

Everflowing

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Everflowing History

Everflowing was founded by Irene Smith in 2001. Everflowing was born out of Irene's work with dying persons for over two decades.

Irene Smith is a CMT, certified through the Los Angeles School of Massage in 1974. In 1980, on a quest for personal healing, Irene was led to the work of Dr. Elisabeth Kübler Ross, the foremost authority in the field of death and dying. After attending a 5-day life death transition workshop, Irene was encouraged by Elisabeth to attend additional programs. In 1982, inspired by Elisabeth's spirit and compassion, Irene began her pioneering work with cancer patients as a massage volunteer with the San Francisco Hospice. With Elisabeth as her role model, Irene became a West Coast assistant to Elisabeth the next 10 years. Impassioned by her first AIDS client with hospice, Irene began volunteering her massage services at San Francisco General Hospital in the AIDS unit when they opened in 1983.

Seeing the need for compassionate support, Irene trained a team of massage therapists to staff hospital units and residence homes for people with AIDS. This team was called the Service Through Touch massage team.

In 1989, Service Through Touch became a non-profit organization to allow for community support. Growing into an internationally acclaimed organization, STT became a voice not only for massage in AIDS care, but also for massage as an integral component to healthcare for all seriously ill populations. With volunteers serving 19 healthcare facilities by 1989, STT gave massage a more expansive definition and inspired other massage projects to serve seriously ill persons. From 1989 until the mid 1990's, Irene traveled extensively throughout Europe, New Zealand and Australia training massage therapists and consulting in the development of massage programs for people with AIDS. Also in the late 1980s, Irene developed her private massage practice with geriatric clients in both home and long term care facilities.

In 1999, with the pioneering work completed, the board of directors drew closure to the Service Through Touch organization.

With 2 decades of experience working with clients at the end of life, Irene founded *Everflowing* as an educational outreach program and a forum for her skill and wisdom.

Irene has been acknowledged by the media, by the health care community and by the Bodywork Massage Professionals for outstanding contributions to the Somatic Profession. Her written contributions include Chapter 9 in AIDS, the Ultimate Challenge by Dr. Elisabeth Kübler Ross; Psychoimmunity and the Healing Process by Jason Serinus. And she is one of the women featured in The Feminine Face of God by Sherry Ruth Anderson and Patricia Hopkins.

Through *Everflowing*, Irene continues to teach, consult and create educational resources that are utilized world-wide by professional and non-professional care givers, massage schools and health care organizations.