

# SURVIVING & THRIVING

AIDS, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

An exhibition developed and produced by the Exhibition Program  
at the National Library of Medicine

*“We condemn attempts to label us as ‘victims,’ a term which implies defeat, and we are only occasionally ‘patients,’ a term which implies passivity, helplessness, and dependence upon the care of others.*

*We are ‘People With AIDS.’”*



Courtesy Donna Binder



Courtesy DC Department of Health



Courtesy National Cancer Institute, NIH

The National Library of Medicine is pleased to present our latest traveling exhibition, *Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture*. The exhibition explores the rise of AIDS in the early 1980's and the evolving response to the epidemic over the last 30 years.

The title *Surviving and Thriving* comes from a book written in 1987 by and for people with AIDS that insisted people could live with AIDS, not just die from it. Jennifer Brier, the exhibition curator, explains that “centering the experience of people with AIDS in the exhibition allows us to see how critical they were, and continue to be, in the political and medical fight against HIV/AIDS.” *Surviving and Thriving* presents their stories alongside those of others involved in the national AIDS crisis.

The six-banner traveling exhibition utilizes a variety of historic photographs as well as images of pamphlets and publications to illustrate how a group of people responded to, or failed to respond, to HIV/AIDS.

*Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics, and Culture* began traveling around the United States in October 2013. For more information, contact [nacc@umassmed.edu](mailto:nacc@umassmed.edu) or visit us on the web at: [nlnm.gov/nacc/resources/information-resources/surviving-and-thriving-aids-politics-and-culture](http://nlnm.gov/nacc/resources/information-resources/surviving-and-thriving-aids-politics-and-culture).

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Curated by Jennifer Brier, PhD, University of Illinois