

Man, 49, is charged in child-porn case

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The former director of Kentucky's oldest AIDS organization was arrested yesterday, accused of possessing 900 computer images of child pornography and 23 magazines depicting minors in sexual acts.

Collin C. Schwoyer, 49, who was executive director of the Community Health Trust in Louisville, was indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday and charged with five counts of receiving sexually explicit photos of minors via his computer and one count of possessing magazines depicting nude juveniles. If convicted, he faces up to 80 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines.

The indictment, which says Schwoyer obtained the images between June 1996 and October 1999, was unsealed yesterday after his arrest. Schwoyer, of 1911 Newburg Road in Louisville, was released on a \$50,000 secured bond, the U.S. attorney's office said.

He was ordered to have no contact with minors and to abide by a 10 p.m.-to-7 a.m. curfew. He had to surrender his passport and can travel only in Louisville and the Western Kentucky area served by the local U.S. District Court. He also was told to not possess a computer.

Schwoyer could not be reached for comment yesterday, and his attorney, Ken Plotnik, did not return two telephone calls.

Schwoyer led the health trust from 1997 until last October, when a co-worker reported finding child pornography on Schwoyer's office computer. The organization was formed 15 years ago by gays and lesbians to help people with AIDS and HIV.

Mark England, a member of the health trust board, said yesterday that the organization was shocked to discover the photos, which apparently were downloaded from the Internet.

"As soon as our employees found out what was going on, they stepped up to the plate and alerted authorities,"

England said.

On Oct. 27, Louisville police searched Schwoyer's home and seized photos that depicted nude minors, according to a search warrant.

They also found magazines of nude juveniles and seized a Polaroid camera as well as several Zip disks, which store large amounts of information and photos, according to the search warrant.

Police also seized a computer and four Zip drives, among other items, from the health trust's offices at 850 Barret Ave.

The case was eventually turned over to the FBI, and the health trust fired Schwoyer.

The health trust hired an interim executive director, and it hopes to have a permanent director by April, England said.

David Williams, a friend of Schwoyer's and a past member of the health trust board, said yesterday that the allegations have been devastating to the AIDS organization and to people who know Schwoyer.

"There is going to have to be a lot of damage control," said Williams, a board member from 1989 until 1994. "I will stand by him as a friend, but I cannot condone or defend him. . . . It caught all of us off guard. We had no idea Collin was allegedly collecting this kind of stuff."

The health trust was Kentucky's first private organization to respond to the AIDS crisis, which at the time was mainly afflicting homosexuals.

The agency has sponsored seminars on AIDS and HIV, the virus that leads to the disease, and distributed condoms in bars, among other things.

In 1986, the organization opened Glade House, a home for AIDS and HIV patients.

The agency also operates the non-profit Community Health Trust store at 1975 Douglass Blvd., which has offbeat and ritzy items, such as posters autographed by Broadway stars, Banana Republic clothes and stylish Fossil watches. The store's proceeds go to the organization.