Bloom

IrisHouse

A Fall 2026 Newsletter of Iris House | www.irishouse.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we continue another exciting year at Iris House, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community that stands beside us. Because of your continued support, we are expanding opportunities for health, hope, and connection throughout New York and New Jersey. Every day, Iris House provides HIV prevention, housing support, nutrition services, emotional wellness programs, and community resources that help individuals and families live healthier lives.

In this issue of Bloom, we celebrate the people, programs, and partnerships that continue to move our mission forward. We recognize the leadership of Ofelia Barrios as she celebrated 15 years of dedicated service, reflect on another successful Women as the Face of AIDS Summit, share the exciting relaunch of our Love Your Life campaign, and highlight the continued growth of our Members Only 50+ Club.
As we prepare for an exciting fall and winter, we invite you to stay connected. Look for details on the Women as the FACE of AIDS Summit – Special "Dandelion Edition", and updates on what Iris House is doing in the community and beyond! Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us build healthier communities every day.

WITH HEARFELIT APPRECIATION,

Ingrid Floyd
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELLNESS CORNER:

As the seasons change, small steps can help support your physical and mental well-being. Iris House offers programs and resources to help our community stay healthy, active and connected year-round.

1. Eat Well

Good nutrition supports energy and overall health. Iris House Fresh Markets provides access to fresh produce and nutritious foods for individuals and families.

2. Keep Moving

Regular activity benefits both body and mind. Get moving with Uptown Bounce, our community dance class, as well as our Virtual Exercise, powered by Giant Thinking Company, 3 times a month. Look for our monthly calendar for dates and times.

3. Stay Connected

Connection matters. Love Your Life, our national virtual support group, offers encouragement and empowerment, while our 50+ Members Only Club promotes camaraderie, socialization and educational activities.

4. Stay on Top of Your Health

Prevention is part of wellness. Iris House connects the community to health education, screenings, medical providers, pharmacy services, and ongoing care. We also provide confidential HIV testing and prevention education–because knowing your status is an important step in protecting your health.

Building Health. Inspiring Hope. Strengthening Community

MID - YEAR RECAP 2026:
A Season of Celebration & Community Service

This spring reflected the power of community, leadership, and partnership. Iris House proudly celebrated Ofelia Barrios for 15 years of service. Iris House Spring fundraiser – A Quinceañera of Service, recognized our Sr. Director of Community Health Initiatives and the amazing work Iris House has done in the communities we serve. The beautiful night of culture & comradery to raise funds and awareness for the communities Iris House serves. Friends, colleagues, and community partners gathered to celebrate a career and agency dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to compassionate care, education, and support.

Building on that momentum, Iris House welcomed more than 175 healthcare professionals, advocates, researchers, policymakers, community leaders, and individuals with lived experience to the 21st Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit.

Through engaging panel discussions, wellness experiences, and collaborative learning, participants explored innovative approaches to Ending the HIV Epidemic while strengthening partnerships across the region.

Due to overwhelming positive feedback on this year's theme "Bridging Generations in HIV Health", a special edition for this year's summit was born! We're excited to announce the **Women as the Face of AIDS Summit - Bridging Generations in HIV Health", – The Dandelions Edition**, taking place on **Thursday, December 10, 2026,** at CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy in recognition of World AIDS Day 2026.

Named in honor of Dandelions—individuals who have lived with HIV since birth—this first-of-its-kind national convening will elevate their voices while bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, advocates, and community leaders to help shape the future of HIV prevention, treatment, research, and long-term care.

We are deeply grateful to our generous sponsors and supporters. Your partnership allows Iris House to remain present where we are needed most—providing essential services, meaningful resources, and compassionate support to our communities. We hope you will continue standing with us as we carry this important work forward.

Relive the Moments—and Find Your Photo!
Scan the QR code to explore highlights from Iris House events and see if you can spot yourself!

LOVEYOURLIFE.ORG

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.
REAL EMPOWERMENT.

YOUR HEALTH. YOUR CHOICE. YOUR POWER.

Originally launched by Iris House to promote healthier living and emotional well-being, Love Your Life (LYL) has been thoughtfully refreshed for a new generation.

Today, the campaign serves as the umbrella for both the Love Your Life and Women of Color (WOC) Support Groups, creating one unified national virtual emotional wellness campaign focused on connection, healing, empowerment, and community.

Through engaging conversations, peer support, education, and shared experiences, participants from across the country are building meaningful relationships while reducing isolation and strengthening emotional wellness.

Whether you're seeking encouragement, connection, or a safe place to grow, Love Your Life welcomes you.

Visit www.loveyourlife.org to learn more about Love Your Life and join an upcoming virtual session.

Bloom NEWSLETTER

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MEMBERS ONLY 50+ CLUB: *LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER.*

Healthy aging is about friendship, purpose, and connection. In New York, 57% of people living with diagnosed HIV are age 50 or older, while 1 in 4 adults age 65 and older is socially isolated—a serious risk to physical and mental health.

The Members Only 50+ Club brings adults together through workshops, wellness activities, outings, celebrations, and fellowship. Whether renewing or joining for the first time, there's always room at the table.
Adults 50 and older can email vnuma@irishouse.org or call 646-548-0100, ext. 246.

COMMUNITY, ADVOCACY & VISIBILITY: IRIS HOUSE IN ACTION

Iris House proudly represented at USCHA 2026, presenting an iPoster on addressing social determinants of health and a workshop highlighting our Build Up LGBTQ+ Care Model. Back home in Harlem, members of our Client Advisory Group (CAG) and Client Advisory Board (CAB) proudly marched in the 2026 African American Day Parade. Together, these moments reflect Iris House's commitment to elevating community voices, advancing health equity, and showing up wherever advocacy and visibility matter.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Join us at upcoming Iris House events and support our work by donating or volunteering!

November 18–20

Iris House will distribute free turkeys, chickens, and pantry bags to community members for the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 24

Thanksgiving Luncheon on Tuesday, November 24. Contact Iris House to learn how you can participate.

December 10

Women as the Face of AIDS Summit – THE DANDELIONS EDITION In recognition of World Aids Day.

STAY CONNECTED TO IRIS HOUSE!

WEBSITE: www.irishouse.org
FACEBOOK: iris.house
INSTAGRAM: irishouseinc
INSTAGRAM: irishouseincnj

IrisHouse

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WAYS TO SUPPORT IRIS HOUSE AND OUR COMMUNITY:

Every Gift Makes a Difference

Every act of generosity helps Iris House provide life-changing programs and services for individuals and families throughout New York and New Jersey.

- **Donate** to support HIV prevention, housing, nutrition, and emotional wellness programs.
- **Volunteer** at community events, Fresh Markets, and outreach initiatives.
- **Attend** an Iris House fundraiser or educational program.
- **Become a Sponsor or Community Partner** to help expand our impact.
- **Share Our Mission** by following Iris House on social media, providing feedback on Google, and encouraging others to get involved.

Visit our website www.irishouse.org for further details on donating or volunteering.

Support the Community Closet | Iris House Plainfield NJ

One meaningful way to give back is to support the Iris House Community Closet at our Plainfield site – 209 West 8th Street, Plainfield, NJ - which provides free clothing, hygiene products, and household essentials to clients experiencing financial hardship or housing instability.

As we move through the seasons, our inventory has become limited, and we welcome donations of new or gently used seasonal clothing, women's and men's toiletries, and everyday essentials to help restock our shelves.
Prefer to shop online? Visit our Amazon Wish List to purchase much-needed items that can be shipped directly to Iris House.

Amazon Wish List | Scan to Shop & Support!

Please note: We accept seasonal clothing and essential household items only. At this time we're collecting fall/winter clothing and essentials. We are not able to accept furniture, stuffed animals, or other non-seasonal items.