

## **LGBT-038 Joy Ufema Counsel Collection**

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project  
Archives and Special Collections  
Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA  
[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu) 717-245-1399

### **COLLECTION REGISTER**

Name: Ufema Counsel, Joy **LGBT-038**

Material: Papers (1991-1995)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 document box, 1 artifact, 1 scrapbook box, 14 oversized folders)

Donation: Donated by Joy Ufema Counsel, 2018

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

Processor: Sarah Wakefield, December 2020

Support: Funding to process this collection was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Joy (Ufema) Counsel was raised in Altoona, Pennsylvania. After completing high school, (Ufema) Counsel began studying to become a nurse at the Altoona Hospital, and later completed a nursing program at Harrisburg Area Community College. She worked in numerous hospitals and medical facilities in New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Throughout her career as a nurse, (Ufema) Counsel developed an affinity for caring for patients who were terminally ill. Her work in the area of death and dying received considerable media attention. As a result, she was interviewed on *60 Minutes*, a TV movie titled *A Matter of Life and Death* (1981) was made about her work, she authored numerous publications, and she participated in many speaking engagements across the country.

Searching for direction after facing a roadblock in her career, (Ufema) Counsel decided to use her experience in hospice care to alleviate the suffering she had witnessed in the AIDS crisis. After proposing the idea to the mayor of York, PA, (Ufema) Counsel bought an old brownstone for one dollar and began renovations. In 1991, York Hospice House was born.

Counsel used her expertise in death and dying to design the home based on a philosophy of extreme attention to detail. She wanted to create “a tone in this hospice of love and acceptance and peace.” The comforts of home, including a chef to prepare meals around the clock, a house cat, and

elaborate decorations at Christmas time distinguished York House from its more clinical counterparts. (Ufema) Counsel created a space where the stigma around AIDs could be challenged and no patient would die alone.

Counsel's primary issues were financial: The House required around \$3000 per month to pay its staff and purchase supplies. A variety of fundraising efforts helped sustain the non-profit, including raffles for items donated by supportive local organizations and companies. As anti-retroviral medications became more widely used, Ufema Counsel choose to close the House for lack of new patients. From 1991-1995, the York House provided care to 95 dying AIDS patients.

Ufema still lives in Central PA today.

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection is organized into five series: Scrapbook, Newspaper Clippings, Posters, Photographs, and Artifacts.

The Scrapbook series is a scrapbook put together by Ufema Counsel herself. In the scrapbook are newspaper clippings and promotional materials related to the establishment, running, and fundraising efforts for the York Hospice House. The Newspaper clippings series contains clippings that are focused on the York Hospice House as well. The Poster series contains two posters that are examples of fundraising efforts made by Ufema Counsel to raise money the York Hospice House, and the Artifacts series contains a plaque given to the York Hospice House for its community service.

The Photographs series contains small and large prints taken by photographer Jack Radcliffe. Radcliffe captured these images of York House Hospice as part of "Hospice: A Photographic Inquiry," a unique collaboration between the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the National Hospice Organization to raise awareness for end-of-life care.

## COLLECTION INVENTORY

### Series 1 Scrapbook

Page 01 Blank

Page 02 "Hospice for AIDS patients," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 16, 1991

Page 03 "City may give building for AIDS hospice," *York Daily Record* – Sep. 14, 1991  
"Building donated for AIDS hospice," *York Daily Record* – Sep. 18, 1991

Page 04 "Nurse brings energy to hospice (part 1)," *The York Dispatch* – Sep. 19, 1991

Page 05 "Nurse brings energy to hospice (part 2)," *The York Dispatch* – Sep. 19, 1991

Page 06 "An inside look," *York Daily Record* – Sep. 27, 1991

"AIDS hospice gets home: City council makes gift," – Sep. 18, 1991

Page 07 Copy of donation request for York House Hospice - undated

Page 08 "Art students design comfort for the dying (part 2)" *The York Dispatch* – Nov. 4, 1991

Page 09 "Art students design comfort for the dying (part 2)" *The York Dispatch* – Nov. 4, 1991

Page 10 "For their dying days"– *York Daily Record* – Dec. 16, 1991

Page 11 York Hospice House Flyer – circa 1991

Page 12 "York pours its heart into Hospice (part 1)," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 13, 1991

**Series 1 Scrapbook (cont.)**

- Page 13 "York pours its heart into Hospice (part 2)," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 13, 1991
- Page 14 "York pours its heart into Hospice (pictures)," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 13, 1991
- Page 15 "York pours its heart into Hospice (pictures)," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 13, 1991
- Page 16 "AIDS hospice to be home till the end," *York Daily Record* – Dec 16, 1991
- Page 17 York Hospice House Open House and Dedication Invitation – Dec. 15, 1991
- Page 18 "Arrival of first AIDS patient brings York hospice to life (part 1)," *York Daily Record* – Jan. 10, 1992
- Page 19 "Arrival of first AIDS patient brings York hospice to life (part 2)," *York Daily Record* – Jan. 10, 1992
- Page 20 "AIDS hospice is fighting its own battle to survive," *York Sunday News* – Feb. 16, 1992
- Page 21 "Audience digs deep, helps hospice pay staff," *York Daily Record* – Feb 12, 1992
- Page 22 "For many AIDS patients, no place is home," *York Sunday News* – Feb. 16, 1992
- Page 23 "Family finds comfort as relative with AIDS dies," *York Daily Record* – Feb. 17, 1992
- Page 24 "Rotary Club of York Donations," *Community Courier* – Jun. 24, 1992
- Page 25 "Rotary Club Honors Two," – undated
- Page 26 "Quota Club Provides Computer Equipment," – undated
- Page 27 "Budget cuts into AIDS testing," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 17, 1992
- Page 28 "York House: A place where final wishes are everything," – *The Evening Sun* (Hanover, PA) – Dec. 12, 1992
- Page 29 Envelope and Letter from Kathy Mattea to Jo Ufema – Nov. 32, 1992
- Page 30 "Crossing Over (part 1)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 31 "Crossing Over (part 2)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 32 "Crossing Over (part 3)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 33 "Crossing Over (part 4)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 34 "Crossing Over (part 5)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 35 "Crossing Over (part 6)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 36 "Crossing Over (part 7)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 37 "Crossing Over (part 8)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 38 "Crossing Over (part 9)," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 24, 1992
- Page 39 "Hospice head at Law Day lunch," *The York Dispatch*– Apr. 27, 1993
- "School Roundup," *The York Dispatch* – Feb.1, 1993
- "Yorkers to appear on 'Donahue' show," *York Daily Record* – Feb. 2, 1993
- Page 40 "Born to Die," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 41 "Born to Die," Picture of Menelik "Boo Boo" Griffin, *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 42 "Born to Die (part 1)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 43 "Born to Die (part 2)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 44 "Born to Die (part 3)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 45 "Born to Die (part 4)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 46 "Born to Die (part 5)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 47 "Born to Die (part 6)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 48 "Born to Die (part 7)," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993
- Page 49 "BORN TO DIE: AIDS claims little Boo Boo," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 25, 1993

LGBT-038 Ufema Counsel, Joy (cont.)

**Series 1 Scrapbook (cont.)**

- Page 50 "Hospice Unites People of All Faiths," *ON* – Jun. 16, 1993
- Page 51 "Providing shelter for the ill," *York Daily Record* – Jun. 12, 1993
- Page 52 "Different drums beat together on United Day (part 1)," *York Daily Record* – Jun. 28, 1993
- Page 53 "Different drums beat together on United Day (part 2)," *York Daily Record* – Jun. 28, 1993
- Page 54 "Quilt may help AIDS hospice," *The York Dispatch* – Apr. 22, 1994  
"Policy on gays is too little, too late," *The York Dispatch* – Jul. 22, 1993
- Page 55 "Fund-raiser gives hope to hospice," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 22, 1993
- Page 56 "York House raffle nets \$20,000," *The York Dispatch* – Jul. 22, 1993  
"Wish list for York House," *The York Dispatch* – Jul. 22, 1993
- Page 57 "Generosity stuns staff," *The York Dispatch* – Jul. 22, 1993
- Page 58 "Your brother's keeper (part 1)," *Patriot News (Harrisburg, PA)* – Sep. 19, 1993
- Page 59 "Your brother's keeper (part 2)," *Patriot News (Harrisburg, PA)* – Sep. 19, 1993
- Page 60 "Help for Hospice," *York Daily Record* – Aug. 12, 1993  
"Haircuts, jewelry raffle will benefit York Hospice," *York Sunday News* – Oct. 10, 1993  
"Fight Against AIDS," *The York Dispatch* – Nov. 30, 1993
- Page 61 "Brian T. Bubb: New York City," *York Sunday News* – Jul. 11, 1993  
"Faiths unite to help AIDS victims," *York Daily* – May 20, 1993  
"Benefit backer found," *The York Dispatch* – Jul. 27, 1993
- Page 62 "Concert to help AIDS patients," *York Sunday News* – Oct. 10, 1993
- Page 63 "Let's count our riches, blessings," *York Sunday News* – Jul. 25, 1993
- Page 64 "Awards," *York Daily Record* – Nov. 7, 1992
- Page 65 "Mother's 2<sup>nd</sup> 'hell': waiting to see if baby has HIV," *York Daily Record* – Dec. 12, 1991
- Page 66 "Song for a hospice (part 1)," *York Sunday News* – Jul. 18, 1993
- Page 67 "Song for a hospice (part 2)," *York Sunday News* – Jul. 18, 1993
- Page 68 "Guardian Angels (part 1)," *The York Dispatch* – Mar. 30, 1993
- Page 69 "Guardian Angels (part 2)," *The York Dispatch* – Mar. 30, 1993
- Page 70 "York House Hospice seeks caring employees," *York Daily Record* – Nov. 8, 1991
- Page 71 "There's no 'right' way to grieve," *York Daily Record* – Jan. 2, 1992
- Page 72 "Patient leaves Hospice staff with special memories," *York Daily Record* – Aug. 14, 1992
- Page 73 "A Spanish angel will always watch over hospice," *York Daily Record* – Apr. 30, 1992
- Page 74 "York House Hospice needs support of community," *York Daily Record* – Jan. 27, 1992  
"Hospice great effort," *York Daily Record* – Feb. 5, 1992
- Page 75 "Expressions of sympathy help others deal with grief," *York Daily Record* – Jan. 10, 1992

**Series 2 Newspaper Clippings**

- 2.01 Picture of York Hospice Volunteers taking donations, *York Sunday News* – Sep. 20, 1992
- 2.02 Proofs of Menelik "Boo Boo" Griffin for "Born to Die" article, *York Sunday News* – Apr. 11, 1993

LGBT-038 Ufema Counsel, Joy (cont.)

**Series 2 Newspaper Clippings (cont.)**

- 2.03 "Born to Die: AIDS claims little Boo Boo," *York Sunday News* – Apr. 25, 1993 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.04 "Her's is a life devoted to the dying," *York Sunday New* – Jun. 20, 1993
- 2.05 "Song for a hospice," *York Sunday News* – Jul. 18, 1993 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.06 "Your brother's keeper," *Sunday Patriot-News* (Harrisburg, PA) – Sep. 19, 1993 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.07 "Concert to help AIDS patients," *York Sunday News* – Oct. 10, 1993 (see oversized OBS)
- 2.08 "'Proof Positive' captures a good life, despite HIV," *The Baltimore Sun* – Dec. 11, 1993
- 2.09 "Thank you, York County," *York Sunday News* – Dec. 19, 1993
- 2.10 "AIDS quilt sews together love, pain," *York Daily Record* – Apr. 25, 1994 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.11 "Quilt visit kept AIDS awareness alive," *York Sunday News* – May 29, 1994
- 2.12 "Red Lion's approval of punk concert is music to teens' ears," *York Daily Record* – Jun. 9, 1994
- 2.13 "Root for the umps?" *York Daily Record* – Jul. 6, 1994
- 2.14 "Doctors draw no blood from lawyers in benefit," *York Daily Record* – Jul. 18, 1994
- 2.15 "Lawyers 8, Doctors 6," *The York Dispatch* – Jul 18, 1994
- 2.16 "Every one minute two women are infected with HIV worldwide," *York Daily Record* – Oct. 1, 1994
- 2.17 "You don't have to be gay to have AIDS," *York Sunday News* – Oct. 9, 1994
- 2.18 "These are not ogres," *The York Dispatch* – Oct. 25, 1994 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.19 "Anonymous donor saves AIDS hospice," *Philadelphia Inquirer* – Apr. 8, 1995
- 2.20 "Women celebrate YWCA Day of Peace," *York Daily Record* – May 25, 1995
- 2.21 "WAMs given to York Hospice didn't buy any votes," *The York Dispatch* – Jun. 26, 1995
- 2.22 "Eaken Trio sings for good cause," *York Sunday News* – Aug. 27, 1995
- 2.23 Picture of Menelik 'Boo Boo' Griffin by Jack Radcliffe, *York Daily Record* – Sep. 18, 1995 (see oversized OBL)
- 2.24 "York House Hospice will benefit from beautiful music," *The York Dispatch* – Oct. 12, 1995
- 2.25 "Churches Observe AIDS Awareness Sunday," *The Link* (York District), pg. 9 – Nov. 1995 (see oversized OBS)
- 2.26 "Boo Boo's mom dies," *York Sunday News* – Nov. 12, 1995

**Series 3 Posters**

- 3.01 First Annual Softball Challenge - Jul. 17, 1994
- 3.02 Win this 1980 MG – Sep. 16, 1995 (see oversized OBS)

**Series 4 Photographs**

- 4.01 "Nurse Mimi with patient Shiela" – Jul. 14, 1992 (see oversized OBL)
- 4.02 "Father Carter blessing Boo Boo" – Mar. 26, 1993 (see oversized OBL)
- 4.03 "Boo Book with Lou – his mom who also dies with us" – Apr. 2, 1993 (see oversized OBL)

LGBT-038 Ufema Counsel, Joy (cont.)

**Series 4 Photographs (cont.)**

4.04 "Nurse Carolyn with Randy" – 1993

4.05 "Frank and Larry" – Nov. 4, 1994

4.06 "Dear Mary – stole out hearts" – Dec. 16, 1994 (see oversized OBL)

4.07 "Steve – best waiter in Lancaster" – circa 1994

4.08 "Nurse Carolyn – fully present" – circa 1994 (see oversized OBL)

**Series 5 Artifact**

LGBT-038-AC01 York County Council of Churches Community Service Award –  
Sep. 1992