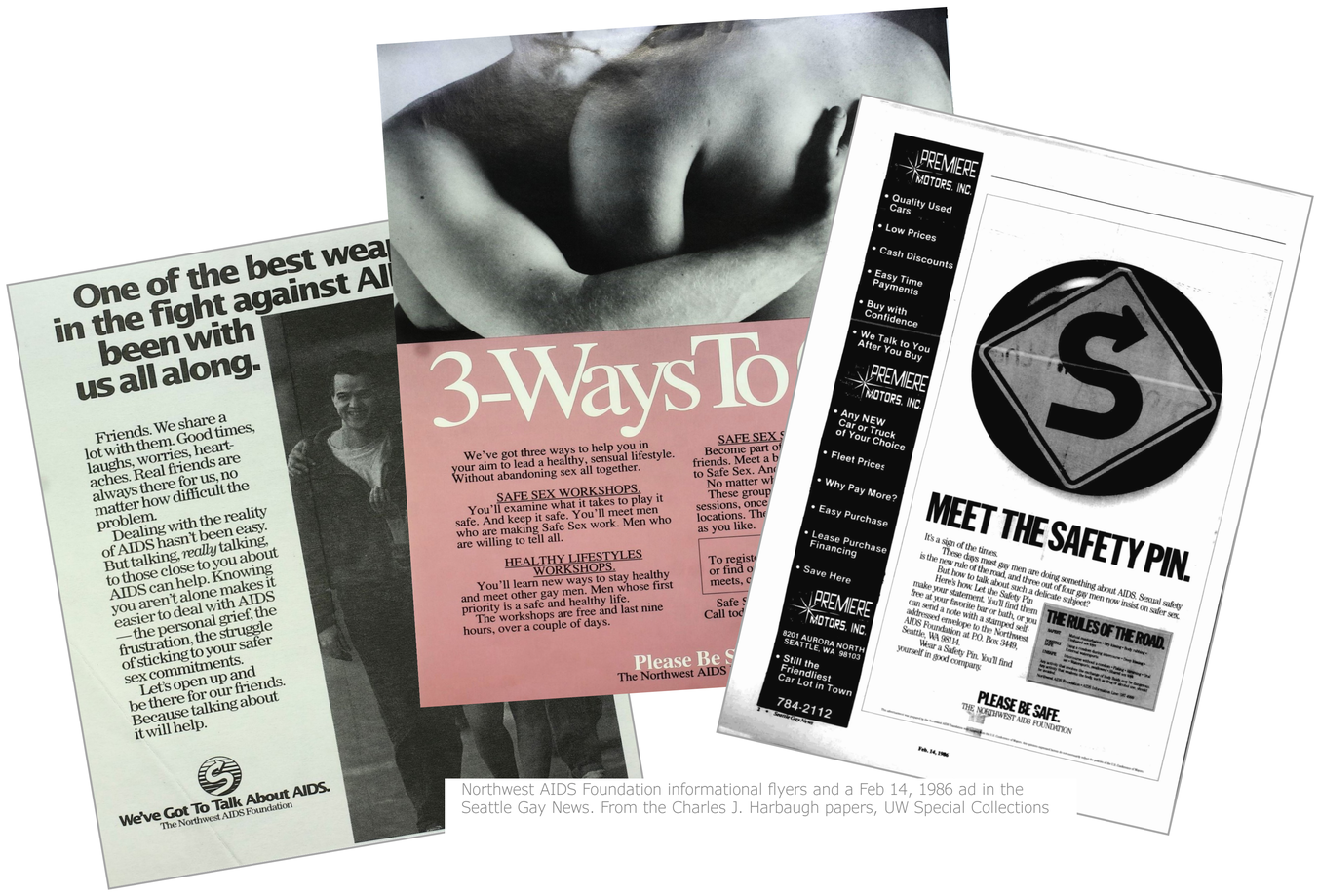
AIDS in Seattle

Northwest AIDS Foundation

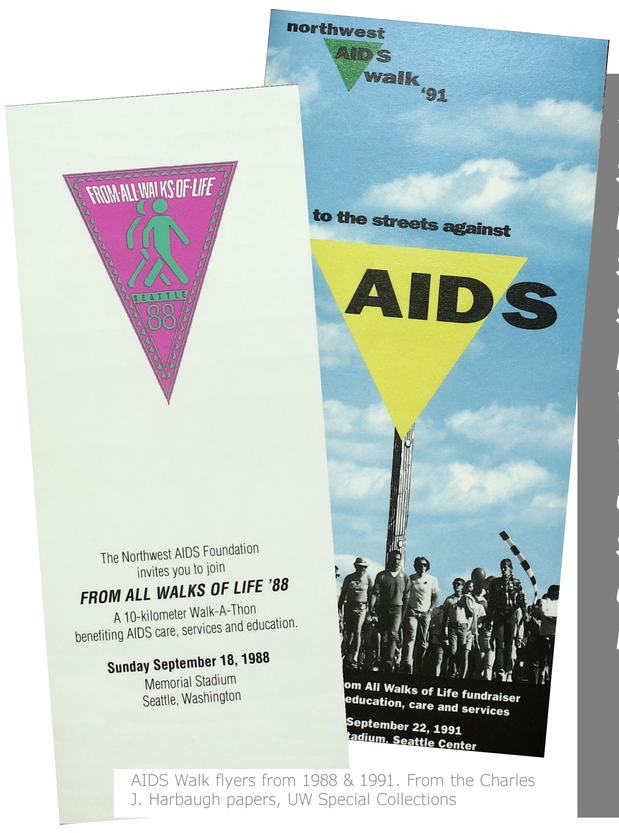
Like many organizations working to combat the AIDS crisis in Seattle, the Northwest AIDS Foundation (NWAF) originated in the Seattle Gay Clinic. It was founded in 1983 by Tom Marsella, Tim Burak, Bob Wood, Charlie Brydon, and others "to provide a central coordinating body whereby the medical, financial and information resources of citizens and organizations of the Pacific Northwest can be directed toward a unified response to the public health threat posed by Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)." The NWAF coordinated medical providers, public health workers, and activists, launching programs promoting public education on AIDS and safe sex practices, responsible media coverage of AIDS, and support for persons living with AIDS. By 1984 the NWAF was the primary AIDS organization for correspondence with the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health (SKCDPH), and counted SKCDPH Director Jesse Tapp among its honorary board of directors.



Northwest AIDS Foundation informational flyers and a Feb 14, 1986 ad in the Seattle Gay News. From the Charles J. Harbaugh papers, UW Special Collections

Seattle AIDS Walk

In 1987, the NWAF organized the first Seattle AIDS Walk to raise money to fight AIDS. In its first year, the Seattle AIDS Walk raised over $250,000. By 1991, that figure had grown to $1.5 million and cemented the Seattle AIDS Walk as the premier annual AIDS fundraiser in the region. Today, AIDS walks are still held throughout the United States.



AIDS Walk flyers from 1988 & 1991. From the Charles J. Harbaugh papers, UW Special Collections

"After 1987, for example, the final Sunday in September always meant a walkathon sponsored by the Northwest AIDS Foundation, starting at Seattle Center and winding through the city's streets. Eventually, it would be supported by many of Seattle's corporate heavyweights—U.S. West, KING-TV, Microsoft, Nordstrom, Washington Mutual. The first year's walkathon drew three thousand people and raised $250,000. By the 1990s, the QFC supermarket chain was advertising the walk on its grocery bags and raising almost $1.5 million each year."

Gary Atkins, Gay Seattle: Stories of Exile and Belonging. University of Washington Press, 2003



Approximately 13,000 people participated in the 1991 Seattle AIDS Walk. *Seattle Times*, 23 Sept. 1991



NWAF 10th anniversary newsletters, 1993. From the Charles J. Harbaugh papers, UW Special Collections

Lifelong AIDS Alliance

In 2001, the NWAF merged with the Chicken Soup Brigade to form the Lifelong AIDS Alliance. Lifelong has continued ever since to provide services to people living with AIDS and other chronic health conditions in King County, Pierce County, and Snohomish County, including food and nutritional services, housing services, and other health services. Many of the events and fundraisers begun under the NWAF and the Chicken Soup Brigade, such as Gay Bingo, continue as well.