

I had grown up on Long Island, in New York, and I had three brothers and a sister. We lived out in Long Island in a neighborhood that was bordered by potato field and corn fields. I had mild hemophilia, and so did my older brother, and we did not know that until we were 17. Usually you know when you're born with it, but because we were mild, we did not know.

Dana Kuhn: Then after having many injuries, because we played sports, that did not heal quickly physicians were saying, "There's something wrong with these boys. There's something, we have to figure out what it was." Then finally someone said, "It could be," they thought Vitamin K deficiency, then they finally said, "Well, it must be hemophilia," and then they tested us, and sure enough it was. That's basically, at that point our lives were set, we had played sports, we were doing everything that you shouldn't do as a person with hemophilia. So that was our pattern of life and so we continued to do those things, and never knew there was a treatment for it at that time, other than whole blood.

Speaker 1: Then what happened?

Dana Kuhn: Well, I had gone to school out in Western New York, and I decided that, after my sophomore year I decided I would ... I just really felt this calling to go to ... I enjoyed reading the Bible and stuff like that, and I just felt the calling that I needed to go into ministry. I went to a school in South Carolina called the Columbia International University, and it had ... it was called Columbia Bible College at that time, so I went there, and that's where I was receiving my education and everything, and just kind of felt more the calling, and that that's what I was supposed to do in life. Making a long story short, I met my future partner there, my wife, and then after graduation we got married. That's how I ended up in the South.

Dana Kuhn: I think a funny story, I just have to tell you. You can delete this out later, but when I came I had such an accent from Long Island, and I can probably pour it on right now if I had to. I'd had to think about it, but when I came to the toll booths, and that was back when toll booths were in Richmond, and I had a cousin, and her husband that lived here in Richmond, and I was asking directions at the toll booth on how to get to her place over there in the Fan. I couldn't understand him, and he couldn't understand me, it took me three times to get the understanding of what he was saying, and then it really surprised me he said, "Now, you all have a good time, and I hope you get to your place." It was different, and so you know, that's a ... Then I've never been back since, never been back.

Speaker 1: Did your parents and your brothers and sister all moved?

Dana Kuhn: Yes, eventually everybody moved here to Richmond, except for one.

Speaker 1: What brought you to Richmond?

Dana Kuhn: It was really my family moved to Richmond, and my dad retired, and he moved to Richmond, and then everybody ... You know, you want to get the kids, everybody goes a different direction, but all of us, kids, wanted to kind of stay together, and I guess, you know, be outside the empty nest. We all found our places outside the empty nest, but close by.

Speaker 1: Nice. So what-

Dana Kuhn: Then so what I did is I ... when I graduated from the Columbia Bible College, or now they call it Columbia International University, I became a youth minister in Tennessee.

Speaker 1: What denomination were you or are you?

Dana Kuhn: It was Presbyterian.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Dana Kuhn: It was called Cumberland Presbyterian in Tennessee, and so I ended up living in Tennessee after I got married, and was a youth minister. It was very interesting that while I was a youth minister they were encouraging me to go on to go seminary, and to really go get my MDib, and also my ordination. I didn't have the money, but they decided that they would send me, so they sent me over to Memphis, and that's where the seminary was. I went to the seminary, and graduated from seminary. During that time I was in seminary I had number one child, a little boy, and then upon graduation I had my graduation gift, a little girl, but everything happened in those three years that was life-changing, that I didn't know about that were going to be life-changing.

Dana Kuhn: Because in those three years while I was going to seminary I was pastoring part ... you had to pastor with a mentor pastor, you pastored small country church, so I was pastoring a small country church. I ended up, they were like three, all these little churches in the area get together, and they do fundraising. We were fundraising for charitable reasons, and I was playing basketball, and I ended up going up, and getting a rebound, and coming down on someone's foot, and I broke my foot, and so it started swell. At that time I knew that they had, at that time, in the early 80s they had some kind of medicines or treatment that could stop the bleeding for people with hemophilia.

Dana Kuhn: I know it was bad enough that I would have to go to emergency room, so I went to the emergency room. I had read enough about this product that you could take, and that since I have hemophilia, you're missing a gene that causes the clotting, and so that product had that missing gene in it. I asked for it, but I knew that also, heard rumors, that there could be some kind of a disease in the blood in 1983. So I said, "Hmmm," because I did this in '83, and I said, "Can you give me something," I was reading, "called Cryoprecipitate?" Cryoprecipitate is made about anywhere from 5 to 10 people donated blood, and so the risk of having anything in that would be very limited,

versus the hemophilia product they had, and they called it Factor VIII at the time, that had probably pulled blood from 60,000 people.

Dana Kuhn: I decided that ... I asked for it, but guess what? They didn't give it to me because I'm naïve, and so they gave me the Factor VIII. I got that treatment and then they sent me home and said, "Come back next morning, get another treatment," which again they gave me another treatment and then sent me home. Then it started to heal, but two days later, two and a half, three days later I had horrible symptoms, very horrible, nauseating, rash, I had jaundice, all these different things that you would think something's not right here. I went to the hospital and they said, "Oh, you have Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis," and I'm going, "What is Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis?" They said, "Well, it's kind of like homologous serum hepatitis, you know, it's when you get a transfusion."

Dana Kuhn: They call that the acceptable risk, that when you get transfusions everybody knew that you possibly could get Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis. Well, you know, I said, "Okay, and then what's the treatment for it?" "Nothing. Rest. Rest and fluids, IV fluids." So I had that for a few days, and then they said, "Well, there's nothing more we can do for you, we just got to send you home." I went home, and I actually almost died from hepatitis, from that hepatitis. We know it now as Hepatitis C, and I almost died from it, literally, I mean I thought this is the end of my life, and I have two children, and wife.

Dana Kuhn: Anyway, I ended up somehow miraculously getting over it, but by the time, and I turned that corner, but it took me another six months to really get my energy back enough to ... All I had the energy to do is to do like sermons on Sundays, and that's it. I even had a hard time getting back to seminary, and studying, and doing all that I needed to do in order to graduate, but it took me to six months to really recover from those symptoms. Even taking naps with my two year old at that time, or three year old at that time to regain the strength. That's what happened, and so then what happened is in 1985, late 1985 and early 1986 a test came out for testing people for HIV, and the first one was called the Western Blot test.

Dana Kuhn: What happened is I was going to a clinic, and they said, "Well, you have hemophilia, did you ever get treated?" I said, "Yeah, once." "Did you have any reaction?" "Oh, yeah, once." "Oh, well, we don't think there's any chance that you would have this thing called HIV." I go, "Well, what do you mean?" They told me a little bit more about it, and I said, "Well, you know what? I'd rather get tested and rule it out, then go on to life."

Dana Kuhn: Well, I ended up getting tested, and it took three weeks at that time, it took the test, it was three weeks so you're ... I was just actually, I guess I'm more or less you would say nervous about it, anxious, and worried about it because what happens if I had it? I was reading people die of this, it's AIDS basically or the entry part of AIDS.

Dana Kuhn: What happened is I got tested, and I waited, and it came back and they said, "It come back positive. We don't think it's right, so can we do it again?" I go, "Well, yeah, but let's hope so. Let's hope it comes back ..." So I did it again, another three weeks, and it came back positive. It was at that time that they told me that HIV was

sexually transmitted, and so if you do the math from 1983 to 1986, and no one told me that anything was sexually transmitted until that time, the odds of my wife becoming infected were very great, but what we didn't ... As soon as we found out that's when we decide ... we learned, and we get educated, and counseled, that we were supposed to use protection on all intimacy that we had. We did that, and I always tease as a minister I did it religiously.

Dana Kuhn: It was something that we went through, but about eight months later she came down with some symptoms of bronchitis, and stuff like that, and she had bronchitis before in her life, but it got worse, continuously worse. During that time she just developed these yeast infections, and everything that ... it was just strange, very strange things. What happened is she finally ... I said, "Let's go and get tested," you know or ... No, I didn't tell ... What happened first is that she went into the hospital, and she almost was dying, because she had this bad pneumonia, and it's bronchial pneumonia, and they said, "We can't figure out what's wrong with her." We were in Jackson, Tennessee at that time, in that area, and they said, "We can't figure out what's going on."

Dana Kuhn: I finally said to them, I said, "Well, you know, I think you might want to see if she has something called HIV." They all looked at me like I had four heads, and they thought, "What are you talking about?" Or, "We do know what you're talking about." They said, "Why should we do that?" I was really hesitant at that time to tell anybody, I never told anybody about my positive test or anything, the only person I told was close family, that was it, my parents. So they tested her, and it was positive, and she was in the room, and she was having a difficult time breathing and everything, and they had her on oxygen, and all those kind of things.

Dana Kuhn: Then they, basically when they found out that she was positive they put these red signs on her door basically saying HIV and contamination, and stuff like that. They never would go in her room again without being fully garbed with goggles, the footwear like you're going into surgery, face masks, and everything, and then they brought her food on everything that was plastic, paper plates, and they put it at the door, and wouldn't go in her room. She had to get up out of bed, and get it or I, someone would have to get it for her. That's what they did.

Dana Kuhn: At that point she was failing and I said, "Do you people treat HIV?" "Well, we've seen it sometimes." I said, "She's dying, and we got to do something." I got angry at them and I said, "Where is the place that will take care of people who have AIDS?" Because they told me at that time it was pneumocystis pneumonia, I said, "Where do we go? Where do we go?" They said, "Well, Vanderbilt." I said, "Get her to Vanderbilt now." They were arguing with me, and I said, "No, get me to get her to Vanderbilt now or I'm going to ... I'll make a big stank, and a matter of fact I'll sue you if something happens to her, because that's what you need to do." They transported her to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and she almost died on the way there.

Speaker 1: How long a trip was that?

Dana Kuhn: That's about a two-hour trip, and so they got her there, and thank God there was a great doctor there who was dealing with people with AIDS at that time, and admitted her, and started to get her treated, and so on and so forth. The only treatment at that time as we all know is AZT, and Bactrim, so they were giving her Bactrim to take care of the pneumocystis pneumonia. At that time, also remember AZT was newly ... it wasn't quite, it was approved, it was produced for use for special use, and we had to fill out papers that it would take three weeks for us to get FDA approval for us to use AZT. So she went in on May the, I think it was May the 5th, May the 5th of 1987, May 1987, and we made it through, and we got to Mother's Day.

Dana Kuhn: I was taking the two preschool children to see her, and doing all the things I had to do as a dad, and also going and visiting her, and making sure I could see her, but we were living ... We [inaudible 00:18:21] to Jackson, and I'd have to go and take the kids on weekends, and then I would go during the week sometimes just on a trip going back and forth, back and forth just to kind of be with her. It was finally, I guess after Mother's Day her health started to dwindle, we still didn't get the AZT. The next thing I knew is around the 20, it was about the 26th of May I get a phone call and they said, "She's not doing well, and so you need to probably come there." I got there, and I went, and then I called her parents, my parents were too far away to come, but I called her parents, and said, "I think something's not right here," and then her mother came.

Dana Kuhn: So then I was in the middle of driving back and forth, and so I had to leave her while her mother came, but before I left her she was on a ventilator at that time. We were just kind of really, really concerned, and I finally said to the doctor, I said, "What's going on here? What can we do?" She says, "There's nothing more we can do right now until we can get AZT or anything like that, but we're doing the best that we can," and I trusted them. All during that time the only people ... I couldn't tell anybody. I couldn't tell anybody. I couldn't tell the church, I mean, because people would freak out. They would probably oust me out of the church knowing that I was HIV positive, my wife had AIDS, and I couldn't tell really anybody, and it was very, very lonely, very concerning, and I didn't want anybody to start persecuting my kids because they would think that, "Are they infected?" They're not.

Dana Kuhn: What happened is the friends of Nashville were the people who came to me, all during the time that she was in the hospital, and they were ... It was a great group of gay people that came, and just ... they ministered to me, a minister, a minister, they ministered to me, and they were the ones who really helped me get through this because I had no idea what was happening. I have to make a little segue here, because being a Protestant minister I always didn't know how to handle anybody who was gay or lesbian or any of that. I did not know how to handle that. I wasn't sure, but I knew that you had to have God's love and compassion for, and understanding for everybody, and I didn't know because they're people who had different far right and far left, and I just knew at that point when I saw the friends of Nashville helping me, I said, "God's in this, and He's helping me through people who I could have been prejudiced against." It really was, it was life-turning for me. It was really life-turning.

Dana Kuhn: What happened is I remember leaving her, well, before I left her she was, she couldn't even talk, and she's on a ventilator, and I had to just simply hold her

hand and I finally said to her, I said, you know, I said, "Everybody's telling us that this is not good," and she would just shake her head. I said, "I don't know if I'm going to be able to see you again, you know. I have to go home and take care of the kids." So I just held her hand, and I said, "You know I love you very much," and I said, "Squeeze if you know that," and I said, "Also, please know that I'll take care of the kids." She squeezed my hand, and I gave her a kiss, and left.

Dana Kuhn: Then I tried to call the hospital the very next day, and it was early morning and no one answered, because they gave me direct lines into the desk, and I couldn't find her. Then I said, "Find the doctor, tell me what's going on," and so the doctor called me and she said, "I'm sorry to tell you, she just passed away." Here it is, what, 36, no, I'm thinking 35 years later that's still very tender there, you know.

Dana Kuhn: Anyway, I had to tell the kids, and that was the hardest part because they were asking me what was going on, and I finally tell them. They were, what are they? Five and three, and I had to tell them, and I sat there and I had my head in my hands and there was just tears, and I said, I just told them I said, "Your mom has died," and I said, "I don't know what we're going to do." They cried a little bit, and my daughter climbed up in my lap, and she said, and she put her hands like this on my face, and she said, "Don't cry, dad, we'll take care of you."

Dana Kuhn: It was really amazing how kids can be so resilient, and have such a traumatic situation in their life, but then they're the ones that give you the love, and the strength, and the courage to move on, that's what they did. We had to deal with that from then on in, and move forward. It was very difficult, and still no one knew, no one knew what she died from, and I couldn't tell anybody.

Speaker 1: How was your own health at this time? Because you had been infected now for several years.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah, it was ... It had been ... I still had little problems. I was having little problems in, I guess living through them, and every time I got the flu or cold I was thinking, "This was it," you know? Because I saw what would happen. Anyway, I think I didn't even probably think about my health, I thought about two things, the two children, how am I going to help these kids go through the most traumatic experience a child can go in their life, the loss of a mother. Now I had to be mom and dad. So my parents were here in Richmond, Virginia, and I finished out what I could do with ministry, and then let the senior minister take over at that time, and then I came home here to Richmond where my family was, and they were a great support system to me.

Dana Kuhn: Again, not many people talked about HIV or let anybody know that they were HIV positive, and I didn't let anybody know that my wife had died from AIDS. I was so afraid and protecting the children, and it was until I got here in Richmond that I ended up getting a job at the hospital as a clinical counselor at MCV. The doctor who took me in he was doing hemophilia, and other diseases and he said, "You have a great counseling background so I want you to come, and counsel people because who better knows how to counsel people than someone who is HIV positive, and someone who has

gone through a very traumatic experience." So I did that, and that was 1988 that I got hired.

Dana Kuhn: The next year, and I was still working through all these things myself, and when I got there he gave me a bunch of information in a box and said, "You can look at all these stuff, and read about it, and see what you need to learn about it, and so on and so forth." So that's what I did, and the more I read about it the more I read that it was not only ... it was really in the blood supply, that's where it really was, and how ... Yeah, sure, people got it in all the various different ways, but it was blood supply when it comes down to it, you think needle and syringes, you think infusions, you think about it every which way it is, and that's when I started to see a thread of that's how everything really began. So it all had to do with collection of blood, and how they processed it, and needles and syringes as I said before.

Dana Kuhn: I had all these information, and I was still trying to make sense of why did my wife die. It was very interest, I had to digress a little bit, but when I started to look at information in here I found something that said March 4, 1983, and it said, March 4, 1983, it had to do with hemophilia. It said, "Yes, AIDS is in the populations of drug users, and the gay community, but we now believe it's in the blood supply that hemophilia people use," and on May, I mean that was March the 4th, the Centers for Disease Control put that out. On march 26th is when I got my infusion, why didn't someone tell me in that emergency room that you had a risk, and why wasn't that broadcast throughout the United States to tell people that, but it wasn't.

Dana Kuhn: I was really upset then, and I said, "My wife didn't need to die if they would have told me that, and I didn't do that, and also if someone told me at that time that they knew or had a great suspicion that it was sexually transmitted. It wouldn't had to happen." That's how I ended up getting information on what was going on, at that same time, so ... There's so many pieces of this, you have to put them all together. In 1980 ... When I started working at the hospital somehow, someway people learned about my story, because I started to tell it to certain places, and it really got out.

Dana Kuhn: I think it was 1990 or 19 ... No, 1989, I don't know who it was, but someone got my name out there, and to the government, and C. Everett Coop was the Surgeon General at that time, and they learned about me doing counseling with HIV people. Someone told him, and so he made sure he got in touch with me, and said, "Would you like to become part of Pediatric AIDS, and what's going on with Pediatric AIDS in the United States?" I said, "Yes." "So would you want to get on that committee?" I got on the committee, and it really happened quickly, that's when he was coming up with how do you educate people about HIV and AIDS in schools. All during that time I was studying all these stuff, and how do you do it, and what we need to do, and so he said, "I want you to serve on a committee that's going to put together a curriculum of teaching children about HIV and AIDS in the school district." That wasn't a popular subject at that time. No one wanted to talk about it.

Dana Kuhn: We came up with the three points, and one, you make sure that your abstinent in high school if you're going to do it, if you're not going to be abstinent then you need to have a monogamous relationship, that's number two, and number three, if

you're monogamous make sure you use protection, and I use a condom. Those were the three principles that were taught in school. That's what we came up, and I was part of that committee that came up with that curriculum. It's even used to this day. Through that experience when I was there in California, that's where we met to have to do this, at that time I vowed that I would never get married again, never. I'll never get married again because I'm never going to take a risk of infecting someone, and having to see the love of your life die, because you know unknowingly that you had transmitted it to her, but the consequences were still the same.

Dana Kuhn: But anyway, I knew a lot of people that by that time in all different areas, and we were at a Pediatric AIDS conference, that's where we finished up this curriculum, and there was a nurse there who had a poster session that I knew, and she had another nurse that was with her. I never met that one before, but I ended up going over and looking at their poster session, and ended up all of a sudden seeing someone that I was very attracted to, and I said, "This cannot be. I am not going down this path." That was a long weekend, and ended up being invited to go to dinner, and go to a comedy club that night by that other nurse who was a friend of mine, little did I know, I guess she was probably setting us up, right?

Dana Kuhn: So we ended up getting pretty close, but I still wasn't ready, and it was a matter of fact a long, it was more than a weekend, it was about four or five days that that conference went on, and the committee went on, but I know at the end of the time she said, "Well, what are you going to do about all these?" Her name is Jan, and so Jan said, "What are you going to do about all these?" I said, "I'm not doing anything about it," and then I said, and she knew my story, and-

Speaker 1: How long had it been by this point since you lost your wife?

Dana Kuhn: Three years. Three years. She just asked me what I was going to do, and I said, "What are you talking about what am I going to do?" She said, "About this, what's this relationship?" I said, "Well, it's a friendship. Great, you know." So she goes, "No, I think it's a little more than that." Anyway, the bottom line was she really got mad at me, and she basically said to me, she says, "What is it?" She says, "I'm not going to take a chance of infecting another person, and losing a person I love."

Dana Kuhn: She said, it's not your choice." I go, "Wooh." She says, and then she said to me, a minister at that time, I'm not a minister, it wasn't ... She said to me, "So who the hell do you think you are? God? You can't make that choice for me. If I make that choice I'm going to make it, and that's what I want to do, I'm making the choice. So what are you going to do about it?" I kind of stammered, I said, "Well, I guess I better think about it." She said, "Well, you better think long and hard right now because what are you going to do?" How do you feel?" "Well, I never had someone push me that hard," but I knew how I felt and I really did. I said, "Well, let's take it slow." That's what we did. Anyway, so that's happened in this whole gamut of this time period.

Dana Kuhn: We did long distance dating, she was in Saint Louis, and finally we got married in April of 1990. I was still doing all of my counseling, and finished that other thing, and was learning a whole lot more, in 1990 we got married. In 1991, apparently

my counseling got well-known or someone talked about it and said, "Here is a person who will help you understand HIV and AIDS, and is very good at counseling people with it." So the word got over to Japan, and Japan, the university hospitals got together, 10 of them, found what I was doing, saw some papers that I had written about it, and said, "Will you come over to Japan, and will you train our doctors, and our nurses, and social workers how to counsel people with HIV?" I'm going, "Wooh," and I said, "Okay." So we went.

Dana Kuhn: Jan and I went, and we did that for 10 days, and 10 days, 10 hospitals. Can you believe that? We did that, got back, and then at that point I thought, you know, I'm over here, I'm over there doing all that in 1991, and I finally said, "You know, Jan, we're going to have to do something about this." I said ... NPR heard about me, and NPR decided to interview me, and I said, "Well, I don't want to say anything about me until I'm ready to come out, and tell people that I'm HIV positive, and my first wife died of AIDS," and I said ... So anyway, I got to the point and I said, "What the heck? Who cares, you know? Who cares? If people can't handle this, who cares?"

Dana Kuhn: That was really tough times to do that and I said, "I've got to do what's the right thing and I have to advocate for people who have HIV and AIDS, so I've got to do it." No one else is talking about it. No one else wants to ... People want to discriminate against people, and stigmatize people I said, "I just can't handle that," and I said, "It's something that happens to people, and they have no control over it, you know. It happens." So anyway, at the end of that NPR interview they were calling me X, Mr. X, Mr. X, Mr. X, and they finally at the end said, "Mr. X is Dana Kuhn." Oh, my gosh, phones were going off the hook, ringing off the hook. All those kind of things were going on and because again, we didn't have great social media. Imagine how fast it would go if we have social media in '90, in '91.

Speaker 1: Did you kids know by this point? When did you tell your kids?

Dana Kuhn: We did not ... Well, what we did is we have, yes, we did tell the kids before I went public, we did tell the kids, and at that time they were, what? Eight or nine, and nine and six, that was pretty interesting. The first thing we did is I said, "Well, we're public, we might as well get involved." I mean, we got involved in Richmond, and we got involved with RAIN here and everything, and that's where I met Bill Harris, and a lot of other great people. So they asked me if Jan and I would speak at World AIDS Day in 1993, and we did.

Dana Kuhn: We started to really talk and do a whole lot more, and that's when I got pulled, and I'll say why I got pulled in other directions, but that was really an opener, because people, they didn't even want to talk about the A word, AIDS. I said, "Who cares? Let's talk about it. You know what? Let's talk about it, it's here. We got to deal with it. Everybody else has to deal with it, and we need to be compassionate, and loving, and caring about people who have this, and we need to help people." I've been there, done that, wore that t-shirt, and I needed it, and I got it at the time when I needed, so everybody else needs to get that help, and that love, and that care at that time, to make it through tough times in life.

Dana Kuhn: It was really a good time at that point. It really was, and I think that's when I got in, also got invited to sit on the General Assembly's Joint Sub-committee studying HIV and AIDS. George Allen was governor, and Lisa Kaplowitz, Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz and I were on that committee, and that was the turning point too for a lot of things that happened in Richmond, because legislators, you know, were not very understanding towards people who had HIV and AIDS. If it was discovered that you maybe in a relationship with someone with AIDS, or there could be a suspicion, legislators wanted everybody to have a mandatory testing, whether you had AIDS or not, and people ... You know, that was private to people, and people should be able to deal with that on their own, and you needed counseling.

Dana Kuhn: Because, people, if you got told you were HIV positive, and you got tested for it, I mean you could lose your sanity. You could do even more drastic things, and so you had to have proper counseling, and that's where I was ... kept on saying counseling is so important, it's very important to learn how to deal with this. You have to have the tools to deal with what's going to happen in your life, and what treatment you're going to get, and how those treatments will affect your life. So that was a great milestone, and I think it was a great learning experience for Virginia legislators, and I think we saw a great turnaround at that point, and people becoming more understanding.

Dana Kuhn: Those were great, I think those are great times, and who knows, I always say, "God puts you at the right place, at the right time," and even though the happenings or the circumstances were traumatic, and weren't good to happen at that ... weren't good things when they happened at that time, but it turned it into good. That to me, was what I felt like my purpose in life was, is to turn bad things into good, and to make it better for other people.

Speaker 1: You managed to survive and thrive when they were almost no medications available, right?

Dana Kuhn: Yes.

Speaker 1: Were you on AZT?

Dana Kuhn: In 1991, they tried me on AZT, and also I had, they were trying to ... Yeah, in 1991, AZT, yes, and then I also had high liver functions, so that was also the Hepatitis C coming into play. So the AZT made me sick, horribly sick, and I would ... I remember helping the kids, we were building a swing set for the kids, and I just fell out, because I kind of fainted. It was so bad, and they decided that they shouldn't give it to me anymore, so I couldn't take it. I think right at the times that my, again, I think it was blessed right at the times when my CT4 counselor starting to plunge a drug would come out, and they would put me on that drug, and it would work, even to the point where I had ... where they called it DDI.

Dana Kuhn: It was a chalky tablet made by Bristol-Myers, I remember it DDI, that's what it was, and you had to chew it, and swallow it, and it was one of those. I remember

getting mouth ulcers, and horrible things. I was on these beginning drugs, but they were working, and just when I couldn't take them anymore another drug would come along, and that one would work. I had that happen probably four or five times in my lifetime, every time I would wear out a drug another drug would come along at the right time. I was always thinking, "Why me, God? Why me?" You know, "Why? Why not other people?" Other people didn't have that opportunity to take a drug when it came along just at the right time.

Dana Kuhn: The other thing that happened during that time was because I found all these information, and I found out that it was really a poor blood supply issue, is that I took all these documents, and I put it ... when I called, because I was working with people with hemophilia I called it The Trail of AIDS in the Hemophilia Community, it's what people knew when, and what they didn't do when they knew the information in the government. It was really a smoking gun, and so it was 350 pages of documents that came from CDC, the public health system, it came from DHHS, and it came from the pharmaceutical companies, and the American blood collectors, Red Cross, all of them, I had them. It told the story that they knew, that they were collecting contaminated blood, and they were giving it to people in transfusions because it was taking from high-risk people, they were asking questions, not really caring about, and also processing it into hemophilia factor.

Dana Kuhn: As I said 60,000 people's blood combined into one treatment, and at a risk, a high-risk time, and as a result out of 20,000 people with hemophilia, 10,000 were all infected. I took this information to the government, and I took it to Congressman Goss of Florida, Senator Graham of Florida, at that time Bob Graham, and Senator Ted Kennedy. They saw this document, and I took it the beginning of December, well, end of ... just before Thanksgiving. I remember it was probably 19 ... it was 1992-1993 when I took it to them, and I got a call from Senator Graham's office on the 5th of December and saying, "Get up here as fast as you can, please." I'm going, "What are you talking about?" They said, "This is Senator Graham's office, we want you here. We want to ask you lots of questions."

Dana Kuhn: I went up there, and they asked me all these questions about the publications in there, and I told them what I knew, and they said, "Okay," and they said, "We're going to do something about this." Ted Kennedy said, "I'm going to Donna Shalala." He went to Donna Shalala, and they wanted a Congressional investigation, but they didn't get it, instead Donna Shalala commissioned a study by the Institute of Medicine Academy of Sciences to study all these documents, and the blood supply. It was a two-year study, and in 1995 they came out with the results. Basically the result was the government didn't do its job watching over the blood supply, and they allowed this to happen.

Speaker 1: The American Red Cross of all things.

Dana Kuhn: Yes, and the American Red Cross of all things. Yup, they knew it, and they didn't want to screen, and they didn't want to do anything about it.

Speaker 1: Just because it was too expensive or what was their rationale?

Dana Kuhn: It was expensive, but it was too lucrative, too lucrative, so that's the one thing that, and again you always wonder what your purpose is, your purpose, and I kind of have to look back if that was my purpose. At that point, then one of the recommendations by Donna Shalala in the study said that they would make a, they called it the Advisory Committee of Blood Safety and Availability. That was a cabinet level commissioned committee, and Donna Shalala appointed me as a consumer to sit on that committee, and that was the committee that cleaned up the blood supply, and put in the processes by which you have to screen, counsel people, and let people know that ... and to safeguard it, and how and what to do, and it made the nation's blood supply safe. Much safer than it ever was before. That's the kind of story, they were so ... they're so-

Speaker 1: Interconnected.

Dana Kuhn: Interconnected, and you just ... Sometimes when I sit back and I look, and I'm going, "Wow," and that's where I said, "It all started here in Richmond. It started with a safe place to come out, and to tell people." I was HIV positive. My first wife died of AIDS. It was a safe place to get support. It was a safe place to let people encourage people. It was the time, the right time to, with the legislator here ... legislature here in Virginia to educate, and to let them know that this is not a horrible disease. It's a disease we need to address, and be compassionate, and help people. Those are the right times.

Speaker 1: I'm so interested in that moment when you come to Richmond with your kids to be closer to your family, and you get that first job at MCV. So did you come out to them at that point to MCV? How did that all happen?

Dana Kuhn: So what happened is, and I left out an important part, but when I moved here I was working with my brother, who is in construction, probably not really good to do with hemophilia, but I needed a job. There is no one ... no one's going to take me yet as understanding my situation, and as a single parent I couldn't be a minister, that's a very demanding job. So I worked with my brother, and I tripped over some debris at a construction site, and I got a big hematoma on my shin, and again, this will be the second time I ever got treated, but I learned it was something called DDAVP for ... yeah, what was the other, there's another name for it, I can't remember ... Stimate. Stimate for, and it's a nasal, and it's a vasodilator, so what it does is it helps you, I mean the Factor VIII you have in you helps you clot it.

Dana Kuhn: I went to the emergency room, and when I was in the emergency room I told them I had hemophilia. I didn't tell them I had HIV, I said hemophilia, so they sent for this doctor, who was in hematology, and his name was Dr. Lyman Fisher. He came down to the emergency room, a jolly guy, and just a little Scottish jolly guy coming down, just so happy to see someone else with hemophilia that he can help. He asked me my story while he's treating me, and so I finally thought I better, and he said to me, he says, "Well, have you ever been treated before?" I go, "Yeah," and he says, "You heard about HIV, yeah?" I said, "Yup." He says, "Were you ever tested?" I couldn't lie, I said, "Yup." He says, "What? Do you have it?" "Yes," I said.

Dana Kuhn: He says, "Well, that's not a problem. That's not a problem here." Just very nice and cordial, and everything, and so by the end of the evening after we talked because he was treating me, and he wanted to make sure I'm going to be okay he says, "How would you like to have a job here?" I'm going, "Well, yeah. Doing what?" He said, that's when he said, "Counseling people who have HIV and AIDS," and I said, "Yeah, I'll do that."

Speaker 1: So was this when Lisa Kaplowitz, and Sarah Monroe, and Wendy Kline were all running the ID Clinic together?

Dana Kuhn: This is when they first started it, they first started it, yes. It was a push to start that, and there was opposition to it at times when they first started, but that's all start, all these was all going on at the same time.

Speaker 1: It's fascinating to put it all together because we are hearing of course the story of HIV in Richmond from so many different perspectives, and yet there is so much weaving together.

Dana Kuhn: You see, I think the clinics didn't start until, I think, I don't know where ... See, that was in, when I came in that was 80, probably 80, late '87, '88, probably '88. I don't think, and that's kind of like when I fell over that debris, because I got the job in late '88, so that probably, that's probably what happened.

Dana Kuhn: Then in '89 and '90 is when the clinics were starting, but he was, Dr. Fisher was telling me, "We have patients that have HIV. You'll be very good at helping them understand it," and especially helping people understand how it's transmitted sexually, and what you need to do to safeguard that. It was really ... those were all very key times, and it was exciting times I said, but it was also times when there was a lot of stigma, and there was a lot of prejudice, judgmental attitudes. There was a lot of that.

Speaker 1: Everyone we've talked to from that time, Jim Beckner, Bill Harris, and Bob Higgins, and Sarah Monroe, they all talked about how difficult it was to work with patients, or to be doing counseling knowing that just about everyone was going to die. I imagine that must have been really tough, and strange you surviving, and knowing that most people you counseled were going to have a different path.

Dana Kuhn: Yes, I think that is because when you're diagnosed with HIV, and you know, you're having to check your labs all the time and things like that, you know you're living in borrowed time. I always looked at it this way, you're a dead man walking, that's what you are. You're just waiting for that time, you don't know if that next flu is going to take you. You don't know if you drop, the next opportunistic, if you drop your CD4 count the next opportunistic infection is going to get you. You don't know, so you really live, and now that I can look back, you really live life with post-traumatic stress syndrome, that's what you live it with all the time. All the time.

Dana Kuhn: Then you wonder ... when I was counseling people you wonder why people do risky things, and you wonder why they do adventurous things, because, you

know it's ... I think of that country song, "I'll go bull riding, I'm going to do all these things because I'm probably going to die." I found myself doing risky things because I found myself realizing that, "Am I going to be here tomorrow? Am I going to be here next year?" So when I was counseling people I could counsel people, and understand exactly what they're talking about, and identify with them real quick, and then say, "Here are the tools that I use to live a day at a time, or week at a time or month, or a year at a time," and setting goals. Basically setting goals, and taking care of your health, doing what you need to do to take care of your health.

Speaker 1: So what were some of the things that you tell people during these counseling sessions, as a way of making it day to day, and year to year?

Dana Kuhn: Oh, my gosh. I have to ... it's been a while since I did it, but I think most of the time I would talk with people, and get them to at least talk with me. Sometimes they wouldn't talk to me so I'd have to give them a brief little snapshot of me, who I am, "You're not talking to someone who doesn't know what you're going through, a matter of fact I probably went through more than you did," and then suddenly people would open up and then they would say, "Well, this is how I feel about it." Then I'm able to say, "Okay, let's talk about that a little bit more, and then let's ... What is it?" I think the main thing is having people understand that there is hope, that's what I had to give people, is hope.

Dana Kuhn: Hope against hope, and that's what it was, and letting people understand that, "Yeah, you can die a year from now or you can die six months from now, but what are you doing right now? What are you doing to make a difference in your life, and the person that you care about? What are you doing? What can you still contribute? What is special about you that you can contribute to somebody right now? Then what can you do to keep your health up? Don't give up." I remember one kid said to me, "Well, I'd like to go get a tattoo." "Go get it. What's holding you back from it? Long as it's in a clean place, and you know, do it." Wow, it's almost like sometimes people needed permission to just be, like I said, go out and just do something that would give them a good feeling about themselves.

Dana Kuhn: I said, "But make sure that you take care of yourself, and make sure when you get in a relationship you protect that partner that you have. Make sure you do that because you don't want to, you don't want to have either knowingly or unknowingly have happened to what I did." I said, "Because I will just simply tell you that it was hell. It was hell." I can't imagine, I would never have wished that on my worst enemy, what I had to go through. Never.

Speaker 1: How did the children deal with it? It must have been, I mean, challenging, but you seemed to be doing really well in counseling others, how was that in terms of [inaudible 01:00:03] the children?

Dana Kuhn: That was the tough thing, because I knew, just having a counseling background I knew what I had to do. I've learned how to, when you have HIV, and AIDS, and you have hemophilia, and that can be very painful, you learn how to compartmentalize. I became a professional [inaudible 01:00:26] ... yeah,

compartmentalized person, I can do that. What I did with the kids is I was hurting inside horribly, I lost a spouse, I lost the love of my life, and you would see it in your mind over and over again, and you dream about it, and everything, but I looked at their hearts and I said, "Their hearts are crushed, and how do I fix it? How do I help them heal?" They have a better chance because again children are resilient, God just gave them that gift of being resilient, "How do I help them heal?"

Dana Kuhn: What I would do is I would work with them, I get books, we'd talk about things that life here after. We talked about things that happened. I've used illustrations. We read books. We talked about it. We talked about books about, and they'd ask questions about their mother, how did she die, how this happened, and we'd talked about it. I'd let them really talk about it. Even though when they talked about it I knew it was killing me, that's why I had to learn how to compartmentalize, so I'd let that part be able to handle them, the crushed part of my life, I'd close that door, just lock it up real hard.

Dana Kuhn: So I would help them, and help them go through these things. Let them cry. Let them talk about it, "I wish mommy were here. I wish all these. I wish we could have done that," and I would say, "I wish so. I really wish with you when you do it, but we're going to do okay. We're going to, just like you told me we're going to take care of each other, and we have grandma and papa here. We have a lot of things going for us, and we're going to make it. We're going to make it and get everything well."

Dana Kuhn: Again, I came from a spiritual background, and that helped too for them, and then after they would go to bed at night I'd open up that compartment, and cry. It was tough, and it took me ... and I would read, I would read books. I knew enough to read different books about how do you handle the death of a spouse. I'd find good books to read, and search them, and read them. Read them, and they're probably all tear-stained to this very day. I don't even know where some of them are anymore, but I mean I knew they were good books to read. It took me a while to really get through it, but we got through it together, and that's how we got through it together, them more quickly more than I did.

Speaker 1: Did they face any stigma once they know and it was public?

Dana Kuhn: Right after that NPR news came out people had known, I guess some of the people knew about what I was doing in the community. I think I might have even done one World AIDS Day prior to that, again, not real public about it, but when I came out nationally public, so what happened is the kids took the bus to school, and when they got on the bus some kid in the bus said something to them, and wouldn't sit with them. The bus driver stopped the bus, and she stopped the bus, and she got out and says, "We're not going to have any of that on this bus," and she says there is no way that you can catch it from Jason and Mandy, so you better cut that out right now, and we're not having anymore of this." That was it. That was the end of it.

Speaker 2: Wow, that's a heroic bus driver.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah, it was. I still don't know who it was, but the bus driver stuck up for them.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: It was someone who knew us somehow, somehow, and that's what they did, so I loved it. Then that was the last ... I would say there's other times when people didn't say anything, but probably thought it, and that was, and again, I always told the kids, "Don't worry about it. If anybody is like that to you they're ignorant, and not educated in this area." I said, "Maybe you have a chance to educate them, but hey, you have nothing to hang your head low about. You have everything to be, hang your head high or to raise it high on, because this is something that we, as a family endured, and this is we, as a family will help other people endure."

Speaker 1: You and Jan have really kept going.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah.

Speaker 1: With this work.

Dana Kuhn: Yes. So Jan kept, Jan still is a, she came to work at the hospital, and she became the nurse for the hemophilia clinic, that's what she did. She's been there for years, even after I had left. I left in '90 ... What happened is while I was there, I left in '96, but I was there in '88, and I was doing the counseling and everything, and then a lot of the counseling ended up in the hemophilia clinic because that's when the HIV clinic started, and so they had their own counselors there. It was ... but we were doing the same things in many ways, so I came up with an idea of helping people for their premiums. People couldn't afford their premiums, and especially people who had hemophilia and people who had AIDS, they couldn't afford those drugs. Those drugs are very, very expensive so they had to have premiums, and premiums were getting expensive that time, and if you didn't pay your premiums you couldn't get at that time, no one would give you your drugs if you didn't pay your premiums. It was difficult.

Dana Kuhn: Anyway, I came up with an idea that if I can start a nonprofit that would help people pay their premiums, and I can raise the funds when they didn't have the money for their premiums, even for a short period of time, more than likely people will have good health outcomes. I started a nonprofit, it's called Patient Services Inc., and it started to take off. I started with people with hemophilia, then I offered it to places outside, to people who had HIV and AIDS who couldn't afford it, and they came, and I moonlighted, so it didn't interfere with my work at the hospital.

Dana Kuhn: The other nurse that I worked with, she eventually left because it grew, and we ended up becoming a national nonprofit, and helping people in all 50 states, so she had left being a nurse at the university. I think she left in '90, must have been '94, and then in '96 it was growing so fast that I left the hospital, and that's what I did, ended up doing that. For 30 years I did it, it's called Patient Services Inc., and it grew in from a \$50,000 nonprofit to a \$100 million not for profit, helping over 36,000 families a year.

Speaker 1: That is amazing.

Dana Kuhn: I retired 18 months ago from doing it.

Speaker 1: So what did ... because then when we talked to Bob Higgins, and the other people who are involved in, you know Gonzalo Bearman, they say, "Well, nowadays if you are diagnosed with HIV everything's covered." So when did that change or did you nonprofit keep working with HIV patients, or was there a time when that was no longer necessary because [inaudible 01:08:50] it was covered? Do you know what I'm saying?

Dana Kuhn: Yes. Well, when I started the nonprofit people with hemophilia got their, they can get their hemophilia clotting factor covered, but insurance companies didn't cover it in 1990-91, they didn't cover it ... '89-'90, yeah, '89 to '90 they didn't cover it. So people with hemophilia they could get their, who had hemophilia, and who had HIV or AIDS, they could not get their HIV drugs. So I had to figure out a way, so I went to one manufacturer, it was Baxter Pharmaceuticals, and I went to them, and they had been making hemophilia drugs, and I said, "People who have HIV can't do it." Now I said, "Let me appeal to you first in the way of this is the right thing to do, because if people can't get it they're going to die. Okay, it doesn't matter about their clotting factor."

Dana Kuhn: I said, "Now let me appeal to you as a capitalist," I said, "If they die you don't make a lot of money on the factor," which they were making. So I said, "What would you rather give? You make, let's just say you make off of a patient," at that time, "a \$100,000 off of this patient, or would you rather give," at that time, let's say, "\$5000 worth of HIV drugs?" I said, "Could you throw them in for free?" I said, "Why don't you make a donation to a not-for-profit that will help those people pay for those drugs?" So that's what they did, so we help them pay for the drugs until the insurance got to the point of saying that they would pay for it, and they started paying for it, and that's the story.

Dana Kuhn: But that was a creative way of getting people HIV drugs when no one else would pay for it, but again you have to remember I was doing this because I had been there, done that, wore that t-shirt. I was not going to let someone have to go through what I went through, so anyway I could figure out a way to help them not have to go through what I went through, that's what I was going to do.

Speaker 1: It just sounds like along the way, especially in those early years there were so many times when you were either treated with ignorance or deceit, how did you, in the aftermath wrap your head around how that all happened, sort of the ignorance and injustice?

Dana Kuhn: Well, there was a lot of ignorance and injustice, and I would think it was ignorance, injustice, greed, a lack of respect for human life, trading human life for money, it was just not the right thing to do. That to me, that's why ... they send a man with a mission, I'd say a man with a crusade to try to do what was right, and try to make

things right, and correct things. Help people confront themselves with, "Is what you are doing right? Is it the right thing for humanity? Is it the right thing for people?" It's not corporations, it's not ... I look at them as just a gas to put in the car to make it run, it's the car that's important, it gets you where you're going to go. It's the person that's going to make this world, that's what's going to ... and you want the right people to make the right choices to do it.

Dana Kuhn: There was a lot of injustice, but I think fighting for justice was the best thing. It was the best thing to do. I still find myself wanting to do that for patients that don't have the ability to do that, but I had to stop sometime, but I can help people so that's why I consult to do it now.

Speaker 1: Can you talk a little bit about that, what you do now as retired and consulting?

Dana Kuhn: I'm still helping patients. I'm still helping patients, I help specialty pharmacies learn how to make their services more affordable, and have more access to it. You don't have ... We used to have a saying in Tennessee, "Pigs get fed, and hogs get slaughtered." It's okay to be in a capitalistic society, and be a little bit of a pig, you want to make, everybody wants to make money so they can have a better life, but you don't have to be a hog. Hog would just, it is just greed, and more greed, and more greed, and you just don't care about anything. So basically that's what you're doing to yourself, you're really killing yourself, killing other people, so you have to get to that point. That's what I try to help people understand, nothing wrong with making money, but don't make it off backs of people to their demise.

Dana Kuhn: That's what I try to do, and then I have, I'm helping a lot of nonprofits design their nonprofits so they become more successful. Helping them understand patients, or understand the people that they serve, and how do you open yourself to understand that, how do you learn what people are going through, and how do you help them, so that's what I like to do. I have people who are a matter of fact sometimes they live miles and miles away, Florida, North Carolina, and just try to talk them through tough situations that they have with their treatments, or just their life situations right now, because they may find the drug that doesn't work for HIV anymore, and what do they do when they get to their, the end of their rope? What do I do? So I like to do that.

Speaker 1: Do they find out about you still and get in touch?

Dana Kuhn: Well, when you, and also during that time it was called, in 1980 ... 1993, 1993, '95, 1995, the government, because of the Institute of Medicine Report, finding out the government failed to do what they were supposed to do the right way, they knew, and the manufacturers, the government gave a compensation plan to people with hemophilia, especially the families that had deceased family members. I helped lead that charge upon Capitol Hill so legislators got to know me in many ways. They saw my face probably very often, and then when I was with Patient Services Inc. we continued our legislative efforts for patients, and when the settlement or that compensation came, again, people didn't want ... During that time, again, there were

still people who didn't want anybody to know that they had hemophilia or HIV still, so I was a voice so people still know me.

Dana Kuhn: There is one, another way people knew me was because of all the TV interviews I did at that time, and then some documentaries that were done at that time, and they just kind of kept it. But as I get older, and you have a younger generation come in people forget, forget who ... they hear stories about you, and they may hear stories, and not connect a name, they probably don't even think I'm still alive, but anyway it's a ... It's history, that's why I like to capture history, let people know what really happened at that time.

Speaker 1: You were absolutely the right person at the right time, especially as a white straight, Protestant minister.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah. Well, I haven't been in the ministry now, once that happened I had to leave the ministry, and never got back into it because of raising the kids, and then getting into, we call it PSI, Patient Services Inc., and finding other ways to funnel that care for people. It was a ... Yeah, but there are so many other good people during that time. I think of Lisa Kaplowitz, I have such great respect for her during that time, and she just stood up for that. There were other people who were, you know, Bill Harris, and I think of other ... I can't even remember some of the people who were ... you mentioned some of their names.

Speaker 1: Rodney Lofton, Bob Higgins, and Jim Beckner.

Dana Kuhn: Jim Beckner, you know, lots of people who would, and there are people who were deceased who I knew who are just ... It's almost like we energized each other to move forward, and to keep swimming against the current, to help people say, "Come on, let's go. This is where we're going."

Speaker 1: Yeah, I mean, every time we talk to someone from that time, whether it's Lisa Cumbey, who I'm sure you know, or Chris Burnside, Rob Gabriel, who all created the first artist for life AIDS benefit in Richmond, and they all talk about that time as being one of such incredible tragedy, and hope all at the same time.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah.

Speaker 2: What was that connection with the Fan Free Clinic? Did you ever volunteer there?

Dana Kuhn: I basically, you know, I don't ... I would go and talk with them a lot, and we would talk, and I was trying to ... I think that was the time when I was getting involved, but then I got pulled to the hemophilia side, and all the others side, because I started to see all the stuff. I knew that's when I had to, you have to make a side, like I'm friends with Ginny White, and I talked to Ginny the other day, and we've talked about this too. When Ginny went away with Ryan White to go for Ryan White, and all the stuff, Ryan White Care Act, and all those areas, I had to go the other way for blood safety. I

probably don't ever get the recognition that Ginny White, and everybody else got, but I went that way, and we have a safe blood supply right now because of that. I don't need that recognition, I just-

Speaker 1: It's a huge achievement.

Speaker 2: Yes.

Dana Kuhn: It's just knowing I did the right thing, and now someone go to the hospital, and get a transfusion and not have to worry about it for the most part.

Speaker 2: Yeah, that's important.

Dana Kuhn: Those were things that, as I said everybody had a part in this, this was all at the right time. Everybody had parts to play. It was like a big old ... it's a big movie, and all the parts of the movie come back together again.

Speaker 1: That's right. Is there anything we did not ask you about that you would like to add?

Dana Kuhn: No, I think ... I'm sorry, it was hodge podge but it's so-

Speaker 1: No, it was perfect.

Speaker 2: It was not.

Dana Kuhn: It's so interweaving that it's amazing. I will say this that I'm a 36-year survivor, and I can't believe it.

Speaker 1: It's incredible.

Dana Kuhn: I just can't believe it. I never thought I'd be here today. I never thought I'd make it past five years, and I never thought ... I thought when I got married I'd never make it to see my first set of children ... I had never thought I'd see my first set of children graduate from high school, and then I never thought I'd see them graduate from college. Then Jan and I, that's another amazing story that Jan and I scientifically, biologically had children, she never had children before, so we had twins.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: They're both HIV negative.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: Because we did it scientifically with great care, and under doctors who learned how to do it, so now people who were discordant couples can have children that are HIV-free.

Speaker 1: That's incredible.

Dana Kuhn: So we were probably the third couple to do it.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: I have my HIV-free babies, I call them, and they are now in college. I never thought I'd see them get into college.

Speaker 1: Wow. So wait, when did that happen? They're in college, when did ...

Speaker 2: So that's right around the late 90's, right?

Dana Kuhn: They were born in 2001, so we-

Speaker 2: So they're just starting now.

Dana Kuhn: Yes, so we ... Jan and I got the first two through, and she adopted them when Patty died, after we got married, and she never had children before, and never been married so then when ... We tried other ways for many, many years, and then when we decided that we would just ... and then my parents died during that time, and we couldn't do anything through all those years, so then we ... I don't know. We just ... She wanted to give up, I said, "No, let's try one more time. I found this doctor who had no seroconversions done, done many more, done them, and also a doctor in Italy that did it, and has been very successful." I said, "Let's try." So we tried, and hey, wow, it worked.

Speaker 1: Well, what an incredible interview. Thank you so, so much.

Dana Kuhn: Thank you for listening, hopefully what you have will be helpful.

Speaker 1: We were spellbound.

Speaker 2: It was amazing.

Speaker 1: Yeah. What a journey, you've taken such a journey.

Dana Kuhn: It's been, it's been a journey. It's been a journey, but it's been, I would say it's ... that's all I can say, it has been a journey, but I'm very glad I'm still here today, and can see all the progress made. So all I can say is that progress can be made, and when you see it, and lived to see it, I wish the people who worked who aren't here today could see what I see. I wish there was a way to communicate that to them.

Speaker 1: I know.

Dana Kuhn: Because it's so beautiful to see what everybody was achieving, trying to achieve, if we only find the cure now that would be wonderful. This, you can look at that and see what, I mean-

Speaker 1: Thank you so much.

Speaker 2: Thank you. Thank you.

Dana Kuhn: You can keep this, but if you are-

Speaker 1: Oh, fantastic.

Dana Kuhn: Interested in this, I'd say this is the guy, his name is Daniel Yu, and he went here to U of R, and he-

Speaker 1: Oh, he did.

Dana Kuhn: He wrote this when he was in Maggie Walker.

Speaker 1: He might still be here.

Dana Kuhn: He might still be here.

Speaker 1: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: I mean, I can lend this to you, but I want to make sure I get it back because it's a ... and it's in the Maggie Walker archives, and this is an oral history that he took of me, not quite as extensive of what you all have, but-

Speaker 1: That's interesting.

Dana Kuhn: He did a paper called The Citizen's Campaign Against Medical and Bureaucratic Negligence During the HIV, AIDS Crisis.

Speaker 1: We'd love to borrow it. We'll take good care of it.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah, so long as I can get it back.

Speaker 1: Of course.

Speaker 2: We can take a picture, but, yup, that sounds good. We'll make sure it get back to you.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah, because I don't think that you can get it in any other place except for in Maggie Walker.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Dana Kuhn: They gave me permission, I made sure that anything I gave orally that they could use, and that I can still use things, because if I'm writing a book I need [crosstalk 01:26:29] to have things around that people can help with.

Speaker 1: So, yeah, this is our [inaudible 01:26:35].

Dana Kuhn: So you can do my [inaudible 01:26:37].

Speaker 2: Yes.

Speaker 1: Yes, exactly.

Speaker 2: In any format that is, now exists in the known universe or will ever exist into the infinite future.

Dana Kuhn: That's what they forget to put in here, right.

Speaker 2: It's very threatening for them.

Dana Kuhn: Today is the 25th, right?

Speaker 2: Yes.

Speaker 1: Yes, it is. It is. I don't know if you know, but we're also, besides the exhibition, our students are creating a docudrama based on-

Speaker 2: Oral history based.

Speaker 1: Based on the oral histories that we've done, and that's going to be on November 24th at Richmond Triangle Place.

Speaker 2: That's right, 24th.

Dana Kuhn: Can you send me an e-mail too?

Speaker 2: Yes.

Speaker 1: We will.

Dana Kuhn: Telling me about that.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Speaker 2: Absolutely.

Dana Kuhn: I would like to ...

Speaker 1: Half of the performers or more will be HIV positive performers who are part of the St. Paul's Baptist HIV Support Group for Women.

Dana Kuhn: That's pretty cool.

Speaker 1: It is. We're pretty excited about it.

Speaker 2: We're excited about it.

Speaker 1: That same group of women, as well as Eric King, who is part of the group, and has written a book about HIV in the landscape of spiritual warfare, he's also going to be part of it.

Dana Kuhn: Oh, wow, that would be very interesting to read.

Speaker 1: Yeah, and that whole group our students have been assisting them in creating this whole series of cascading books, which will be hung like an AIDS' quilt in the center of the Valentine Exhibition, about the-

Dana Kuhn: Yeah, you're saying that's [inaudible 01:28:15].

Speaker 1: Yeah, and it's going to be about how they see their legacy, and what the impact of HIV has been, because they're all very activist.

Speaker 2: Yeah, in the same way that you're taking it on as something, I think people are still finding their way, and making it. We met somebody who, that idea of taking the pill everyday was a challenge in medicine, and so they decided to do YouTube videos of her taking the pill.

Speaker 1: She does that every night.

Speaker 2: Every night.

Speaker 1: And puts it on Facebook.

Speaker 2: As a way to encourage others to take the-

Dana Kuhn: That's a good thing to have.

Speaker 1: Yeah, because she explained to us that so many people when they take that pill they're reminded of how they got the illness, and it's too tough to face that everyday, so they end up with what counts that are through the roof.

Dana Kuhn: That's very interesting because I had talked about that one time at a memorial service. I took my pills with me, and there were two things I did. One was I took my pills with me, and I said, "Every time I take these it reminds me of death. I'm going to die." I had to get over that, and I just had to keep on. I take them now very

rarely do I ever think of anything when I take them now, but yesterday I took them, and when I took them it made me, because I was getting ready to do interview, and thinking about things like that, but I thought, "Hmmm, these are pills that I'm taking because I have something that would kill me if I didn't take them." I'm going, "Wow," I said, "Well, there's a blood pressure in there too, so if I didn't take that I could have a problem too." I thought, "Oh, okay, no big deal then."

Dana Kuhn: You look at it more like maintenance now than anything else, and that's where I got to the point of looking at it as maintenance, but it still reminds me, "Could that happen to me? What will happen if all of a sudden these drugs don't work? What will happen?" As I said, you know the other one is if you ever watch anybody die from AIDS you would not wish that upon your worst enemy either. You just would never do that. You watch too many people go, and that's very hard. Yeah, that's a good one. That's a good one, I'm glad she does that. She does that.

Speaker 1: She'll be doing the dance.

Dana Kuhn: That's great.

Speaker 1: In a play.

Dana Kuhn: I love her perspective on that.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Speaker 2: Yeah. Yeah, it is.

Dana Kuhn: On the pills, I love it.

Speaker 1: Yeah, we came up with the whole big idea with a play, where all of us, all the people in the cast will have like a bottle, and trying to, that moment when you take the pill, so we're going to create whole scene with it.

Dana Kuhn: I know, I was going to tell you the one I did with a memorial service is I took, I got one of the big 365 pills from Costco.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Dana Kuhn: You get 365, that's a year, and I brought that to a memorial service, and I said, "You know, everyday I take one of these, I wonder if I'm going to make it to the end of the year. Everyday I take one. Will I be here by the time I finish this?" That's a reality.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Speaker 2: Wow.

Dana Kuhn: So anyway that would be good. I would love to see this.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Speaker 1: Good.

Speaker 2: We definitely will e-mail you, but it's November 24th in Richmond Triangle Players we're like working on shaping the script right now.

Dana Kuhn: Then if you want, if you want to copy that-

Speaker 2: Yes.

Dana Kuhn: I'm sure people will let you copy that, they will let you copy it now, and then you can even copy the disk.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Speaker 2: Perfect.

Speaker 1: It sounds great.

Dana Kuhn: Then just let me know when I would get that, and-

Speaker 1: Can we e-mail ... Can we mail this to you once we're done to your address?

Dana Kuhn: Oh, yes, yes.

Speaker 1: Okay.

Dana Kuhn: You can mail it.

Speaker 1: Perfect.

Dana Kuhn: You can definitely mail it to me.

Speaker 2: Absolutely.

Speaker 1: You moved in, you're not far from where I'm at.

Dana Kuhn: That's great.

Speaker 1: Well, thank you.

Dana Kuhn: Well, thank you.

Speaker 2: Thank you.

Speaker 1: Thank you so much.

Dana Kuhn: I'm sorry it took so long, you know.

Speaker 1: Oh, no, this was perfect.

Speaker 2: This was really perfect.

Speaker 1: This is perfect.

Dana Kuhn: I think I got everything I need. Yeah, I'm leaving all that with you, I'm just going to make sure I don't take-

Speaker 1: You know how to get back out in the [crosstalk 01:32:57]?

Dana Kuhn: Oh, yes.

Speaker 2: Yes.

Speaker 1: I'm glad you found everything.

Dana Kuhn: I loved it. I loved it.

Speaker 1: I know it's so unusual for anyone to find something [crosstalk 01:33:02].

Dana Kuhn: I love the challenge, you know. So, you know, that's how you know that-

Speaker 2: That's right.

Dana Kuhn: You have to have a challenge.

Speaker 1: That's true. That's true.

Dana Kuhn: That makes it fun and exciting. Well, good.

Speaker 1: Well, thank you so much.

Speaker 2: Well, thank you so much.

Speaker 1: Have a wonderful weekend.

Dana Kuhn: Thank you.

Speaker 1: Enjoy.

Dana Kuhn: Well, if I'm not rude, can I give you a hug?

Speaker 1: Yes.

Speaker 2: Of course, thank you so much.

Speaker 1: We would need to [inaudible 01:33:21] that offer.

Dana Kuhn: Yeah.

Speaker 2: I know.

Dana Kuhn: Thank you for letting me share.

Speaker 1: Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

Speaker 2: We really appreciate it.

Dana Kuhn: Hopefully it would be helpful to somebody.

Speaker 1: Oh, it would be so helpful.

Speaker 2: Amazing.

Speaker 1: Yeah.

Speaker 2: This is like, this is part of history, and necessary, so thank you.

Dana Kuhn: All right, have a good weekend.

Speaker 1: You too.

Speaker 2: Bye, Dana.