

a friendly environment for her. Other friends of hers have contracted HIV or died from AIDS since then, including some who are transgender. Transgender individuals are more than four times more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population, according to a survey by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Those rates are higher among transgender people of color.

DeVyne started volunteering for Cascade AIDS Project with the hope of teaching others the lessons she's learned.

"I feel like I'm a representative for the trans community," she says. "I want to be raising awareness for the trans community, as well, and get other people to be involved. I really want to be a positive influence for that."

—AARON SPENCER

Jason Krause: "I walk for my dads"

Jason Krause, 28, had a comparatively easy time coming out to his parents. For starters, one of his parents had already come out as gay.

"So with me being gay, they were like, 'Well, we've been through it once, so no surprises there,'" Krause says.

Krause's dad had come out years earlier and lived with his partner. Krause wasn't close with his father at the time; he felt torn between him and his mom. But after Krause moved away from St. Louis and experienced romantic relationships, his dad became his rock.

"My dad and I are really close now," Krause says. "We share everything and talk about everything."

Their bond also helped Krause to acknowledge something he had chosen not to face for years: His father is HIV positive. His father's longtime partner, who Krause considers a second dad, is HIV positive, as well. Krause had seen the medications before.

"My dads don't discuss it," Krause says. "They don't talk about complications. They protect me, in a way, so that I'm not an emotional wreck."

"It's hard to see people around you suffer," he adds.

So when Krause was approached to participate in AIDS Walk Portland, he was willing to help.

"I'm all supportive of the cause," he says. "Anything I can do, I'm there."

He's doing a good job, too. Krause has already reached his initial fundraising goal of \$2,000 and is approaching his second target of \$3,000.

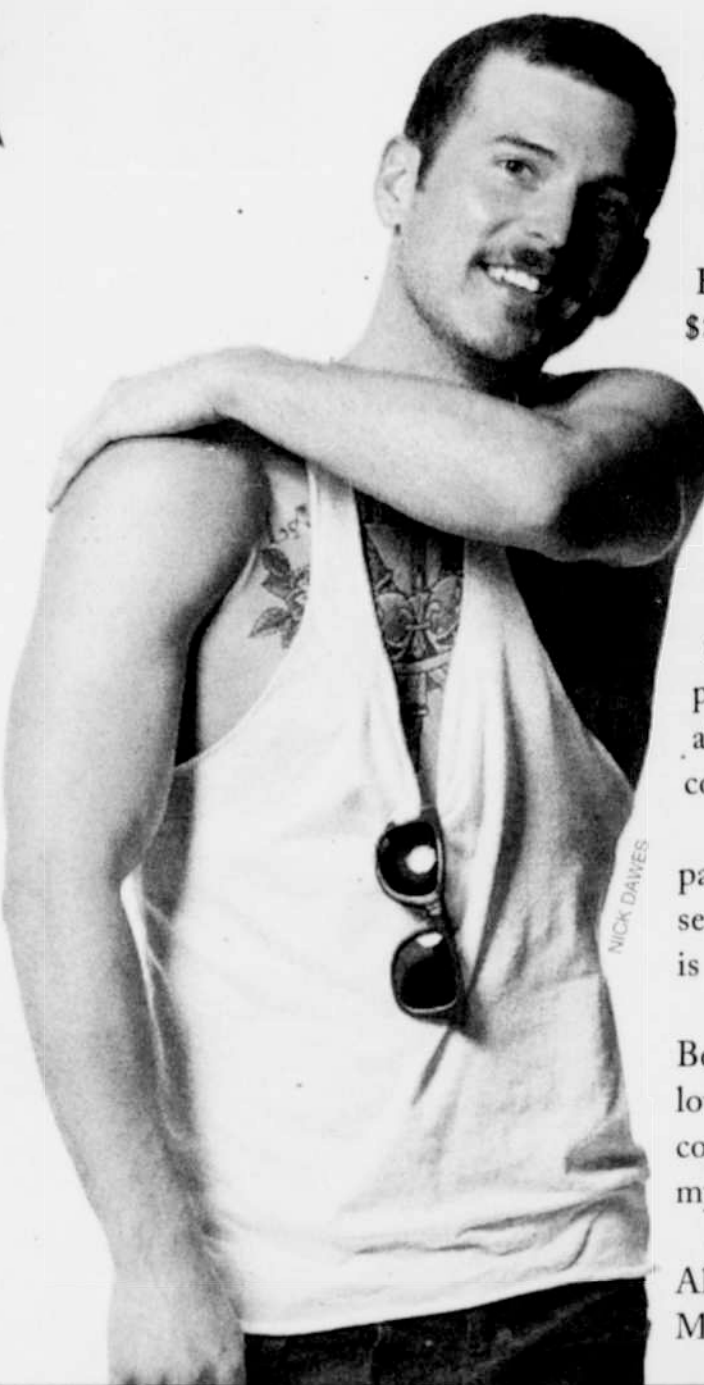
He's also a sort of poster boy for the fundraiser, featured in an ad on the back of TriMet buses with the tagline "I walk for my dads."

Krause and his family remain very close. They talk, email and text daily, especially now, as he needs their support while opening his bakery business, Krause Confections.

He showed the bus ad to his dads. "They love it; they just think it's funny as hell," he says. "They said, 'We would have never thought our son would be on the back of a bus.'"

"I never thought it either, but there it is."

—AARON SPENCER



David Behrend: "I will walk till there is a cure and beyond"

David Behrend has lost more than 100 friends since the AIDS epidemic started in the early 1980s. Now 59 years old and a bartender and waiter at Hobo's Restaurant in Old Town, Behrend has emerged a living memorial for those who've died by participating for the past 20 years in AIDS Walk Portland. And though he's suffered great losses, he's not doing it alone.

"It may sound silly, but I carry a sheet of paper with all of my friends' names as I walk," says Behrend, who is not HIV positive. "I know they are forever in my heart and my mind as I walk."

Behrend is the team captain for Team Hobo's, and has helped to spearhead nearly \$8,500 in donations as of press time. Individually, Behrend has averaged about \$3,500 per year since he began walking to support Cascade AIDS Project. And while his duties at Hobo's, as well as owning a house/pet-sitting business and cleaning business, prevent him from volunteering more, Behrend believes it is the pooling together of small efforts that brings about progress within the HIV/AIDS community.

A man of many quotes, it seems, Behrend paraphrases the late Elizabeth Taylor's observation that AIDS is not over, and that "it is nobody's fault, just everyone's problem."

"Someone once left me with this saying," Behrend continues. "When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure." The friends I have lost are my treasures in life.

As a solo fundraiser, Behrend trails only Alazar Manning and CAP executive director Michael Kaplan, with about \$3,200 raised



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—DAVE BEHREND

with slightly over two weeks left before the October 2 event. And he has no plans to slow down any time soon.

"This is such an important cause to me," Behrend says. "I have learned to cope with death through AIDS and it's not always easy. I will walk till there is a cure and beyond!"

—RYAN J. PRADO



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