

Gift and Release Agreement

We Jason Arnold and April Hubbard  
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

AIDS Services Center, Hubson City

on the date(s) of 03-13-95  
for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Jason Arnold  
Interviewee's signature

Address 1828 Division Drive  
Oxford, AL 36203  
Phone (205) 835-0887

Date 3-13-95

April Hubbard  
Interviewer's signature

Address 67 Norma Court  
Anniston, AL 36201

Phone 231-2286

Date 3-13-95

## INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Jason Arnold M/F male

Address: 1825 Division Drive, Oxford, AL 36203

Phone number(s): 835-0827

Approximate age or date of birth: 11-04-71

Mother's Name: Karleen Pate

Father's Name: Stephen Arnold

Places lived and when: -

Education: College - BA

Religion: Methodist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) -

Present occupation: dorm supervisor - Learning Tree

Former occupations: -

Special Skills: -

Major Accomplishments: -

National Events in which interviewee has participated: AIDS WALKS,  
Cancer Research walks

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: AIDS WALKS,  
Fundraisers

National born U.S. citizen?  Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: -

Country from which he/she emigrated: -

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: -

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: -

Additional information: -

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**April Hubbard interviewing Jason Arnold 03-13-95 on the Aids Service Center.**

### **A. When he began volunteering?**

- Spring 1992 through November 1993 (consistently)
- His grandmother got sick so he had to stop for a while.
- He began again but not as much, only gets there about once a month due to school schedule.

### **B. His Duties?**

- At first (the first six months) he would go get lunch for the staff. Answering the phone, Patient scheduling, and providing transportation for patients.
- Then when some other volunteers came and they took over getting lunch, phone calls and transportation and he began secretarial duties.
- August of 1992 he began volunteer coordinator. He was this for 3 months.
- Tuesday is busy clinic day.
- Set up classes around all of this.
- Became very close to the staff.
- Hobson City Day-trying to get the community comfortable with the clinic.

### **C. What got him interested?**

- Diagnosed with juvenile Lukemia at the age of 13. Very involved in volunteering with sick children. Went into remission at the age of 16.
- After graduating from High School, he attended Montevallo. His roommate was openly gay. The summer of 1991 he said he was HIV positive. He committed suicide that fall.
- Could not decide what to do. Talked to a minister who

**suggested volunteering. Had to think about it alot because of all of the controversy.**

- Got really involved with the patients and the families.**
- Went to AIDS symposium in Montgomery in 1992.**
- Shared a hotel room with one of the AIDS patients and saw how hard it was to have this disease.**
- Got close to this one particular patient and his mother. This patient passed away in 1993. Became very difficult for the staff.**

**D. How he deals with the fact that all of the patients coming in are terminally ill?**

- Very cruel disease.**
- Hard to see people you know come in. Had a friend who was 18 years old and came in with AIDS.**
- Nature walks to help him think.**
- When his friend came in he thought he had not tried hard enough to stress safe sex.**
- Hard to deal with young people coming in. Have seen people younger than 18 yrs. old come in.**

**E. Misconceptions? Was there any fear in being around people with AIDS?**

- You can not catch AIDS from hugging, or kissing, or being around these patients.**
- Family was very hesitant.**
- Clinic is very confidential.**
- Bothered him the first few weeks. Very strict about washing hands, not hugging people but than he grew out of it.**

**F. How soon can you detect the AIDS virus?**

- As soon as it enters your blood stream.**
- You are tested in the clinic. Takes two weeks to receive test results. Have to come back in two weeks for results. Against the law to give them over the phone.**

**G. Why the Clinic Had to Move?(from its original building)**

- City of Oxford did not want it there. They thought they ran it out.
- Actually the clinic began only as a support group and when it became a clinic the building was just too small. Moved in January 1992.
- New building in Hobson City opposed to the building on Main Street in Oxford, if very accomodating.
- Up to 170 patients at the clinic.

#### **H. Other Clinics?**

- The closet other clinic is in Birmingham.

#### **I. How did the staff deal with the negative responses from the community?**

- Police in Oxford harrassed the staff and the patients.
- They wanted to know who was homosexual.
- The clinic received National Publicity.
- One of the only rural health facilities in the country.
- Did receive grants to help getting started.
- Hard to help clients when you are having to avoid the police and harrasement.

#### **J. Dr. Hannah**

- Very well respected and renound for her work in the field of AIDS.

#### **K. How has the cliental changed since the clinic moved?**

- Had homosexual men at first.
- Now alot of women,men,hemophliacs,married couples.

#### **L. Will Always continue to Volunteer.**

- Did loose several friends because of volunteering.
- School hinders the time he can spend there now. He just considers this time in his life a pause from volunteering. It takes up your whole life.
- Did a speech in a class on how to put a condom on correctly.

**- Does not ever see an end to his volunteering.**

**M. Number of Volunteers.**

**- Local churches and Businesses volunteer by helping paint or furnishing food.**

**- People send in donations.**

**- Active volunteers who are always at the clinic there are about seven.**

**N. How they deal with patients who are about to die.**

**- Hospice is called in.**

**- Sent one guy's mother (who passed away) a mother's day card.**

**O. What other people can do to help?**

**- Educating friends.**

**- Encouraging safe sex and monogamy.**