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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 these 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 Sunday 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
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Box 1: 12
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1991
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Box 1: 14
Minutes
1989-1990
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Minutes
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Minutes
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Box 1: 17
Minutes
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Box 1: 18
Minutes
2010-2012
Box 1: 19
Minutes
2013-2016
Box 1: 20
Newspaper clippings
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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

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Cite as: Amherst Friends for the Homeless (MS 1004). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

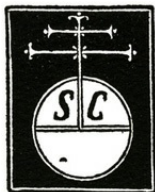
Search terms

Subjects

- Amherst (Mass.)
- Shelters for the homeless

Genres and formats

- Minutes (administrative records)



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