



GAAP
Gainesville Area AIDS Project, Inc.

Abby Goldsmith, Long-Time GAAP Volunteer and Advocate Passes Away



To say Abby was just a volunteer and advocate here at GAAP would be a huge understatement. Abby was critical to our operations. She was our Secretary, a mentor to board members, an advocate on behalf of our clients, a former nurse caregiver to many of our clients, a logical voice of reason to debates and so much more.

Abby passed away on April 27, 2015 at home surrounded by her precious family and friends. Abby was involved in activism her whole life. She worked for the benefit of the community she loved. She was a founding member of the Rape Information and Counseling Services which evolved into

(continued on page 3)

GAAP Board

- Tige Harrison, President
- Abby Goldsmith, Secretary
- Terry Fleming, Treasurer
- Sidney Curtis
- Leslie Howell
- Kim Howland
- Chaz Fiumara
- Freddie Williams

TREE Coordinator Leslie Howell
Clerk Naomi Givens
Newsletter Editor Tige Harrison

Calendar of Events

Lunch

Tuesdays

10:30 am — 1:00 pm

Lunch is served at noon

Join us for our SPECIAL LUNCH:

“Fried Chicken Friday” Tuesday

Last Tuesday of each month

Lunch served at noon

TREE Distribution

Tuesdays 11:00am—1:00pm

3rd Saturday of month—9am-11am

Board Meetings

Third Tuesday of each month

1:30 pm—3:00pm

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 5554
Gainesville, FL 32627

Physical Address:

Liberty Center office complex
3131 NW 13th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone:

352-373-4227

Email:

info@gaaponline.org

Website:

www.gaaponline.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GAAPonline

DONATIONS

Donations may be made by
PayPal.

Visit our website for the link.

www.gaaponline.org

OR

Mail your donation to:

PO Box 5554

Gainesville, FL 32627

Abby Goldsmith (continued from Page 1)...

Sexual and Physical Resource Center and what we know now as Peaceful Paths, a wonderful organization! She continued her involvement and leadership with organizations too numerous to inclusively list. Some notable organizations she supported and worked on behalf of include:

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
North Central Florida AIDS Network (NCFAN)
Pride Community Center of North Central Florida (PCCNCF)
National Organization for Women (NOW)
Human Rights Council of North Central Florida (HRCNCF)
Civic Media Center (CMC)
Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP)
Stonewall Democrats
Humanist Society
Gainesville Women's Health Center
Helping Hands Clinic

Her commitment to GAAP was strong and valued immensely. Her absence from all the fine organizations listed here will be felt.

When Abby felt compelled for a cause, she went to work. She was a super strong advocate for women's rights and women's reproductive rights. She worked closely with the local Democratic Party, re-energizing it and radicalizing it. Abby was not scared of radicalization. She participated in local elections seeking out candidates that matched her and the Democratic Party's beliefs.

In the realm of HIV/AIDS, Abby worked as a nurse for the Alachua County Health Department in the HIV Clinic and Healthy Start program. This is how she became so well known to GAAP's long-term clients. When clients came to

(continued on page 4)

Abby Goldsmith (continued from Page 3)...

GAAP and saw Abby, they saw a sweet face and kind person they remembered from their early years of HIV treatment. They witnessed Abby caring for them and also caring for their friends who didn't survive but had Abby by their side till the end. She also worked for decades on the eventual passage of the Human Rights Ordinance in both the city and county, which was an important cause to many of our clients.

Abby was well known for her unflagging energy, her outrage at social injustice, her fearlessness in speaking truth to power, her commitment to civic action and her joy in living. Her children brought her immense joy and she was so proud of them! She loved hiking, camping, traveling, opera, movies, birds, baseball, family reunions, folk festivals and reading. She was a warm and loving person known for always smiling (as you see on page 1) and she was earthy, nurturing, understanding and generous. You can see how generous Abby was as evidenced by her support of so many great groups.

Abby passed away of lung cancer. The length of time was unfairly short from the date of diagnosis to the date her death. Only 10 days elapsed, however, her wish to die at home was granted. Abby was generous upon death as well. She donated her body to the State Anatomical Board for use by medical students.

April 28, 2015 was declared "Abby Goldsmith Day" by the Alachua County Commission. The intention was for Abby to watch the proclamation be read from home on television but she died the previous day. She knew the event would take place and was honored by that. See page 6 for copy of proclamation which I will make as legible as possible for viewing.

We miss her so much here at GAAP. We thank Abby for remembering us upon her death whereupon she asked her family and friends to support us, which they have done. Financially, we rely solely on the generosity of private donors, churches and local businesses. But operationally, we rely solely on the likes of Abby. She was vital to our operations and her absence is felt.

TREE is one of our vital programs that provides laundry detergent, bleach, toilet paper, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, bar soap, tooth brushes, dish soap and household cleaners to our clients on a monthly basis at no cost to our clients.

We Have a Site Available for Donation Drop-Off:



Pride Center
(Liberty Center complex)
3131 NW 13 Street
Mon-Fri, 3pm-7pm
Saturday 12pm-4pm

*****Will you please swing by one of these locations next time you're in the area and drop off an item or two for our TREE program?*****

Yard Sale Donations

Next sale to be held as soon as our weather cools off!

GAAP holds a yard sale from time to time as part of our fundraising efforts. If you have items that you wish to donate to our sale, please email us at tyharr@hotmail.com or leave a message at (352) 373-4227. You may bring your donation to our storage garage or we will happily make arrangements to pick up your donations.

Abby Goldsmith Day Proclamation

I am so sorry that this copy may not be legible once the final printing of this newsletter is prepared. It was important to me to include it nonetheless. Please visit our website (www.gaaponline.org) to view this newsletter online and to see a clear version of this proclamation. Look for the section titled NEWSLETTERS.

Alachua County Florida A Proclamation

Declaring April 28th, 2015 as "Abby Goldsmith Day"
in Alachua County, Florida

- Whereas,*** Abby Goldsmith was involved in dozens of agencies, programs, campaigns, and crusades in Alachua County and beyond, often working tirelessly in the background, but always with the goal of helping people get better, regain their rights, or be happy; and
- Whereas,*** Ms. Goldsmith co-founded the Rape Information and Counseling Services in the mid-1970s, which became the Sexual Physical Abuse Resource Center, which then became Peaceful Paths; and
- Whereas,*** professionally, Ms. Goldsmith worked as an Alachua County Public Health nurse. She began in the Healthy Start program, and she would work with babies whose mothers were trying to avoid the system; and
- Whereas,*** a strong advocate for women's reproductive rights, she worked at the Gainesville Women's Health Center in a leadership position for many years; and
- Whereas,*** Ms. Goldsmith volunteered in countless political campaigns and was an active participant in many groups, including the local American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Council of North Central Florida, Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, Civic Media Center and Stonewall Democrats; and
- Whereas,*** for over four decades, Ms. Goldsmith worked to make Gainesville and Alachua County a better place, mostly while raising five wonderful children on her own. She will be remembered as someone determined to put her beliefs into action.

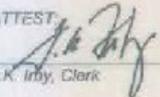
Now, therefore, through the authority vested in me by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim April 28th, 2015 as "Abby Goldsmith Day" in Alachua County, Florida.

Duly proclaimed this 28th day of April, A.D., 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
Robert Hutchinson, Vice Chair



ATTEST

J.K. Irby, Clerk

Call for Volunteers and Board Members

We have been very blessed over the years for the quality of volunteers and board members GAAP has. We are always seeking new volunteers and board members. With the passing of Abby, our need is a little more critical at the moment. Will you consider a role with us? Board participation is not an onerous task. We only meet once a month for about an hour to an hour and a half. The hour of input you provide is extremely valuable to us. Please join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1pm to 230pm. We would appreciate your participation and support!

Volunteers for lunches are also most welcome! We are looking for volunteers to participate in lunch preparation from 1030am to 115pm each Tuesday. Please join us and also enjoy the free meal we provide you.

Our TREE Program Now Has a Wait List

Due to a recent surge in requests for enrollment in our program, we have implemented a wait list for our TREE program. We had 15 people on our list as of last month, however, we were able to reduce that number to 10 thanks to the support of local churches. Will you please consider us as you consider where to donate? We would greatly appreciate your assistance in eliminating our wait list.

Statement From Client About “How GAAP Has Help Him”

I love GAAP because it allows me to meet other people and to help other people. I have enjoyed coming here for the weekly luncheon and to talk with other people and make new friends and also to be invited to whatever plans that are made. I also love to help others. I have met wonderful friends here and recently a new person who joined our group. I enjoy sharing my talents with many of the people I meet. They show a big interest in hearing my stories about artwork, poetry and music.

Financial Support and Toiletry Donations

The tone of this newsletter is somber. I would be remiss if I did not solicit your financial support and donations to our toiletry program. Out of respect for the content of this particular newsletter, I have placed my solicitation/plea for help on the back page intentionally. Abby would understand as she always insisted on looking for ways to bring in revenue or toiletry donations to further our mission to support those living with the disease of HIV/AIDS.

Financial Support—We always need your monetary donations. We are extremely proud of the percentage of money that goes directly into our client services versus overhead. We do well in this area and you can rest assured that the absolute majority of the money you donate goes directly to client services. We have no paid staff! Please include us in your consideration of financial support. We need your help!

Toiletry Donations—As you know, we provide our clients a monthly package of toiletry and household items. If you prefer to donate these items instead of cash, we are most happy to receive your donation. It is just as helpful as cash! Please also consider doing a toiletry drive amongst your friends or the group or church you are involved with. We will provide you with special collection bags and bins.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement,