
Guide to the Shanti Project Records

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Guide to the Shanti Project Records

Collection number: MSS 98-48

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Shanti Project records

Dates: 1982-1994

Collection number: MSS 98-48

Creator: Shanti Project

Collection Size: 1 carton

1.25 linear ft

Repository: University of California, San Francisco. Library. Archives and Special Collections.

San Francisco, California 94143-0840

Abstract: This collection contains records relating to the management of the Shanti Project and its programs. This includes materials dating from both before and after the Shanti Project changed its focus from life-threatening illness in general to AIDS exclusively in 1984. Materials range from monthly reports from the program managers to several versions of the Shanti Volunteer Training Manual, showing the programs evolution. There is one folder of information concerning the resignation of Executive Director Jim Geary in 1988.

Physical location: Archives

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Some individual items are restricted.

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Preferred Citation

Shanti Project records. MSS 98-48, Archives & Special Collections, UCSF Library & CKM.

Acquisition Information

The Shanti Project Records were given to the University by Executive Director of the Shanti project in 1998.

Organizational History

The Shanti Project was founded in 1974 by Dr. Charles Garfield, to provide emotional support for people with life-threatening illnesses in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project's focus on one-to-one peer support provided by trained volunteers became a new standard in the care of the terminally ill. The method gained first national and then international attention. In 1979, after a talk in Milan, Italy, Shanti began an international training effort; soon nearly 300 organizations around the world began to employ the Shanti peer support model. The name Shanti was taken from the Sanskrit word for "inner peace" or the "peace that passeth understanding".

In 1981, when the first cases of disease that became known as AIDS first appeared in San Francisco, Shanti added them to their caseload. In 1982 Shanti's board dissolved and reconstituted itself. Jim Geary was elected as their Executive Director, Sam Mills was elected president of the board, and the first paid staff was hired. In this year, Shanti also provided the first ever international trainings on AIDS care (Italy, France & Holland). In 1984 Shanti, recognizing the exponential growth of the AIDS epidemic, changed its mission from serving individuals with any terminal illness to providing services solely for those with AIDS and their loved ones. Shanti quickly became a leader and key component in San Francisco's community-based response to AIDS. New programs were created and existing programs were changed to fit the needs expressed by people with AIDS (PWAs): to assist them with leading productive and independent lives, out of hospitals and in their communities, and reducing their cost for care. Besides the peer counseling and practical assistance (housecleaning, childcare, shopping, cooking, and errands), Shanti services expanded over the following years to provide transportation, recreational and social activities, and caregiver support. Shanti also developed the first non-hospital residence facilities for displaced people with AIDS; by 1988 there are 12 residences housing 47 PWAs.

1988 brought crisis to the Shanti Project with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission investigating charges against executive director Jim Geary who was forced to resign. After a nationwide search, Eric Rofes was hired as the new executive director and reorganized the agency. Shanti project was cleared of all charges in 1989.

1989 also brought a widening of focus. Shanti opened its first AIDS residence for families with children and began a two-year agency-wide Multicultural Plan. The first practical support training for the deaf and hard of hearing was held in 1990. That same year, in collaboration with the Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice, Shanti opened a home for PWAs who need 24 hour care. 1991 brought the influx of federal monies from the Ryan White CARE Bill and the Crossings program, which focused on the "historically underserved" in the Tenderloin, Mission, and South of Market areas of the city - reaching out to women, children, people of color, poor, homeless, injection and other drug users, transvestites and transgender people.

1993 brought another leadership and public relations crisis when an annual review found discrepancies in the use of government funds in the housing program. Executive director Eric Rofes and deputy director Melinda Paras resign. Paul Lambros served as interim executive director until August. At that time Dough Holloway and Tim Wolfred assumed the direction of day to day activities until Gloria Sanodval was appointed Shanti executive director. After being barred for a year from receiving direct federal funding, their January 1994 audit showed no misuse of funds and their federal status was reinstated. The housing program was transferred to another agency, but all other contracts were extended. In 1994 Shanti joined with the AIDS Health Project and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in a new formal collaboration, streamlining intake and access to services provided by all three agencies.

Between 1974 and 1994 Shanti trained over 7000 volunteers who provided over 2 million hours of peer counseling and practical assistance. Dr. Garfield remained active with Shanti and, in 1994, presented the Shanti model to 1,400 executive directors and training coordinators of AIDS agencies at the "Skills Building" conference in New Orleans, the largest such conference ever held.

Shanti Project remains committed to functioning as a multicultural organization by providing services for people of all racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and cultural backgrounds affected by HIV disease, with sensitivity to preserving the rights and dignity of its clients and the HIV-affected community at large.

As of 1994, they also ran an Activities Program, which included social, recreational and cultural opportunities for men, women, and children with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco. Events provided a space for participants to make friends with others who are dealing with similar issues, to enjoy activities they might not normally be able to afford, and to discover and explore new interests. It included: free tickets to arts, sports performance and educational events; social events such as parties, picnics, bus trips, classes, outings; a newsletter listing events; and volunteers - mostly HIV positive who help make the programs work; and a telephone events line.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection contains records relating to the management of the Shanti Project and its programs. This includes materials dating from both before and after the Shanti Project changed its focus from life-threatening illness in general to AIDS exclusively, in 1984. Materials range from monthly reports from the program managers to several versions of the Shanti Volunteer Training Manual, showing the program's evolution. Most of the materials cover the post 1984 period, though there are a few earlier items. Of particular note is the volunteer training manual from the early 1980's that does not include AIDS terminology, and the first addenda material which introduces AIDS terminology. There is one open folder of information concerning the resignation of Executive Director Jim Geary in 1988, consisting mainly of letters of support. One folder (1:29) of mixed Personnel information is Restricted. The 1989 financial report that cleared the institution can be found immediately following the monthly report files. Flyers, brochures and unidentified slides are also included in the collection.

A large number of Shanti related videotapes - produced by and/or about Shanti, can be found in MSS2000-32, AIDS History Project Audio/Video Collection.

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)

AIDS (Disease) Social Aspects California San Francisco Bay Area

AIDS (Disease) Patients Services for Terminal Care

Shanti Project (San Francisco, Calif.)

Garfield, Charles A.

Geary, James

box:folder 1:1	Representatives on Boards, Committees and Task Forces 1990
box:folder 1:2-1:9	Monthly Reports
box:folder 1:2	April-August 1989
box:folder 1:3	September-December 1989
box:folder 1:4	January-April 1990
box:folder 1:5	May-November 1990
box:folder 1:6	July-December 1991
box:folder 1:7	January-June 1992
box:folder 1:8	July-December 1992
box:folder 1:9	January-February 1993
box:folder 1:10	Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for 1989 & 1988 [Exhibit C] 1989
box:folder 1:11	Funding Proposal for Housing Service May 1991-April 1992
box:folder 1:12	Latino Training and other materials 1988
box:folder 1:13	Multicultural Plan 1990-1991
box:folder 1:14-19	Volunteer Training
box:folder 1:14	Pre-AIDS Training Manual ca. 1982
box:folder 1:15	Additional Handouts from Volunteer Trainings 1983-1984
box:folder 1:16	Shanti Project Volunteer Counselor Training Manual ca. 1985
box:folder 1:17	Emotional Support Volunteer Manual 1991
box:folder 1:18	Practical Support Volunteer Manual 1991
box:folder 1:19	Miscellaneous Training Material 1984-1989
box:folder 1:20	Physicians Inservice - Ukiah ["Master Copy Do Not Distribute"] n.d.
box:folder 1:21-22	Shanti AIDS Residence Program
box:folder 1:21	Policies and Procedures 1986
box:folder 1:22	Resident's Manual 1986
box:folder 1:23	Jim Geary Controversy - Responses 1988
box:folder 1:24	Information Packet 1987
box:folder 1:25	Shanti Pamphlets 1983-1987
box:folder 1:26	AIDS Interfaith Network Pamphlets n.d.
box:folder 1:27	Newsletters, flyers, and other materials 1982-1991 n.d.
box:folder 1:28	Slides and Negatives 1983
box:folder 1:29	RESTRICTED - Personnel-Related Item - RESTRICTED 1988

The Shanti Project was founded in 1974 by Dr. Charles Garfield, to provide emotional support for people with life-threatening illnesses in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project's focus on one-to-one peer support provided by trained volunteers became a new standard in the care of the terminally ill. The method gained first national and then international attention. This collection contains records relating to the management of the Shanti Project and its programs. This includes materials dating from both before and after the Shanti Project changed its focus from life-threatening illness in general to AIDS exclusively in 1984. Call number: MSS 98-48 View collection guide. Guide to the Shanti Project Records MSS 98-48. Julia Bazar University of California, San Francisco Archives & Special Collections © 2006 530 Parnassus Ave Room 524 San Francisco, CA 94143-0840 libraryarchives@ucsf.edu URL: <http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collections/archives>. Guide to the Shanti Project Records MSS 98-48. MSS 98-48. 1. Contributing Institution: University of California, San Francisco Archives & Special Collections Title: Shanti Project records Creator: Shanti Project Identifier/Call Number: MSS 98-48 Physical Description: 1 carton 1.25 Date (inclusive): 1982-1994 Abstract: This col... Badman Recording Co. "BRJD 053. Series : Shanti Project Collection" 1. Format : CD , Compilation. Country : US. Released : 1999. Notes. "A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this CD will benefit Shanti Project of SF." (p)(c) 1999 Badman Recording Co. [on back cover] (c)(p) 1999 Badman Recording Co. [on disc face]. Barcode and Other Identifiers. Barcode : 702044005323. Mastering SID Code : IFPI L871. Mould SID Code : IFPI 8171. Matrix / Runout : AD/CA 35185 1 7 <8158> MRT346. The story of Shanti Bhavan and its children is hard to encapsulate, even in a work as ambitious as Daughters of Destiny. Condensing 20 years into four hours is tricky! In our experience, viewers often have questions after, and that's what this Viewer's Guide is for. We've listened to the questions that have been asked, and tried to anticipate those that haven't, and provided you with the best answers possible. If you find after reading what's here that you want even more information, check out Glamour's recent interview with Ajit George, Director of Operations; it's one of the best pieces to date about the work and history of Shanti Bhavan. (www.glamour.com/story/daughters-of-destiny-netflix-poverty). Also, feel free to share any of this information with friends and family! Shanti Project reduces isolation and improves lives by providing compassionate care, community, and connection to San Franciscans in great need of support as they face challenges such as illness, disability, and aging. More great content on our Shanti Voices Blog! Don't miss the latest and greatest stories, bios, and news found in our blog articles. Dive Into the Blog.