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# AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection

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# Guide to the AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection

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## Guide to the AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection

**Collection number: MSS-2004-23-03**

SJSU Library Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
San José, California

Processed by:
Stephanie Waslohn
Date Completed:
2011
Encoded by:
Stephanie Waslohn
Reviewed by:
Danelle Moon

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection

**Dates:** 1986-2003

**Bulk Dates:** 1990-2001

**Collection number:** MSS-2004-23-03

**Collector:** San José State University

**Repository:** San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

**Abstract:** The AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection, 1986-2003 (1990-2001), document the services, publicity efforts and internal functioning of the ARIS volunteer foundation which provided information, resources and support for AIDS & HIV positive patients in Santa Clara County. ARIS offered practical assistance to patients through a monthly food basket program that provided nutritional supplements, a 24-hour residential care facility, transportation services, and weekly emotional support groups. ARIS also provided public programs that informed the public about AIDS & HIV prevention as well as humanizing often stigmatized HIV-positive people. The records consist of materials documenting many different facets of the organization such as manuals and guides for volunteers, clippings documenting the impact of ARIS in the community, an archive of the monthly and quarterly newsletter the ARIS *Pages*, plaques and commendations given to the organization over the years, banners carried by ARIS volunteers in local parades, posters, t-shirts and stickers from AIDS prevention campaigns, and VHS tapes and documentaries related to the organization itself and AIDS awareness in genernal on both local and national levels. This collection is arranged into five series: Series I. Administrative Materials, 1989-2001 (1990-2001); Series II. Photographs, 1989-2002 (1991-2001); Series III. Newsletter, 1986-2002 (1988-2000); Series IV. Media, 1987-2000 (1989-1996); and Ephemera, 1987-2001 (1987-2001).

**Physical location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

**Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection, MSS-2004-23-03, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Stephanie Waslohn. Finding aid EAD encoded by Stephanie Waslohn. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

**Organizational History**

ARIS (AIDS Resources, Information & Services), a now defunct organization, was a volunteer non-profit organization founded in 1986 with the mission "to provide HIV/AIDS prevention and support services to the people of Santa Clara County." ARIS focused on the practical realities of the day-to-day needs of persons living with HIV or AIDS, as well as their emotional health and wellness. ARIS provided a variety of services that included weekly emotional support groups, transportation services, practical assistance through a monthly food basket program that included nutritional supplements, housing assistance including a 24-hour residential care facility and multiple housing locations throughout the county, and HIV prevention and community education through community outreach. These services were available to persons with AIDS or HIV-positive status residing in Santa Clara County as well as their families and loved ones. The services and programs of ARIS were not limited to the HIV-positive community, but they also provided Santa Clara County with public outreach, preventative-oriented educatoinal sessions to the public about the realities of HIV & AIDS during a period rife with misinformation.

ARIS voluntarily dissolved in 2003 after difficulties with budget cuts, decreasing individual and commercial donations, as well as the sudden death of ARIS Founder, Bob Clayton, in September of that year.

**Related Material**

Billy DeFrank LGBT Silicon Valley Community Center Records. MSS-2010-25. San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender periodicals collection, MSS-2005-05, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Janet Gray Hayes papers, MSS-2002-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Mark Porsche papers, MSS-2003-04, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Ted Sahl Collection, MSS-2001-01-01, San José State University Library, Special Collections & Archives.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The AIDS Resources, Information & Services (ARIS) Collection, 1986-2003 (1990-2001), document the services, publicity efforts and internal functioning of the ARIS volunteer foundation which provided information, resources and support for AIDS & HIV positive patients in Santa Clara County. ARIS offered practical assistance to patients through a monthly food basket program that provided nutritional supplements, a 24-hour residential care facility, transportation services, and weekly emotional support groups. ARIS also provided public programs that informed the public about AIDS & HIV prevention as well as humanizing often stigmatized HIV-positive people.

The records consist of materials documenting many different facets of the organization such as manuals and guides for volunteers, clippings documenting the impact of ARIS in the community, an archive of the monthly and quarterly newsletter the ARIS *Pages*, plaques and commendations given to the organization over the years, banners carried by ARIS volunteers in local parades, posters, t-shirts and stickers from AIDS prevention campaigns, and VHS tapes and documentaries related to the organization itself and AIDS awareness in general on both local and national levels.

The records consist of the administrative records of the organization, which include a variety of formats, banners, CD-ROMs, framed images, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, plaques, photographs, printed materials, newsletters, a sign-in book, textiles and VHS tapes.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into five series: Series I. Administrative Materials, 1989-2001 (1990-2001); Series II. Photographs, 1989-2002 (1991-2001); Series III. Newsletter, 1986-2002 (1988-2000); Series IV. Media, 1987-2000 (1989-1996); and Ephemera, 1987-2001 (1987-2001).

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

AIDS (Disease) -- California -- Santa Clara County.

AIDS (Disease) -- Prevention.

Gays -- California -- Santa Clara County -- History.

Gay pride parades -- California -- San José.

Nonprofit organization -- California -- San José.

Series I : **Administration Materials 1989-2001**

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The material in this series primarily documents the organizational system and administrative operations of ARIS. The bulk of this collection consists of volunteer training manuals, resource directories and internal policies and procedures. The volunteer training manuals were instrumental to the daily operations of the organization and document the procedures and processes of outreach, assistance, and publicity of the organization.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by format then subject.

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 1 | **Volunteer manuals, resource directories, newspaper clippings 1989-2000** |
| Box 2 | **Clippings, manuals, pamphlets, website print-outs 1991-2001** |
| Box 3 | **Manuals, pamphlets, clippings 1993-2001** |

SERIES II : **Photographs 1988-2003**

**Physical Description:** 3 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consist of photographs depicting ARIS volunteers and events. The subject matter of the photographs represent volunteer training programs and events, community outreach events, local gay and queer celebrations including San José Pride, and AIDS awareness events. Also included in this series is digital media in CD-ROM format featuring digital copies of photographs of ARIS sponsored community events. The majority of the photographs are labeled by year and event, and occassionally identify individuals.

**Arrangement**

This series is loosely arranged by subject matter.

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 4 | **Photographs, slides, negatives 1989-2001** |
| Box 5 | **Photo albums, CD-ROMs 1994-2003** |
| Box 6 | **Photo albums, photographic slides, negatives 1988-2001** |

SERIES III : **Newsletter 1986-2002**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The ARIS newsletter entitled *Pages*, was first published in 1986 which ran until shortly before the organization's dissolution in 2003. *Pages* provided important community updates, information about the organization, local and national trends in AIDS/HIV prevention and assistance, reports on recent events and outreach programs, as well as donation and volunteer opportunities. *Pages* served ARIS clients, volunteers, family members and community members. *Pages* also functioned as the primary publicity arm in soliciting financial donations and volunteers.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically.

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 7 | **Newsletters 1986-1996** |
| Box 8 | **Newsletters 1987-2002** |

SERIES IV : **Media 1986-2000**

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series consist of VHS tapes focused on local ARIS programs as well as national documentaries about AIDS. The content of the VHS collection present stories and documentaries focused on AIDS and its impact, and media coverage of ARIS activities within the Santa Clara County community.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged chronologically by format.

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 9 | **VHS tapes 1986-1990** |
| Box 10 | **VHS tapes 1987-1996** |
| Box 11 | **VHS tapes 1990-2000** |
| Box 12 | **VHS tapes 1996-1997** |

SERIES V : **Ephemera 1987-2001**

**Physical Description:** 6 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The materials in this series consist of community outreach programs, publicity campaigns for AIDS education and prevention, ARIS produced textiles, commendations for ARIS, which comprise the majority of this series, as well as framed and unframed posters used iin various publicity campaigns.

This series includes three-dimensional objects and textiles that document the hands-on activities of ARIS locally and nationally. Interesting textiles in this series include promotional t-shirts produced by ARIS, an American flag that was flown over Capitol Hill in ARIS' name with certificate of authenticity, and banners that were held during ARIS participation in LGBTQ parades. Some banners and poster slogans documenting ARIS participation in a myriad of AIDS-related communities included in this series are "African-American Men against AIDS: Brothers United", "Names Project" and "ARIS: Caring People sharing Lives". Included in this series are a guest sign-in book from ARIS sponsored events as well as a memorial book dating from 2003.

The original donations also included three-dimensional objects, frames, posters, plaques and artwork that have been deaccessioned from this collection. Digital surrogates of these deacessioned materials are located in box 13.

**Arrangement**

This series is loosely arranged by format.

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 13 | **Textiles, framed photograph, commendations, American flag, publicity materials, digital surrogates 1989-2001** |
| Box 14 | **Textiles, printed materials, guestbook 1990-2002** |

| | |
|---|---|
| Box 15 | **Banners n.d.** |
| Box 16 | **Banners n.d.** |
| Box 17 | **Banners n.d.** |
| Box 18 | **Banners n.d.** |