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109-03-02
AIDS Project RI collection
1985-2020

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Number: 109-03-02

Title: AIDS Project RI collection

Creator: AIDS Project RI

Dates: 1985-2020

Quantity: 8 boxes (6.5 linear feet)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition: Gift of AIDS Project RI in 2021.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired from creating organization.

Processed by: The collection was processed by Jane Freiman and Kate Wells in 2022.

Conservation: Not applicable.

Language: Materials are in English.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Providence Public Library, Special Collections department. Materials that include personal identification or health information of clients will be provided to researchers in redacted copies to protect individual privacy.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to use the following citation format:
[item number], [item title], AIDS Project RI collection, Special Collections, Providence Public Library

Property Rights: Providence Public Library owns the property rights to this collection.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated material None

Published description	Not applicable
Location of originals	Not applicable
Location of copies	Not applicable
Publication note	Not applicable
Subject headings	<p>AIDS activists</p> <p>AIDS (Disease)—Rhode Island</p> <p>Bingo</p> <p>Drag performance</p> <p>HIV-positive persons</p> <p>NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt</p> <p>Public health—Rhode Island</p> <p>HIV/AIDS. homosaurus</p> <p>Health care for LGBTQ+ people. homosaurus</p>

SEE ALSO

ACT UP Rhode Island records, MS.2011.028. John Hay Library, Brown University.
 Oral history interviews concerning ACT UP of Rhode Island and New York. MS.2019.008. John Hay Library, Brown University.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The first confirmed cases of AIDS in Rhode Island were in June 1983. At this time, many health care professionals knew little about the disease and care / treatment options for those with AIDS were limited. In July 1983, Bill Pellicio, a counselor and gay activist, and his friend Pete, a physician began to work informally with patients to offer emotional support and hosted a potluck dinner for a group of gay men with the intention to share concerns and educate one another about AIDS. This became the first of a series of regular potluck dinners.

On May 31, 1985 the first organized grassroots meeting to establish a Committee on AIDS in Rhode Island was held with twenty-eight people including members of the Rhode Island Gay Men's Network, a mother of a person with AIDS, and several medical professionals. This was the first meeting of Rhode Island Project AIDS. Rhode Island Project AIDS was officially incorporated on September 16, 1985 as a nonprofit, community-based advocacy organization primarily run by volunteers. It was the first AIDS service organization in Rhode Island. The original goals included AIDS education to the public, intervention for high-risk individuals and direct support to people with AIDS or ARC (AIDS-related complex). Early efforts included operating the Hotline, instituting a buddy program to support the physical and emotional care of people with AIDS / ARC, helping to establish a network of personal care businesses and funeral homes which would support

patients and families and offering education to public health and medical professionals.

The organization changed its name to AIDS Project Rhode Island in the late 1990s and continues to respond to the needs of people living with, affected by, and at risk for HIV through prevention, education, supportive services, and advocacy.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The AIDS Project Rhode Island collection includes materials documenting the work of the organization from 1985-2020. The bulk of the collection is photographs, however organizational records, newsletters and ephemera are included. The photographs document fundraising events, such as the annual Walk for Life, Gay Bingo, and Heart to Heart, as well as staff and volunteers (or “Buddies”) in the office and at retreats. The collection also contains a selection of pins and buttons, as well as a scrapbook of newspaper clippings.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is organized into two series. Series 1 consists of organizational records and ephemera. Series 2 consists of photographs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**Series 1: Organizational records & ephemera**

This series includes materials related to the organizational operations and events sponsored by AIDS Project RI. The bulk of these materials include promotional materials and resources related to HIV/AIDS and newsletters, however, some records related to organizational strategic planning, volunteers and the Board are included.

Title	Date	Box	Folder
Annual reports	1991-2005	1	1
Organizational records	1987-2010	1	2
Organizational records, Bonnie	undated	1	3
Volunteers	1987-1988	1	4
Walk for Life records	1988-2001	1	5
Letter from Stephen Parkhurst	n.d.	1	6
Wellness program	1993-1995	1	7
Red Ribbon Awards	2006-2007	1	8
Beatrice Temkin (volunteer)	2006	1	9
World AIDS Day Journal	1997	1	10
Newspaper clippings	various	1	11
Event promotional materials	1988-2020	1	12
Resource pamphlets	undated	1	13
Visual AIDS calendar and art postcards	2004	1	14
Newsletters "Project News"	1985	2	15
Newsletters "Friends for Life"	1987-1992	2	16
Newsletters "Friends for Life"	1992-2001	2	17
Newsletters "Project Notes"	2003-2007	2	18

Newsletters "Safe Sex"	1996	2	19
Newsletters "Rhode Island AIDS Alert"	1988	2	20
Newsletters "Walk Line"	1996	2	21
Pins & buttons	undated	7	
Posters	1988, 2020 & undated	8	22
Scrapbook including clippings on AIDS from the New York Times and Boston Globe	April 12, 1988-July 12, 1988	8	23

Series 2: Photographs

This series includes print photographs documenting various staff and volunteer activities of AIDS Project RI, fundraising events, sponsored events and activism. The majority of the photographs document the Walk for Life annual fundraising event and exhibitions of the AIDS Quilt, Gay Bingo, dances and staff.

Title	Date	Box	Folder
Walk for Life photographs	1989	3	24
Walk for Life photographs	1990-06	3	25
Walk for Life photographs by A.C. Fredrick	1991	3	26
Walk for Life photographs	1991	3	27
Walk for Life photographs - Recipients of proceeds	1991-06	3	28
Walk for Life photographs - Mayor Cianci (negatives only)	1992	3	29
Walk for Life photographs	1992	3	30
Walk for Life photographs	1993	3	31
Walk for Life photographs	1994	3	32
Walk for Life photographs - Corp./Team kickoff	1994	3	33
Walk for Life photographs - Ernie	1994	3	34

Walk for Life photographs	1994-1995	3	35
Walk for Life photographs	1995	3	36
Walk for Life photographs	1996	3	37
Walk for Life photographs	1997	3	38
Walk for Life photographs - Kickoff at Roger Williams Park Casino	1998-04	3	39
Walk for Life photographs	1998	3	40
Walk for Life photographs	1998-1999	3	41
Walk for Life photographs	1999	4	42
Walk for Life photographs	2000	4	43
Walk for Life photographs	2001	4	44
Walk for Life photographs	2002	4	45
Walk for Life photographs	2003	4	46
Walk for Life photographs	2004	4	47
Walk for Life photographs	2005	4	48
Walk for Life photographs	undated	4	49-54
Walk for Life photographs, oversized	1991	2	199
Walk for Life photographs, oversized - Corp, Team kickoff	1994	2	200
Walk for Life photographs, oversized	1999	2	201
Walk for Life team photographs	2004	8	
AIDS Quilt at the National Mall, Washington D.C.	1987	4	55
AIDS Quilt at Brown University, Providence, R.I.	1992	4	56
AIDS Quilt at Rhode Island State House, "Graceful Journeys"	1992	4	57-58
AIDS Quilt Kickoff	1992-10-5	4	59
AIDS Quilt, Washington D.C.	1992-10-9	4	60

AIDS Quilt: Channing Memoria	1993-2-28	4	61
AIDS Quilt VANC display	1993-5-7	4	62
AIDS Quilt - AETNA	1993-12-1	4	63
AIDS Quilt in Vero Beach, Florida at First Baptist Church	1997-04	4	64
AIDS Quilt - Florida Atlantic University	1997	4	65
AIDS Quilt - APIC Dallas, Texas	1998-05	4	66
VA Quilt World AIDS Days	undated	4	67
Gay Pride	1989	5	68-69
Gay Pride	undated	5	70
Gay Bingo / Walk for Life	1994	5	71
Gay Bingo	1998	5	72
Gay Bingo	1999	5	73-74
Gay Bingo	2000	5	75-77
Gay Bingo	2001	5	78
Gay Bingo	2001-2002	5	79
Gay Bingo	2002	5	80
Gay Bingo	undated	5	81-82
Halloween Party	1992	5	83
Halloween Party	2000	5	84
Halloween Party	2003	5	85
Halloween Party	undated	5	86-92
Holiday Party	1989-12	5	93
RIPA Xmas	1990	5	94
Christmas Party	1991	5	95

Client Holiday Dinner	1993-12	5	96
Client Xmas Party	1994	5	97
Holiday Open House	1997	5	98
Holiday Open House	1998-12-15	5	99
Staff Xmas Party	1999	5	100
Holiday Party	undated	5	101
Holiday Party / Sodomy Law Demonstration	undated	5	102
Christmas Candlelight Vigil	undated	5	103
Nutrition Committee	1991-04	5	104
Staff development	1991-03	5	105
Unidentified staff event	1992-07	5	106
Unidentified staff event	1992	5	107
Staff photographs	1992	5	108
Staff photographs	1997	5	109
Staff photographs, Summer 2005	2005	digital	
Farewell party at the Platts	1997-12	5	110
James?	2000	5	111
James?	undated	5	112
Office photos	2001	5	113
Staff	2002	5	114
Staff	undated	5	115-118
New England Aquarium	undated	5	119
Wellness staff	undated	5	120
Portraits	undated	5	121

Staff photos - Arlene	undated	5	122
Staff retreat	undated	5	123
Volunteers Appreciation Day	1989	5	124
Volunteer Party	1992-10-02	5	125
Volunteer Appreciation	1992	5	126
Volunteer Appreciation, Roger Williams Park Zoo	1994	5	127
Volunteers	1997	5	128
Buddies	undated	5	129
Care to Dance	1991	6	130
Care to Dance	1992	6	131
Care to Dance	1995	6	132
Care to Dance	undated	6	133-137
Heart to Heart	1990	6	138
Heart to Heart	1994	6	139-140
Heart to Heart	undated	6	141
Marvin Hamlish	2000	6	142
Marvin Hamlish	undated	6	143
Fashionable Friends	1990	6	144
Fashionable Friends	undated	6	145
Friends under the Big Top	1989	6	146
Rally	1990-06-14	6	147
Katsoff JC Penney Award	1991	6	148
Golden Rule Award & Goodbye John	1991	6	149
New Year's Eve Fundraiser	1997-12-31	6	150

World AIDS Day	2000	6	151
Cabaret	2000	6	152
Agape Center Awards	2000	6	153
Annual CDBG Party	2000	6	154
Philips Party	2000	6	155
Youth AIDS	undated	6	156
APRI Garage Sale	undated	6	157
Mirabar event	undated	6	158
Marathon House	undated	6	159
Unidentified event	1992	6	160
Unidentified event	1999-2000	6	161
Unidentified event	2000-04-15	6	162
Unidentified event	2000	6	163
Unidentified event	2002	6	164-165
Unidentified event	2003	6	166
Unidentified events	undated	6	167-175
Miscellaneous	undated	6	176-178
Miscellaneous	1992-11	7	179
Miscellaneous	1992, 2000	7	180
Miscellaneous	1993	7	181
Miscellaneous	1994	7	182
Miscellaneous	1996, 2000-2001	7	183
Miscellaneous	1997	7	184

Miscellaneous	2000	7	185
Miscellaneous	2000-05	7	186
Miscellaneous	2002	7	187
Miscellaneous	2003	7	188
Miscellaneous	undated	7	189-192
Negatives, Youth Outreach	undated	7	193
Negatives, Miscellaneous	undated	7	194-198
Miscellaneous, oversized	undated	2	202
Rhode Island Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention (RICPG) annual meeting photobook	2011	2	203
Historical photos, black & white. CR-ROM & digital files.	undated	2	204
Photographs of "Earnie". Note - these images are copyrighted by Steven Boudreau.	1992	2	205