



BHC-MSS 0102  
Guide to the Records of the Witness Project  
By Meg Rinn  
June 2021

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Witness Project of Connecticut

**Title:** Records of the Witness Project of Connecticut

**Dates:** 1995-2012

**Quantity:** 1 record carton, 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize box

**Abstract:** David Almquist.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

The Witness Project describes itself as a culturally competent outreach project with a focus on increased breast cancer screenings for African American women. It was developed at the University of Arkansas in [year] with the intent of reaching out to underserved rural Black communities, based on research that showed extremely high health disparities and screening rates between Black communities and their white counterparts.

With the goal of increasing breast cancer screenings and preventing morbidity, the Project asks local Black survivors of breast and cervical cancer to lead group sessions and talk about their experiences in order to make sensitive discussions that much more comfortable and to provide support. These women take on the title of "Witness Role Models," and meetings are suggested to take place around important community spaces, such as churches or other local organizations. They also help to ensure that other women understand how to go about early detection for breast and cervical cancer, further lowering the mortality rate among Black women.

The Connecticut chapter of the Witness Project began in [Sen. Moore, here is where we need more information from you and your colleagues! We want to be accurate both with the above two paragraphs that come from research Meg did both online and going through the records, but you're the person who knows the history of the CT chapter best!

And obviously you're going to be credited with writing the history, that goes without saying.]

**Scope and Content note:**

This collection represents both the inner workings of the Witness Project of Connecticut and the external work done in the community of Bridgeport and Greater Fairfield County. The extensive documentation of board minutes, newsletters, and clippings paint an organic whole of the organization from its beginnings into the present era, and the material placed in series three - African American women, breast cancer, and health disparity research - helps to emphasize the need for programs like the Witness Project in the first place. Documentation related to events and

fundraising rounds out the role the organization has played in the community and how it has helped to ensure greater awareness and improved the health of Black women in Connecticut.

**Arrangement Note:**

Material has been placed into six series that represent both the internal workings of the Connecticut chapter and their external outreach. Series I, executive material, focuses on internal affairs and includes board minutes, mission statements, and grants. Series II, the national organization, represents the work of the national level Witness Project including conventions and yearly chapter renewal.

The third series, African American women, breast cancer, and health disparity research, focuses on the medical research regarding racial health disparity as it relates to breast and cervical cancer. It is this work that has informed the creation and outreach of the Witness Project organization, and why it has been placed between internal management and community work.

Series IV, Outreach activities, is has been further divided into two subseries: training and events. Material in the training subseries relates exclusively to guiding women on how to be a Witness Role Model and the program itself, whereas events relate to meetings, fundraisers, and other methods of reaching out to Bridgeport and Greater Fairfield County women.

Series V, other activities, documents newsletters, awards, recognition, and other material. Series VI, other organizations and resources, represents partners in outreach and healthcare.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Gift of Sen. Moore

**Preferred Citation:**

Records of the Witness Project of Connecticut (BHC-MSS 0102), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Personal names*

Moore, Marylin

*Corporate names*

Witness Project of Connecticut

*Subject tracings*

Breast—Cancer

Breast--Cancer--Patients--Counseling of

Breast--Cancer--Information services

Health and race

African American women

African American women--Health and hygiene

**Detailed box and folder listing**

Series I – Executive material

1. Mission statements, undated
2. Board of Directors, minutes and agendas, 2008-2011
3. Board of Directors, minutes and agendas, 2008-2011
4. Board of Directors, minutes and agendas, 2010-2013
5. Board of Directors, minutes and agendas, 2010-2013
6. Statement of revenues and expenditures, 2008, 2012
7. Press releases announcing Witness Project in CT, 1996
8. The Evolution, 2002
9. Annual meetings, 2011-2012
10. Running Head: final research report for the Witness Project, 2010
11. Resume, Marilyn Moore, 2001
12. Correspondence, general, 2000
13. Phone tree and correspondence with volunteers, undated – Restricted for privacy
14. Job postings, 1996
15. Breast Cancer Alliance final report, 2003
16. Avon Foundation Breast Care Grant, 2007

#### Series II – National organization

17. Memoranda and legal documents relating to Planned Parenthood, Qualidigm, and the Witness Project, 1998-2007
18. By-laws and trademark renewals, 1998, 2003-2006
19. Witness Project national organization website, 2000
20. National organization directory and newsletters, 1998-2000
21. National Witness Project events, 2000-2005
22. Witness Project of Connecticut business cards, undated

#### Series III – African American women, breast cancer, and health disparity research

23. Celebrating Life: African American women speak out about breast cancer, 1995
24. MAMM: Women, Cancer, and Community, October 2001
25. President's Cancer Panel, Report of the Chairman [National Institute of Health], 2001
26. Unveiled: journeys of hope and courage, 2001
27. Journal of Health and Human Services Administration, vol. 26 no. 3, Winter 2003 [Focus on biases in healthcare and outreach including breast cancer for non-white women]
28. Unequal Treatment: confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care, 2003
29. Correspondence with Carol Penta, 2002-2005
30. An exploratory study of the attitudes, practices, and information sharing among African American women who participated in a culturally specific breast cancer awareness program by Carol Penta, 2005

#### Series IV – Outreach activities

##### Sub-series 1, Training

31. Witness role model orientation, 1999

32. Witness role model orientation, 1999
33. Filed with Witness role model orientation, 1999
34. Lay health advisor training manual, 2000
35. Training sign-in sheet, undated – restricted
36. Girlfriend's Brigade, 2002
37. Shop talk – Beauty and the Breast education program, undated

#### Sub-series 2, Events

38. Earliest flyers for Witness Project, 1998
39. Program, Can I Get A Witness?, 1998
40. Event flyers, 1997-2012
41. Fundraising events, 1999-2011
42. Luncheon programs, 1999-2001
43. Calendars, 2000-2003, 2011
44. National Witness Project Annual Meeting for Education and Networking hosted by the Witness Project of Connecticut, 2005

#### Box 2

1. Visitors book, Tea in the Courtyard, 2009
2. Body and Soul program, 2012
3. Body and Soul program, 2012
4. Magnets, undated

#### Series V – Other activities

5. Newsletters, 1999-2009
6. Awards and recognition, 1998-2011
7. Clippings, 1998-2005

#### Series VI – Other organizations and resources

8. Breast cancer resource guide of Connecticut, 2004
9. Alliance for Women's Cancer Awareness of Connecticut, 2005
10. Other organizations' newsletters, 1998-2007
11. Other organization materials, 2000 and undated

#### Box 3

1. Awards and citations, 2000-2016
2. Posters, undated
3. Body and Soul program – DVD boxes and tote bag, 2012
4. Clipboard featuring the Girlfriend's Brigade, 2002
5. Unidentified photograph, undated