**Donald “Devin” Carrington Video Transcript**

The following interview with Don “Devin” Carrington’s mother, Geneva Carrington, is excerpted from the 1993 video, “AIDS Awareness in DeWitt County. It was produced by Gary Schumaker with funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the DeWitt-Piatt-Bi-County Health Department and the DeWitt County Human Resource Center.

00:17 Host

Let's start with you. How did you learn of your son's diagnosis of HIV?

00:21 Geneva Carrington, Devin’s Mother

Well, he was in California, and I was in Illinois. And he called me and said he was real, real sick. He had to come back to Illinois to see the doctors back here. And when he, so I said, Okay, I'll get your plane tickets, we'll be on our way to Illinois. So I sent it and soon as he got off the plane, his Dad said to me, says, “Honey, that boy has AIDS.” And this was before he was ever diagnosed or anything. So we took him to the doctor the next day. And on February 14th of 1989, they called and the doctor asked to speak to Don. And two days later, he says, “Mom, you know, I am going to die.” And I said, “Oh, Don, you're kidding me.” He says, “No, do you know what the doctor told me the other day when he called?” And I said, “Well, I have an idea. But I don't know for sure.” And he says, “He told me I had AIDS, full blown AIDS.”

01:13 Host

People really need to emphasize that they are living with AIDS. And maybe to illustrate that, you might have a memory or to have a really good day that happened after diagnosis

01:25 Geneva Carrington, Devin’s Mother

With Don, he told me, he says, “Mom, I will live to walk the AIDS walk.” That was their first one in Champaign-Urbana. And sure enough, Don was able he walked for all six miles. And I'll never forget that that was the happiest moment of my life, just seeing him and knowing he was able to walk.

01:45 Host

Why is it that some parents can't find their way to something that can be positive and helpful? What are some of the obstacles that are in their way?

01:52 Geneva Carrington, Devin’s Mother

Well, I've known several parents, that they would not come to the support group meetings. I've talked to them, and they wouldn't come because they were afraid what their neighbor would think. And they were afraid of what the family would think. And I just said, “The heck with it all. My son means more to me than anything in the world.” And he is who I'm living for right now. Not what the neighbors thinks or what anybody else thinks. And that's the way I did it. And just went through with the support group. And I've even had the comments to say, “Well, why in the world would you go to where a bunch of gay men are at and I said, “There's nobody in this world knows the support and the love and the care that comes from those people. I don't care who they are.”

02:41 Host

So, thank you very much. Thank you.