

In Full Bloom



Iris House

Iris House opened its doors in 1993 with the goal of providing support services for women of color living with HIV and their families. For 30 years, we have provided exemplary, one-of-a-kind care for these women, their children, the partners in their lives, and the neighborhoods we serve. This includes Harlem, the South Bronx, Union, and Essex counties in New Jersey, and anywhere else in the New York City metro area where we are needed.

It was named for early HIV activist Iris De La Cruz, whose passion for Iris House's mission and her life experience was instrumental in establishing our programs. To fulfill our mission, Iris House offers practical, family-centered services that promote prevention and education while addressing the day-to-day realities of living with HIV/AIDS. Our 30-year history is remarkable.

Thank You

Christopher Atwell, Nathaniel Duru, Ingrid Floyd, Tara Lankford, Marie Mondesir, Jason Osher, Kimberly Richardson, and the many that came before.

CONNECT WITH US!

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A vision realized

In September 1993, Iris House opens its doors in East Harlem. **1993**

The mission deepens

The Iris House client base grows to include more women living with HIV/AIDS and their families. **1994**



Iris de la Cruz
HIV Activist, Visionary



Housing, stability, prevention **1995**

We launch a Scatter Site Housing Program to help clients secure and maintain housing, growing from 20 units in 1995 to 180 units in 2022.



Establishing a legacy **1996**

Iris House launches its Legacy Video Project documenting the stories and struggles behind the organization's creation.

A turning point **1997**

We host the Counterpoint Conference, "Emerging Issues for HIV Services in African American Communities."



Expansion **1998**

Iris House undertakes a capital campaign to acquire and renovate a larger space to accommodate its expanding menu of services.

Addressing diverse needs **2001**

Iris House moves to its new headquarters in Central Harlem.



A global epidemic prompts heightened local action **2002**

We initiate collaborations with more people of color, the LGBTQ community, youth, and those facing such hardships as substance use, homelessness, and others.



Women as the Face of AIDS **2004**

UNAIDS launches *The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS* to demonstrate the epidemic's impact on women and girls.

30th In Full Bloom
Iris House
Anniversary
www.Irishouse.org

Iris House continues the fight locally 2005

Iris House hosts its first *Women as the Face of AIDS* summit.



Our impact deepens 2007

Iris House launches its HIV testing program.



The media takes notice of Iris House 2008

HBO produces and airs a public service announcement highlighting Iris House.

Empowering young people while expanding services 2009-2010

Iris House begins offering services in New Jersey. We also launch *YOU! Young, Outstanding, and Unique*, an outreach program, as well as *Leading Ladies* to educate faith-based organizations and the community about HIV/AIDS.



New, effective tools to prevent HIV transmission 2011

Iris House opens an outreach center in the South Bronx and launches: *Just for Us* to educate women who have sex with women; *PUSH: Pushing Understanding of Sexuality and HIV*; and the *Keep it 100* social media campaign.



Opening a new site in New Jersey and expanding testing 2012

Iris House opens a site offering services in Plainfield, NJ. We expand our services and begin offering testing for Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections.



Getting PrEPped and profiled 2014

Iris House designs and delivers PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) programs. Iris House's Executive Director is chosen to serve on New York State's "Ending the Epidemic" blueprint committee.



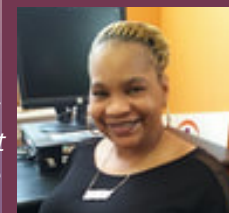
Declining deaths 2017

For the first time, the CDC highlights the decline in HIV/AIDS-related deaths among African Americans. This is seen firsthand at Iris House.



Reaching women where they are 2018-2019

Iris House launches "*Love Your Life*," a national campaign to deliver program support to women at risk. Iris House partners with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation to open an HIV/AIDS clinic in the South Bronx which grows into an affiliate relationship.



The COVID onset 2020

Iris House provides 1,500 households monthly with carry-out lunches in response to the shuttering of other social service agencies during the COVID crisis. We also launch our street side market to provide fresh produce and meat to hundreds weekly.



Training tomorrow's advocates and much more 2021

We launch the Advocacy Leadership Project, dedicated to training, educating, and building a community of leaders. Iris House serves 245,789 meals and opens a new site in Harlem to expand our housing program.



Feeding food - insecure NY and NJ residents 2022

Iris House establishes a fresh market in Plainfield, NJ, feeding hundreds of vulnerable, food - insecure NJ residents providing thousands of meals. We also offer vaccination assistance against COVID. In total, we serve more than 350,000 meals in NY and NJ.



Offering a bright star in a challenging world 2023

In 2023, Iris House, in partnership with AHF, purchased a larger site in Plainfield, NJ to offer medical and pharmacy access services. For 30 years, Iris House has been providing exceptional care for women, their children and the partners in their lives.



Today, Iris House saves and improves lives by delivering comprehensive support, prevention, and education services to women, families, and underserved populations affected by HIV/AIDS and other health disparities in a safe, family-centered environment. We presently serve approximately 7,000 individuals annually.

