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## Amherst Friends for the Homeless Records

1989-2017

2 boxes (0.75 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 1004



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Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. was a corporation committed to operating a shelter for homeless single women and started in 1989. After researching homelessness in the area, the Social Concerns Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Amherst decided that the needs for emergency shelter were not being met in the community of Amherst, Hadley, Pelham, and Shutesbury. To help this problem, Amherst Friends for the Homeless opened Rosemary's Place on December 11, 1989. However, it was shut down after less than two years of operation in 1991 when the Grove Street Inn, a new shelter for men and women, had opened in Northampton. The corporation continued with one event a year, called Shelter Sunday, in which volunteers went door-to-door for donations for the Amherst Survival Center, First Call for Help, Grove Street Inn, and Not Bread Alone. Included in this collection are the documents pertaining to the operations of Amherst Friends for the Homeless, including financial records, meeting minutes, Shelter Sunday records, and Rosemary's Place records. The organization was dissolved in 2017.

### Background on Amherst Friends for the Homeless

Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. was a non-profit organization that was dissolved in 2017. The corporation set out to address homelessness, particularly for single women, in the Amherst area, including Hadley, Leverett, Northampton, Pelham, and Shutesbury. After an investigation done by the Social Concern Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Society in those areas, there was a clear need for emergency shelter for homeless single women. With the efforts of the community, the organization aimed to open this emergency shelter for up to 10 single women by November 1, 1989 for the upcoming winter. Under the direction of the Board of Directors, which was composed of seven members, committees started to fundraise, choosing the shelter site, and operating the shelter. Fundraising efforts included mail solicitations, button sales, Amherst College raffles organized by student, a musical performance, a federal grant, and door-to-door solicitation which occurred on October 22, 1989. Known as "Shelter Sunday," this door-to-door canvass raised \$15,000 of the grand total of \$26,245. Rosemary's Place, the shelter built, opened on December 11, 1989 as a two-bedroom apartment which provided a bed for four women total. After quickly filling those spaces and with a growing waiting list, Rosemary's Place was increased to four bedrooms to give beds to four more women for eight women total. The shelter was open seven days a week with a manager on duty the entire time. Volunteers would do the tasks of daily life, such as cleaning, laundry, and driving. Rosemary's Place eventually shut down in 1991 due to the opening of the Grove Street Inn in Northampton for both men and women. However, the corporation continued operation with Shelter Sunday for one Sunday in

October. The proceeds were then distributed to the Amherst Survival Center, First Call for Help, Grove Street Inn, and Not Bread Alone. About 150 volunteers helped during Shelter Suday between organizing and soliciting. Volunteers came from UMass student organizations, Amherst religious communities, and the Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. Shelter Sunday continued for years and was eventually moved to another local organization in 2014. There was no further use for the Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. corporation and with no set future, it was dissolved in 2017 by the Attorney General voluntarily.

## Scope of collection

This collection includes a variety of the paperwork belonging to the operation of the corporation of Amherst Friends for the Homeless. Membership, by-laws, insurance records, history, financial records, and meeting minutes are contained in this collection. Documents pertaining to Shelter Sunday, such as mailings, materials, distribution, and reports are also included. There are also reports on the operations of Amherst Friends for the Homeless, Inc. and Rosemary's Place. Lastly, there is information about grants requested and given, resource materials, and newspaper clippings.

## Inventory

Amherst Emergency Shelter

1982

Box 1: 1

Articles of Organization

1989-2003

Box 1: 2

Board Membership

1990-2016

Box 1: 3

By-laws

1989-2016

Box 1: 4

Department of Revenue Filing

1989-2017

Box 1: 5

Dissolution of organization

2017

Box 1: 6

Finances

2000-2017

Box 1: 7

Fine Arts Center (UMass)

2009-2013

Box 1: 8

Grants: FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter

1989-1990

Box 1: 9

Grants: Town of Amherst

1990-1991

Box 1: 10

Grants: United Way

1991

Box 1: 11

History

1990-2003

Box 1: 12

Housing needs assessment

1991

Box 1: 13

Insurance

2003

Box 1: 14

Minutes

1989-1990

Box 1: 15

Minutes

1991-1995

Box 1: 16

Minutes

2002-2006

Box 1: 17

Minutes

2007-2009

Box 1: 18

Minutes

2010-2012

Box 1: 19

Minutes

2013-2016

Box 1: 20

Newspaper clippings

1989-1990

Box 1: 21

Personnel policy

1990

Box 1: 22

Resource materials

1986-1991

Box 2: 1

Rosemary's Place

1985-1991

Box 2: 2

Rosemary's Place: Fundraising Committee

1989-1990

Box 2: 3

Rosemary's Place: Grants - Fund for the Hungry and Homeless

1991

Box 2: 4

Rosemary's Place: Grants - Smith S.O.S.

1990

Box 2: 5

Rosemary's Place: Grants - Hope Foundation

1990

Box 2: 6

Rosemary's Place: Operations

1990

Box 2: 7

Shelter Sunday: canvas reports

2000-2013  
Box 2: 8  
Shelter Sunday: Distribution and Application  
2002-2013  
Box 2: 9  
Shelter Sunday: Florence Savings Bank  
2006  
Box 2: 10  
Shelter Sunday: Instructions and Materials  
2004-2009  
Box 2: 11  
Shelter Sunday: Mailings  
2007-2013  
Box 2: 12  
Shelter Sunday: Video  
2009  
Box 2: 13  
Structure  
1990  
Box 2: 14  
Treasurer's Report  
1990  
Box 2: 15

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Aaron Bousel, 2017.

### Processing Information

Processed by Candra Pepper, February 2018.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

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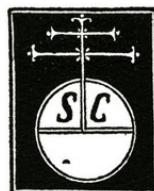
## Search terms

### Subjects

- Amherst (Mass.)
- Shelters for the homeless

### Genres and formats

- Minutes (administrative records)



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