:39

this advertising. Okay, we're doing it now. We're doing it right now.



16:42

Yeah, in some ways, we deliberately keep a low profile. Because we don't want gawkers and Tom, Dick and Harry, knowing that just because they came to one of these functions, that everybody in the community is going another instantly identifying as HIV positive, that is not it at all.



17:02

Because you know that that would that would be a concern of mine. If that situation arose in my life. I live and work in the community. And well, I don't want to know, and I would never want anyone to know, I would never want especially because I mean, there's so much the government doesn't protect us. Our city doesn't protect us, we have no protection, we have no protection, especially if we're gay, our insurance companies are not going to protect us, no one is going to. So it's kind of like this is a big step for an HIV Well, first, but



17:34

there's nothing there's nothing more empowering to a person to come to come to terms with it. We deal in my office every day of people who are just now dealing with it say they've been positive two, three years. They're just now picking up the phone and going, I need some help. This is just another avenue to help them out. It just sort of pushes them along the way. If people are more open about their status, the stigmas erased? Is there. No shame involved. It's like oh, well, big deal.



18:12

If there's no shame, then why do you have to have some at some private? Some? I'm working on it. Those things, the idea where you don't want everybody to know. Do you understand? I



18:31

understand. Yeah. Okay. Well, hopefully we can get rid of it. Hopefully I can get away from that. But I don't think it's ever going to happen.



18:38

Guys that guys from Dallas. How big is your organization out there? How many members do you have



18:43

archived from start to present? I could not give you an exact count because Lance fuller has done all of that. But it is in the 1000s of people that has come in to this newsletter at one point or another. Okay. We we have multiple ways to use the service.



19:04

And I did receive your newsletter and I only counted about 40 personnel does that does that go up and down every month? It



19:10

goes up? It goes down. We've had as low as 25 ads we've had as high as 75 ads. Positive personals, is in the middle of its biggest change since its conception. Okay. That is this networking with, you know, Scott, he's helping us down here in Houston. Over the next six months, this newsletter will be expanded bigger than what we'd ever possibly thought of in the beginning when Bill and I first started this, we thought this is just going to be an Oak Lawn rag. Okay. Well, now we're all over the state of Texas. Yes, we're small compared to your for profit companies. But when we We finish with what we're doing right now, this thing will be at least 12 times



20:07

doesn't advocate magazine also have a positive personal section



20:11

while every publication has a personals. Okay, but if you've ever read through them much, especially these days, you will notice that at least 75% of its content, specifically deals with HIV negative. Okay, practically every ad that I've ever read, with the exception of a handful,



20:33

no, I didn't see in your ads. HIV negative people wanting to meet HIV positive people.



20:40

Okay, our newsletter was started, specifically for HIV positive people searching for other HIV positive people. That is our bottom line. That's why we exist. Okay. Okay. We do not exist to take our newsletter into the HIV negative community. Okay, has



21:05

there been any opposition from members of the hierarchy of the HIV positive community in Dallas?



21:12

Now, we have had no hate mail of any kind. We've had a little bit of negative attitude from WHO?



21:21

HIV positive people don't want anyone to know from a



21:25

few people. I mean, they may have had a complaint about this or that. It's very difficult to describe. I don't know how to answer that question entirely.



21:43

Okay, moving along, Scott. What? And he used to know, are there any more functions being planned right now? Sure. I really,



21:50

...able to work in what makes working on is doing something every month every month

what's going to work in what we're working on is doing something every month, every month, once a month, every month for people to get used to it. And the way I look at it is we had 40 people at our first function.



22:01

How close how closely is it related to body positive Houston?



22:04

It's not, not at all no, no, it's right now you do work for my work for body positive? Yes. Okay. This is not it's not sponsored by body positive, this is something that that I see a need for that I've worked with other people through other agencies, they've seen the need for it just took somebody to get on the stick and do it.



22:24

We got to do we got to, we got to like, brainstorm for a second about all the stuff that's really like, there, that's out there. I think social stuff is really terribly essential. And you've got that covered, then you need to know the body positive has their 10 week period, right? We do our peer counselor or somebody that's that's just found out or whatever that's like really cool to come together with a bunch of other positive people and have topically designed 10 week thing that talks about doctors and where to go for help and whatever, whatever. You don't feel like you're so alone. Well, then there's tons of support groups around town bearing and unity. I mean, Montrose Counseling Center, there's just a bazillion things and for just for positive people, correct for people that are positive and dealing with addiction things, and people that are I mean, they're so specific you can almost find anything you want. Yeah. Right. It's really incredible. There's lots of stuff cooking, and I think our biggest positive problem positive our biggest problem and he says when I go to a national conference, if people look at my name badge, they go Oh, you're from Houston. They look at me like I got some kind of get my panties are showing or something, you know, so I've seen no panic. Oh. Time. It was such a fun night. But anyway, but you know, we don't they look at us like we and we don't we don't talk about how well we do it. We don't I'm correct. Compared to Chicago to LA, San Francisco, New York. place like that to have large, aw, pub violations. We don't talk about all the stuff that's there. You don't have the case manager, you don't have somebody that's like really Plugging you into stuff. You can be out in the cold. Well, that's why it's really great to have the social dimension. And that's



24:08

really exactly about what was going to ask you guys especially Dwayne and Bill and Scott, the question is now now in Houston, this has been I mean in Dallas has been going on for two years. Correct. Now, the first function it seems that your functions seem to be only in bars. Isn't that some kind of an unhealthy? Okay. I mean, isn't isn't tobacco in alcohol kind of on? On safe? Well, I mean, do you have any other functions going on? A camping group, a picnic? Carnival, we've done we've done what have you done? We've had



24:44

a camping group. We took up to Sam Houston Park, up at Lake Texoma. It was great. Everybody had a good time. We all came back. We've been to other functions,



24:57

what other functions parties at the



24:59

roundup parties around and we also



25:01

you don't the center away from of course, I hope away from a lot of times alcohol and that kind of



25:08

we're trying to go that direction. Why is it hard? Trying to come up with some?



25:15

Because I know if you don't answer a bar beer to these queens ain't coming. Okay.



25:19

We experienced that we had a Halloween party at the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance community center and which did not involve alcohol. It was BYOB I mean if you wanted to it did not work out very well. Scott, is



25:38

there anything in the in the works? away from alcohol away from the bars right



25:43

away for the bars? We've got an opportunity to use diverse works for a dance. We the first one we did was very country western oriented. A lot of people said they don't like country western music. I said, Okay, fine. I've got a volunteer who's willing to do a disco T days at diverse works

music. I said, okay, fine. I've got a volunteer who's willing to do a disco 1 day at diverse works. So we can do whatever we want. There. It's it's out of a bar. I mean,



26:07

has already been



26:09

all the purpose center. Yeah.



26:10

And I mean, the things



26:12

that I've got in my soul, been any talk with combining Dallas and Houston for a function.



26:18

We'd actually tried when we tried to camp out to get Huntsville State Park. And we were having people from Houston, San Antonio, Austin, all over the place coming. But we couldn't get the park it was booked up.



26:30

Okay. Are there any personal HIV groups in Austin, Waco, and there's nothing out there,



26:38

Dallas, Dallas and Houston. I mean, this as far as what we're doing right here. Okay, we are in this entire Southwest Region. Okay. Now being alive coalition in Los Angeles, does exactly what we do. They do a newsletter of personals, HIV positive people, they do these socials, I went to one of these socials. Okay, which there was at least 300 people there. Okay. And what they do is they have an office, and in the back of that office is like this. Oh, area to have events, okay. And that's what they do. Once a month, they have an event and back at their office, okay.



27:25

Okay, I'm going to do some in both



27:28

communities. Very limited, although we have tried the best that we know how to reach not only the lesbian community, but the straight female community as well. Okay, man, and Bill's idea was that we are dealing with HIV and AIDS. We are not dealing with straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, we are dealing with a human issue that evolved that centers around one word that we all need, and it's called love.



28:01

Okay. And at that point, love neighborhood and brother, we're going to tell you that you're listening to 90.1 KPFT in Houston and 89.1 fm que EOS. We're going to take a little break. And what we're going to do is we're going to take your calls when we come back because I know there's got to be tons of people out there who want to ask this charming group of men and women. A lot of questions, remember, I



28:24

mean, they just want to give their views about being interviewed.



28:28

Are we talking about your panties again? Exactly about their view? I've known your views. I've seen your view people the college Exactly. To say that they would like to read we want to hear from our HIV positive community. We want to ask the gentleman questions. Remember our phone number here is 5265738 or 526 KPFT. Hold on, gang. Keep them calls coming. We smell your panties over here. We got a couple of years ago. We'll be right back in a couple minutes. Gang sit tight