



Bloom **IrisHouse** AHF
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

Dear Friends,



From summer squash to our most informative summit focused on Women as the Face of AIDS, Iris House has strengthened its community and public outreach over the past several months. Our 17th annual Women as the Face of AIDS summit included

advocates, physicians, researchers, medical and mental health professionals, people living with HIV/AIDS and others with the timely theme, Racism: The Hidden Driver of HIV. The summit was a great opportunity to engage in spirited conversation on how racism impacts those who may one day receive an HIV diagnosis and how treatments are delivered to those who do.

Our New York-based weekly fresh markets provided fresh food to approximately 1,500 households each month in some of the most vulnerable communities (Harlem, East Harlem, the South Bronx, Northern Manhattan, and other neighborhoods), serving 4,500 people monthly with a bounty of fresh bananas, blueberries, potatoes, tomatoes, mangos, eggs, chicken, ground beef, and more. Thousands of people in need rely on Iris House to help feed their families.

In addition, in September 2022, Iris House launched a fresh market in Plainfield, NJ holding two to date and attracting 279 community residents, feeding hundreds of vulnerable New Jersey residents and getting many vaccinated again COVID-19 and the flu. The impact of Iris House continues to grow, helping individuals and families in need facing HIV/AIDS along with those related issues, such as Hepatitis, homelessness, and hunger. Our goal, to end the HIV epidemic is within reach.

Finally, I am so proud to be leading Iris House as we begin to celebrate 30 years of saving lives. We will be holding celebratory events throughout 2023 and look forward to your involvement.

Wishing you all a wonderful and healthy fall season. I look forward to sharing more about our 30th anniversary in the coming months.


Ingrid Floyd
Executive Director

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Executive Director, Ingrid Floyd, with some of the hundreds of attendees at the 17th annual Summit

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Become a volunteer with Iris House for your community events and help your neighbors in need.

RAISING OUR VOICES

Advocacy has been a part of Iris House's mission since its inception in 1993. Most recently, in 2021, Iris House established the Advocacy Leadership Project (ALP) dedicated to training, educating, and building a cadre of leaders whose role is to identify gaps in services, develop messaging that is shared with the community and political leaders, and participate in community mobilization events centered on HIV prevention, Housing for All, 340B Program-Carve-Out, Vaccinate Our World, and other social, health, and structural disparities. During the past year, our advocates participated in a four-day in-person training aimed at enhancing their knowledge and skills around the Impact of HIV Stigma and Disclosure, Leadership and Advocacy, Storytelling, and Advocacy and Actions. This training was facilitated by Ribbon Consulting Group, a leading provider of skill-building training and technical assistance, sustainable organizational development, and leadership development services. ALP successfully graduated 11 leaders who participated in various activation days such as AIDS Watch, 340B Program protests, Partner Benefit Manager day in Albany, Vaccinate Our World protests, and Ending the Epidemic Legislative Committee events in NYC. Our staff and clients speak out about and to the most influential individuals to:

- secure fair clinical trials
- reduce drug prices
- ensure women—especially women of color—are strongly represented in various programs and trials of new therapies; and
- prioritize HIV/AIDS issues and funding with policymakers at all levels.

We also take on related issues as they affect people living with HIV/AIDS, those at greatest risk, and people of color. Our advocates continue to be the force behind our work and their voices guide our advocacy actions.



FRESH MARKET - NEW YORK



For nearly three years, Iris House has held a weekly market sharing fresh food, fruit, and vegetables with our community and their families. We provide bananas, blueberries, potatoes, tomatoes, mangos, eggs, chicken, ground beef, and more to approximately 1,500 households each month, serving 4,500 people monthly. One dozen Iris House staff volunteer their time working alongside 8-10 offsite volunteers from Denny Moe's Barber Shop, Temple Emmanuel Church, AIDS Healthcare

Foundation, and others to serve these families in need.

Further, in addition to Iris House in Central Harlem in New York, we also have four to six (depending on the month) other active sites, including in East Harlem and the South Bronx. Thousands of people in need rely on Iris House to help feed their families.

17TH ANNUAL WOMEN AS THE FACE OF AIDS SUMMIT



Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes delivering the opening plenary session

For 17 years, Iris House has convened the Summit, Women as the Face of AIDS. This annual Summit currently attracts approximately 300 people each year representing all areas of the country. While HIV/AIDS was first and has traditionally been viewed as a disease of gay, white, urban men, we know that it has never been that limited. People from every walk of life have experienced HIV/AIDS. For way too many years, women—especially African American and Latina women—have suffered the effects of HIV/AIDS while being denied fair access to clinical trials, cutting-edge treatments, a high level of medical care, desperately needed services, and critical prevention interventions. The most vulnerable populations have suffered more than any other group and for way too long.

Besides sexism and classism, our systems have demonstrated overt ageism and an endemic racism, putting our women, people of color, and black and brown families to the back of the line in accessing critical HIV/AIDS services. Iris House aims to change this through its annual Summit, raising the voices of black and brown women.

At the 17th annual Summit in May 2022, Racism: The Hidden Driver of HIV, we held such sessions as: Toward a Feminist, Anti-Racist HIV Agenda; Risk to Reasons: Reframing HIV Prevention and Care for Black Women; The Invisible Black Women; Then, Now, and What's Next NY (For Black Women Living and Aging with HIV); Developing a Comprehensive Health Program for Women of Transgender Experience at Elevated Risk for HIV; Racial and Ethical Considerations around Breast/Chestfeeding for Women and Other Parents Living with HIV; and many more.



FRESH MARKET - NEW JERSEY



In September 2022, Iris House launched a wildly successful Fresh Market in Plainfield, NJ. Hosting two events to date, we served a total of 279 registered attendees and a few more who came after nearly everything was distributed. Our Food and Nutrition staff managed the food delivery while our community anxiously anticipated the food arrival and waited hours to be served, which demonstrates the desperate need for food in the Plainfield community. Our New Jersey program staff was on site, and the outreach team led the charge, including getting people registered. It was really a team effort!

New Jersey, September 2022



Photos from Iris House's 17th annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit, May 2022



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