2022-2023 CENTER STAFF*

Will Abshier
Tanesha Adams
Robyn Ness Alcantar
Carolina Alcoser Ramos
Dean Ambrosini
Hannah Anew
Shane Atrushi
Melissa Bailey
Elisa Barnett
Brany Barragan
Caitlyn Benjamin
Akemi Bonner
Eric Bowen
Benjamin Breunig
Nathan Burns
Alejandro Caballero
Mel Cabardo
Deja Cabreria
Eva Callahan
Ricardo Calleja
Mardi Campbell
Lee Carmack
Valeria Carranza
Steve Carroll
Leo Cartier Jr.
Mike Casey
Timo Cervantes
Edgar Chavarin Ayala
Sarah Cook
Raphael Craan
Aliyah Crowder
Jason Cuneo
Paris DaSilva
Beth Davenport
Aisandra Del Nero
Kat DeProfio
Caroline Dessert
Kara Diaz
Jessica Diaz
Arthur Doan
Juan Esparza
Victor Esquivel
Kimani Faraway
Angie Fernandez
Kim Fountain
Jesse Frost
Ricardo Gallego
Nathalia Garcia
Jared Godes
Sofia Goller-Mann
Jim Gomez
Santi Gonzalez
Steven Granados
Elizabeth Green
Ashleigh Green
Malek Guerbaoui
Gerardo Gurrola Jr.
Pamuela Halliwell
Matt Hammond
Carter Hartula
Jo Hawthorn
Gus Hernandez
Brenda Hernandez
Cristina Hernandez
Miguel Hernandez
Rebekah Hook-Held
Lo Horst
Crystal Hsu
Orion Hudgins
Oscar Humberto-Gomez
Josue Jimenez
Ian Johnson
Sabrina Johnson
Jay Jones
Stevie Juarez
Delio Ladrón De Guevara
Bill Le
Daivon Lloyd
Amanda Lopez
Julian Lopez
Abeni Magee
Solana Mann
Ezak Marquez
Chris Martinez
Prisila Martinez
Ibeth May
Will McKell
Megan Meek
Espie Mendez
Sarah Merk-Benitez
Noah Mixon
Rio Moncado
Alicia Montellanos
Luis Montero-Adams
Kianna Moody
Yey Morales
Aaron Ngan
Alex Ordoubegian
Natalie Ortiz Soria
Jacqueline Palmer
Luna Ponce
Olivia Prado
Kim Rahmaan
Vaughn Rainwater
Anita Ramirez
Anette Ramos
Matthew Reents
Angela Reyes
Melisa Reyes
Haven Rittershofer
Dalia Rivera
Celya Robles
Alex Romero
Luis Salazar
Jesus Sanchez
Samantha Schwimmer
Joseph Severino
Shah Shepherd
Isaac Snyder
Francisco Soto
Arturo Suarez Jr.
Turquoise Teagle
Ryan Teixeira
RJ Tellames
Ashley Thomas
Jasmine Tribble
Richard Truong
L Tuletufuga
David Vance
Achi Vasquez
Bliss Vasquez
Alex Vo
Dustin Walker
Jeremy Wells
Eric Wilson
Shaila Zamora

*The photo, as shown, does not include all staff. Staff listed includes all staff employed during FY23.
Cover photo: Celebrating the grand opening of the new Hillcrest Youth Center.
MISSION STATEMENT

The San Diego LGBT Community Center enhances and sustains the health & well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, nonbinary, immigrant, and HIV communities to the betterment of our entire San Diego region.

VISION STATEMENT

At The San Diego LGBT Community Center every person feels and knows that they are welcomed, valued, and supported. As the beacon for our regional LGBTQ community, each day we actively recommit to be a more vibrant, bold, innovative, safe, and modern Center than the day before.

VALUES

Dignity – Building pride, self-respect, and mutual-respect in everyone.
Inclusion – Welcoming and serving all members of our community.
Compassion – Caring about the needs of others and supporting them from a place of kindness and willingness to help.
Respect – Meeting, listening to, and acknowledging our community on its own terms; honoring each as a whole person.
Equity & Equality – Advocating for and intentionally reducing barriers to fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all our community members, inside and outside our Center.

STRATEGIES

Diversity – Embrace, promote, and support our community’s rich diversity in our leadership, programs, and membership.
Services – Provide critical life and health services.
Support – Support our community members through all stages of life, including coming out, transitioning, and supporting their family and friends.
Wellness – Enhance the quality of life and wellness of our community at all stages of life with programs and events.
Community – Empower community, develop leaders, advocate for social justice, and celebrate community.
DEAR CENTER COMMUNITY,

What an amazing year it has been for The Center! I want to take a moment to reflect on our community’s achievements from this past fiscal year, a testament to our tenacity, long-term visioning, and our commitment to being there for one another. We have moved our work forward amidst a rising tide of anti-LGBTQ+ protests, legislation, and threats. Despite these hardships, it has been a year of celebration, solidarity, and hope. Here are some of the highlights of our past year:

The Center secured 1.5M for San Diego’s first major shelter for LGBTQ+ youth. Through our Public Advocacy and Civic Engagement team, we secured another round of 1.5 million dollars in City Council funding to support the LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center, serving LGBTQ+ transitional age youth ages 18-24 facing homelessness. The Center expanded from four beds to 21 beds across two sites in June, which will increase to up to 45 beds in 2024 when we move to our permanent location. The sites provide youth a safe place to stay, a host of supportive services, and LGBTQ-empowering case managers who provide access to resources and referrals, with a focus on getting youth into permanent housing.

The Center invested in a new home for LGBTQ+ youth to create a safe space of belonging. The Center purchased the new forever home of the Hillcrest Youth Center (HYC), a program established in 2000. HYC’s new building has a kitchen, community closet, computer lab, library, music room, private rooms for counseling and HIV testing, and more, to support a variety of programs for youth ages 10-24. The new HYC is a testament to our vision of creating a world where all LGBTQ+ youth can access help and hope, and feel valued and empowered.

The Center did our part in containing the global MPOX pandemic. MPOX, a viral disease that disproportionately affected LGBTQ+ people and people of color, was a major crisis this year. We partnered with San Diego County Health and Human Services to provide vaccination clinics at The Center, bilingual education, advocacy, and support to our community members in need. As a result, we prevented MPOX from spreading, and connected those who had been affected to care. Because of this quick response, we saw a quick decline in MPOX cases in San Diego County.

The Center gathered community to celebrate a historic victory for marriage equality. The Respect for Marriage Act, federal legislation which guarantees federal recognition and protection of same-sex and interracial marriages, was a huge step forward for LGBTQ+ rights. Since the fight against Prop 8 15 years ago, The Center has been leading on this critical issue. When the Respect for Marriage Act legislation passed, we hosted a joyful event for our community to gather and celebrate this historical occasion.

These are just some of the ways that The Center has shown up with our partners to provide big, positive change for our community. Your generous support and active engagement with The Center have made these achievements possible; you are the reason why The Center thrives and continues to remain a beacon of hope for our amazing LGBTQ+ community in San Diego.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for being part of The Center family!

In community,

Caroline (Cara) Dessert, Esq.
(She/Her/Hers)
Chief Executive Officer
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIR

DEAR FRIENDS,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of The San Diego LGBT Community Center, and as we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we are excited to share with you our plans for the next fiscal year and beyond. Whether you’ve been part of our historic journey, or you are new to our community of Center supporters, we welcome you to join us in our work to build on the remarkable progress of Your Center and our LGBTQ+ movement over the last five decades.

The Center has evolved from a small grassroots organization in 1972 to one of the largest and most comprehensive LGBTQ+ community centers in the nation, providing over 80,000 service visits annually through a wide range of programs and services, from housing to support groups and so much more.

Year after year, it is clear that our community continues to thrive when we have spaces like The Center to gather, to organize, and to ensure that we can meet the challenges ahead together. We do this by cultivating our strengths: creating safe spaces of belonging, taking care of each other, and building community power across generations. As we look forward and nurture our next generation of LGBTQ+ leaders to meet the evolving needs of our community, we seek the guidance and wisdom of earlier generations that fearlessly laid the foundation of our work.

Our Stonewall generation needs us too, not only to provide LGBTQ-competent aging-related services, but to ensure their lived experience informs The Center’s future. We continue to proudly invest in our 50+ and Better Together Senior Services program, which provides vital resources and support to our LGBTQ+ seniors. We know that seniors are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S. and our LGBTQ+ elders are living longer lives thanks to advances in medical care, including advances in HIV. Investing in Senior Services is one of the ways we give back to the founders of our modern LGBTQ+ movement.

With the Maurice Thimot and M. Rust Rawnsley Fund, we have a great opportunity to create more spaces and expand programs for our community, with a special focus on our LGBTQ+ seniors. In collaboration with the Senior Advisory Committee, we have started to collect input from our senior community via our Senior Services Program Survey. This data will kick off an extensive process with much careful research and discussion, in order to make informed decisions on how to best use the gift from Maurice Thimot and Rust Rawnsley, a gay couple beloved by many in our community, whose legacy will live on through their transformative gift.

Another way that The Center is committed to creating a Center of belonging is by growing our Advocacy and Civic Engagement work, as we approach the 2024 presidential election. We have started to cultivate a dedicated team of volunteers who are committed to helping us build community power and who are ready to activate for the upcoming election cycle. Folks like these will help us to continue the work of the Stonewall generation for years to come.

Finally, we are committed to fostering allyship within and beyond our community. Being an ally means always trying to understand, grow, and change, especially when we have more power or privilege than others. We stand with those who are treated unfairly and fight for justice together. We also seek to nurture relationships with those who will stand with us as well. At The Center, we know we could not have made it this far without our allies.

We envision a future where all LGBTQ+ people are valued and empowered, where diversity, inclusion, and lived experience are celebrated, and where justice and equity are achieved. As we enter the next 50 years of The Center’s journey, we are filled with hope and determination, knowing that we have the resilience to overcome any challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Sue Reynolds
(She/Her/Hers)
Co-Chair
The Center’s Board of Directors
In this current climate of rising anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and legislation, it’s been more important than ever for our Advocacy & Civic Engagement department to work to ensure that our community’s voices are heard by decisionmakers. One of our priorities this year was building a dedicated team of volunteers who are passionate about justice for LGBTQ+ people and want to help make a difference – volunteers who were willing to donate their time to join us in our nonpartisan civic engagement efforts to build our LGBTQ+ community power.

BUILDING OUR PEOPLE POWER

We knew that building this team would require consistent, year-round engagement. We wanted our Advocacy & Civic Engagement volunteers to feel valued, appreciated, and part of a community – and not just during election season. This led to the development of our Advocacy & Civic Engagement Trivia Nights hosted at Gossip Grill, which infused themed trivia with political knowledge and give folks the opportunity to be introduced to our work while connecting with one another in community. Our first two events, the Love & Advocacy Trivia Night and the Drag: Then and Now Trivia Night, were very well-attended and successful in allowing our Advocacy & Civic Engagement team to meet people who were interested in getting involved with our voter mobilization efforts.

We’re looking forward to continuing to work with these devoted volunteers to make sure that our elected officials reflect our community’s values.

THE CENTER AS YOUR VOTE CENTER

The Center was proud to serve as a Vote Center for the November 2022 general election. We welcomed nearly 2,500 voters into our auditorium who either voted in person or dropped off their ballots. Many of these voters shared with us how meaningful and special it is to them to be able to vote in an LGBTQ-affirming and welcoming space. There is a magical excitement in folks’ eyes when they walk into The Center on Election Day – and it always serves as a powerful reminder of the immense impact of our civic engagement work.
STRATEGIC ADVOCACY TO CREATE HOUSING FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

As San Diego County’s largest health and human services provider for the LGBTQ+ community, we have seen firsthand the ongoing, increasing needs for housing in our region.

For the second year in a row, The Center worked in partnership with City Councilmembers over six months to successfully secure the inclusion of $1.5 million for LGBTQ-affirming emergency housing in the City’s FY24 budget.

These funds will continue to support the dramatically expanded LGBTQ-affirming emergency housing for LGBTQ+ youth, as well as continue to provide for increased wrap-around services specific to the LGBTQ+ community. We are grateful for the City Council’s and Mayor’s support on our leading efforts to secure this funding to create a 45-bed emergency housing program for our youth.

COMING TOGETHER AT THE CENTER TO CELEBRATE COMMUNITY WINS

Last December, the Respect for Marriage Act was signed by President Biden, after both houses of Congress voted to approve the bill in a historic show of bipartisan support for the LGBTQ+ community. This legislation is designed to protect same-sex and interracial marriage, finally repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and require federal recognition of same-sex and interracial marriages.

This was a monumental victory for our LGBTQ+ community and was the result of decades of advocacy, including The Center’s leadership on the “No on Prop 8” campaign and our continued work since to empower thousands of LGBTQ+ voters to elect political leaders who support our community. We celebrated this historic moment with a joyous event in The Center’s auditorium.

ENGAGE SAN DIEGO

EXPANDING OUR REACH TO HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES

Founded in 2011, Engage San Diego is a collaborative network of social justice focused, non-profit organizations working to increase civic and voter engagement in historically and systemically excluded communities of San Diego County. The San Diego LGBT Community Center is both the Fiscal Sponsor and a founding table partner of Engage San Diego. With the support of its 15 table partners, Engage San Diego works to create an electorate and leadership that are reflective of people who live and work in San Diego. Table partners are trusted messengers within their communities and share crucial information to ensure their voices are heard.

In the months leading up to the November 2022 gubernatorial election, Engage San Diego and its table partners reached out to over 215,000 voters across San Diego County. Speaking primarily with BIPOC, youth and LGBTQ voters, our table partners were able to complete over 29,000 conversations with voters who might otherwise not have voted. The impact of our efforts lead to a 61% voter turnout amongst voters we spoke with, far surpassing the County average of 54%.
San Diego continues to experience a housing crisis and LGBTQ+ communities are disproportionately affected. To do our part in meeting the housing needs of our community, The Center has implemented one of the most robust LGBTQ+ housing continuums in the country.

Leading to combat LGBTQ+ homelessness, The Center operates a one-of-a-kind Housing Continuum which includes Emergency and Permanent Supportive Housing programs for LGBTQ+ adults, couples, families, and youth; and our housing programs include case management, connection to health care, mental health services, benefits enrollment, HIV and Hepatitis C testing, life skills training, educational and employment support, and more. This has enabled our community members who participate in our Housing Continuum to secure temporary and permanent housing and find stability in accessing essential services.

Every person deserves a home and we will continue to do the work right here in our community to sustain housing programs and resources until that dream is realized. If you are interested in information about our Housing Services or to support our efforts, contact housingservices@thecentersd.org.

LGBTQ+ youth are **twice** as likely to experience homelessness than there non-LGBTQ peers.
In 2023, the San Diego City Council unanimously voted to adopt the City’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget which includes allocating $1.5 million for LGBTQ-affirming shelter beds and comprehensive support services, for the second year in a row. The Center took the lead in advocating for these funds, ensuring that city leaders understood the dire need, as LGBTQ+ youth are twice as likely to become unhoused as their non-LGBTQ+ peers.

After successfully advocating for these funds last year, The Center, in partnership with YMCA Youth and Family Services and San Diego Youth Services, was awarded the contract through a competitive bid process and worked quickly with the San Diego Housing Commission to expand our existing four-bed LGBTQ Safe STAY program. The Center’s new LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center launched in June 2023 at two interim sites providing up to 21 beds, and once fully up and running next year, we anticipate that we will be able to provide up to 45 beds for transitional age youth ages 18-24. The LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center will be one of the largest LGBTQ-focused emergency housing programs in the country!

Spaces designed to welcome and serve LGBTQ+ youth are life-saving, and LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center represents The Center doing its very best work, leveraging the brilliance and tenacity of both our Advocacy team, Housing team, and trusted partners. We thank the City of San Diego and all of our partners who supported this funding request throughout the budget process who helped make this victory happen!

Emily (she/her) is a transgender youth who has been staying at LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center. Over the few months that The Center’s Youth Housing team has spent with her, they have had many opportunities to have conversations with her about the impact of trauma and the healing process. LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center provides the stability and security that unhoused transitional-age youth need to begin to focus on prioritizing their self-care. Once a youth has a safe place to stay every night and doesn’t have to worry about their next meal, they are able to figure out their next steps, whether it is applying to jobs, going to school, or working on their mental health. Emily is a great example of the power of the stability provided by LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center. She has made breakthroughs in processing her trauma, and our team was also able to help her with her name and gender change. Our whole team is so proud of Emily, and we can’t wait to see what she accomplishes next!
## Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Statement

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>June 30, 2023 (unaudited)*</th>
<th>June 30, 2022 (audited)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>15,074,103</td>
<td>13,680,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>302,672</td>
<td>33,207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grant receivable</td>
<td>1,252,252</td>
<td>873,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promises to give</td>
<td>9,323,333</td>
<td>9,323,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>182,711</td>
<td>170,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, net</td>
<td>6,637,096</td>
<td>6,769,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment funds</td>
<td>773,651</td>
<td>809,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>185,737</td>
<td>19,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,731,555</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,679,513</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>June 30, 2023 (unaudited)*</th>
<th>June 30, 2022 (audited)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued expenses</td>
<td>1,044,318</td>
<td>664,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>693,322</td>
<td>345,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
<td>212,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes payable</td>
<td>3,878,746</td>
<td>3,878,746</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,828,386</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,089,154</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>June 30, 2023 (unaudited)*</th>
<th>June 30, 2022 (audited)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$27,903,169</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,590,359</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Total Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>June 30, 2023 (unaudited)*</th>
<th>June 30, 2022 (audited)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,731,555</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,679,513</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

78 cents of every dollar donated to The Center provides funding for vital programs and services.

*These figures are based on unaudited numbers; audited financials will be available on The Center’s website.*
It is an explicit goal of all Center programs to be inclusive and representative of the diversity found in the San Diego community. Honoring, promoting, and celebrating our community’s amazing diversity are central organizing principles for The Center, as well as part of our Vision Statement.
NEW AT THE CENTER

The Center continues to respond to the shifting needs of our community every year, adding new programs and services to meet the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in our San Diego region. Over the past fiscal year, The Center has expanded its offerings in response to community feedback and to better serve the diversity of our LGBTQ+ community.

THE NEW HILLCREST YOUTH CENTER OPENS

Our LGBTQ youth need safe spaces where they can be themselves and access the resources they need, which is why our Hillcrest Youth Center was originally established in 2000. It was the first LGBTQ drop-in and recreational center in San Diego County dedicated to the needs of LGBTQ and nonbinary youth, as well as youth living with HIV.

In 2023 we celebrated the grand opening of HYC’s new forever home!

The new HYC has multiple rooms to host activities and resources tailored for our youth, including a community closet with gender-affirming clothing, a game room, library, lounge, kitchenette, a dedicated office for on-site visits with a therapist from The Center’s Behavioral Health Services team, and a beautiful outdoor patio and garden. This new location centrally located in Hillcrest is a big, bright, and visibly represents our commitment to LGBTQ youth. It is a place many of us wished we had available when we were growing up, and we are so proud to have this safe space for our LGBTQ youth today and for many years to come!

YOUTH SERVICES AT THE CENTER
HILLCREST YOUTH CENTER & SOUTH BAY YOUTH CENTER

HIV TESTING AT HYC
The Center’s Sexual Health and Wellness team started providing free HIV tests at HYC for youth ages 18-24 once a month.

HIV TESTING AT SBYC
To meet the needs of our South Bay youth, who are primarily BIPOC, we also launched free HIV tests at SBYC for youth ages 18-24 once a month.

HYC TEEN BOOK CLUB
We launched our monthly Teen Book Club for youth ages 14-18 which now meets at the new Hillcrest Youth Center.
50+ AND BETTER TOGETHER: SENIOR SERVICES AT THE CENTER

50+ and Better Together is the Senior Services program at The Center that provides programs and services for LGBTQ+ community members 50 and older to connect, make friends, stay healthy, and build a network to fight isolation.

NEW AND RETURNING SENIOR PROGRAMS

THE CENTER’S LIBRARY RE-OPENS
We celebrated the re-opening of The Center’s Library with a special presentation by LGBTQ historian Lillian Federman.

NORTH PARK SENIOR APARTMENTS 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Members of The Center’s staff and board were proud to join the residents at North Park Senior Apartments to celebrate the 5th year anniversary of this amazing community.

GAME DAY
Game Day is an afternoon of fun games and conversation where everyone can enjoy a game of Canasta, bring their own games, or play one of the many games we have on hand at The Center.

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS
A new social program for people 50 and better, Lunch with Friends is an opportunity to connect with LGBTQ+ friends at a local restaurant for a fun community organized lunch meet-up.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS
Following the success of Lunch with Friends, we launched Dinner with Friends to create even more social opportunities for LGBTQ seniors.

HATHA YOGA STRETCH AND MEDITATION
Hatha Yoga is a safe space to experience the art of mindfulness and breath for LGBTQ people of all ages.

AGELESS ART GROUP
A group for seniors of any age to express creativity and explore artistic expression, the Ageless Art Group welcomes artists of all skill levels.
NEW AT THE CENTER

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

2023 YPC ACADEMY
After a brief hiatus amid the pandemic, The Center’s YPC Academy has returned! The Center’s Young Professionals Council (YPC) Academy. This year we received the largest, most diverse, and most competitive applicant pool in the history of the YPC program, which resulted in an incredibly engaged and inspiring 2023 YPC cohort!

BLACK SERVICES AT THE CENTER

KINSPIRATION
Our newest offering from Black Services, Kinspiration is a space for our Black LGBTQ+ community and allies to come together in a safe space and be inspired by each other, share creativity, and participate in wellness activities.

LATIN@X SERVICES AT THE CENTER

RAINFORET LATINAS
This year we expanded the group formerly known as Lestinas. Rainbow Latinas is a support group for all women who identify as part of the LBTQ+ community.

MEN’S SERVICES AT THE CENTER

COMING OUT TOGETHER
This 10-week coming out program focused on men who were newly out, providing them with the resources and support to navigate the coming out process.
**WOMEN’S SERVICES AT THE CENTER**

**RED HOT DANCE**
We brought back the Red Hot Dance, an event that celebrates the diversity of queer women with music, dancing, drinks, food, and community.

**LESBIAN CAFÉ**
In response to our community, we expanded our popular Lesbian Café by adding a monthly evening session and now welcome women of all ages.

**PROJECT TRANS AT THE CENTER**
**TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY SERVICES**

**QT SOCIAL**
We launched our Queer Trans Socials and the first QT Social was a night of music and food at Mixed Grounds, providing guests an opportunity to make new friends.

**AFFIRMED CLOTHING DRIVE**
Our Affirmed Clothing Drive was an opportunity to support and uplift our local trans community with gender-affirming clothing and supplies.
NUMBERS IN ACTION
FISCAL YEAR 2023

Total Service Visits
78,020

516 Clients tested for HIV

449 STI screenings provided

2,414 Youth Service Visits (Drop-In)
Includes South Bay Youth Center, Hillcrest Youth Center, Youth Queer Leadership Council

3,424 Senior Visits to support groups and programs

Clients connected to PrEP
547
Includes enrollment, referrals through HIV testing, and online education and referrals

Website:
290,467 page views

Social Media:
162,101 engagements and 5,816,262 impressions

E-News subscribers:
16,540
**Food Resources Services Provided**
11,937
Includes our twice-a-month food bank, grocery gift cards, non-perishable food deliveries, and meals provided to Sunburst clients

**Youth Housing Service Visits**
6,074
Includes Housing Our Youth, Sunburst Youth Housing Project, and all other housing services for youth

**Condoms Distributed**
9,134

**Welcome Desk Calls**
10,804
Contacts with our Welcome Desk staff

**Walk-Ins**
8,077

**Behavioral Health Services Contacts with our Welcome Desk staff**
6,518
counseling sessions

**Condoms Distributed**
9,134

**Civic Engagement Conversations**
6,031

**Attendees at groups and events**
12,116
Opportunities for community members to gather, connect, celebrate, and find support through groups and events at The Center

**Behavioral Health Services**
6,518
counseling sessions

**Youth Housing Service Visits**
6,074
Includes Housing Our Youth, Sunburst Youth Housing Project, and all other housing services for youth

**Food Resources Services Provided**
11,937
Includes our twice-a-month food bank, grocery gift cards, non-perishable food deliveries, and meals provided to Sunburst clients

**Condoms Distributed**
9,134

**Welcome Desk Calls**
10,804
Contacts with our Welcome Desk staff

**Walk-Ins**
8,077

**Behavioral Health Services Contacts with our Welcome Desk staff**
6,518
counseling sessions
In June 2022, we received news that Center supporters Maurice Thimot and Rust Rawnsley had left a historic gift to The Center through our planned giving program, The Stonewall Society. This amazing gay couple has created a legacy for our community’s future, directing The Center to establish The Maurice Thimot and M. Rust Rawnsley Fund, which will be used to intentionally create spaces and programs for our community, with a special focus on our LGBTQ seniors. We look forward to stewarding this fund by investing in our senior services and exploring long-term investments in capital projects. Though the full gift has not yet been received, the $10M that has already been given is the largest donation in The Center’s history.

The Stonewall Society is The Center’s planned giving program, providing donors like you with a way to create a future gift to The Center, ensuring your legacy by providing support for generations to come.

Through The Stonewall Society, we seek to honor donors like you who share in our commitment to providing the best services for our LGBTQ+ community here in San Diego County while also working diligently to protect and advance our rights as they come under threat.

In helping to guarantee The Center’s future with a gift through a trust, bequest, or other planned gift, your legacy will live on in the tens of thousands of people who rely on The Center every year.

Please consider The San Diego LGBT Community Center in your estate plan.

To become a member or let us know that you have already planned for a gift, please contact Ian Johnson, Senior Director of Development, at ijohnson@thecentersd.org or 619-692-2077 x247.
Estate/planned giving gifts honor the past and shape our future. The Stonewall Society recognizes donors that have guaranteed The Center’s future with a gift through a trust, bequest, or other planned gift. This list represents donors who have coordinated with us to leave a lasting legacy for The Center.

**STONEWALL SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Bruce M. Abrams III, Esq.
Blair Alexander & Dan Belair
Elenore “Lennie” Alickman
José G. Arzate
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Jon Windhauser & Duncan Ulrich
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Anonymous (2)

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Dr. Stanley Willis
Jay Wipolt
Last year, an outbreak of MPOX hit the LGBTQ+ community, primarily affecting men who have sex with men. The virus required close, sustained contact to spread, which is why it spread primarily through sexual encounters.

Learning from the lessons of COVID-19 and the AIDS epidemic, The Center’s Sexual Health & Wellness and Advocacy & Civic Engagement teams sprang into action. MPOX is very different from HIV. It is rarely fatal, and a vaccine exists to protect against it.

We partnered with local organizations including North County LGBTQ Resource Center, San Diego Pride, Equality California, Hillcrest Town Council, San Ysidro Health, Rainbow Spaces, Institute for Public Strategies, and SBCS to co-host a virtual MPOX Community Forum.

The forum featured Dr. Carlton Thomas (he/him), who specializes in queer health and provides health information on social media platforms tailored to the LGBTQ+ community. Our panelists also included Dr. Ankita Kadakia (she/her) from the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. At the forum, community members asked questions, and shared their concerns and ideas to help prevent MPOX transmission in our community.

The Center advocated to increase vaccine supply to San Diego County and hosted vaccination clinics. We urged the County of San Diego to declare a state of emergency to allow the county to gain better access to vaccines and funding resources. The Center created a bilingual resource page on our website at thecentersd.org/mpox, and we were recognized as one of the few sources of Spanish-language MPOX information in our region.

We also launched a successful MPOX campaign “It’s Good to be Extra” to encourage LGBTQ+ community members to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus with sex-affirming messages. The Center is proud to have been part of these efforts to keep MPOX rates down in San Diego County.
TOM SANTANGELO (ANY PRONOUNS)

If you have met Tom, you know that they epitomize what it means to volunteer at The Center. Tom recently completed their first full year in San Diego, and as a transplant from New York City, Tom sought out opportunities to get connected to the local LGBTQ+ community.

Tom visited The Center’s website and found many opportunities to get involved. They signed up to volunteer for our annual Dining Out For Life San Diego fundraiser, helping us raise vital funds for The Center’s Sexual Health and Wellness program.

Tom then joined our Advocacy & Civic Engagement team to get out the vote by joining a crew of canvassing volunteers, knocking on doors to ensure San Diegans knew that there was an election happening, and letting community members know that they were welcome to drop off their ballot or vote at The Center on Election Day.

Most recently, Tom joined our crew of volunteers at the Welcome Desk, where he greets community members helping to connect folks to resources, and they answer the phones, which ring all day! “I definitely wanted to connect with the community, and not just be a part of the community,” Tom said during one of his shifts at the Welcome Desk. “I want to be of service. I want to help people. The Center gives our community a safe space to be themselves, and I am so grateful that I get to be a part of that!”
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for your hard work and dedication!

The Center is fortunate to have an amazing team of dedicated volunteers. This fiscal year, we were finally able to bring back our robust volunteer program after a two-year pause due to the pandemic. The Center gratefully acknowledges those who volunteered this last year. Visit us at www.thecentersd.org/volunteer for more information on our volunteer program.

Total number of active volunteers: 339
Total number of volunteer hours: 4,610
Monetary value of volunteer hours: $146,603

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Ashley Ajero
Turk Alareki
Kelley Alexander
Christopher Allison
James Allnutt
Khaled Alsabbagh
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Ronilo Cruz
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Martha Davis
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Ethan Man
Bennett Mancini
Sunny Mangiameli
Erik Mantsch
Debbie Mappes
This list includes all volunteers during the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023). We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information and sincerely apologize for any misspelling or incorrect information found on this list. For corrections or updates, please contact volunteer@thecentersd.org.
Thank you to our Center Donors

The San Diego LGBT Community Center gratefully acknowledges those who gave between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

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- David Mizener and Arturo Carrillo
- Jeffrey E. White Trust

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Dr. Mel D. Karmen, Ph.D
Jennifer Kennedy
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Clay M. King and Iain King
Kevin J. Lamped
Heather Lang
Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria
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James Love
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The Board of Directors and staff of The Center sincerely thank all of our donors. Every donor and every dollar matters. Space restrictions prohibit us from recognizing every donor; this list includes all donors who contributed at least $500 during the 2023 fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information and sincerely apologize for any misspelling or incorrect information found on this list. For corrections or updates, please contact development@thecentersd.org or call 619.692.2077 x247.

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vrainwater@thecentersd.org

Kenneth P. Wilson and Michael Guerra
Lawrence Wood and Rodney Love
Dr. Maile Young
Patrick Zaccaria
Richard Zbur
Jimmy Zemel
Dr. Alan J. Zieg
### The Center’s History

**1971-1972**

The initial 1971-1972 Planning Committee for what would become The Center included Patricia Byers, Thom Carey, Patricia Cluche, Peggy Heathers, Jess Jessop, Clint Johnson, BernieMichels, George Murphy, Jerry Peterson, Gary Rees, John Senter, Jerry White, John Eberly, Gary Gulley and Cynthia Lawrence. The Chair of the Planning Committee was Bernie Michels.

**1973**

The Center for Social Services was incorporated as a 501c3.

**1980**

The Center for Social Services became the Lesbian and Gay Men’s Community Center.

**1981**

Diagnosis of the first case of HIV disease in San Diego County.

**1986**

Behavioral Health Services at The Center established.

**1986**

The Lesbian and Gay Men’s Community Center moved from Normal Street to Centre Street and began plans for renovations.

**1998**

The Behavioral Health Services RVTIP program received credentialing, and became one of the first same-sex domestic violence programs in the nation.

**1999**

The Lesbian and Gay Men’s Community Center moved from Normal Street to Centre Street and began plans for renovations.

**1999**

The Lesbian and Gay Men’s Community Center moved from Normal Street to Centre Street and began plans for renovations.

**2004**

Family programming was re-established at The Center, providing programs and services for LGBTQ-headed families and those considering parenthood.

---

**2000**

The Hillcrest Youth Center opened its doors and became a critical resource for LGBTQ+ youth in San Diego.

**2001**

Dr. Delores A. Jacobs named interim Executive Director June 2001 and is selected as Executive Director in January 2002. Jacobs serves a historic, 17-year tenure as the longest serving chief executive, and retired on June 30, 2018.

**2001**

The Public Policy department was established after the No on Prop. 22 campaign.

**2002**

The Lesbian and Gay Men’s Center was renamed The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center.

**2003**

The Women’s Resource Center was established, providing LBT women and their allies access to important health and social resources and referrals.

**2003**

AIDS Walk & Run San Diego returned to The Center as a Center program.

**2003**

Senior Services and 50 and Better Together were established, providing important health, financial and social resources for LGBTQ seniors.

**2003**

Under the leadership of Dr. Delores Jacobs and Robert Gleason, The Community Leadership Council was established, bringing together more than 40 LGBTQ+ and allied community organizations each month to address the needs of the community.

**2004**

Latin@x Services was established, providing a culturally-affirming drop-in space, support groups, and social programs for our LGBTQ+ Latin@x community.

**2004**

The Wall of Honor was established, honoring community members and allies who have had a significant positive impact on the San Diego LGBTQ+ community.

**2004**

Sunburst Youth Housing Project opened, providing supportive housing for 23 unhoused LGBTQ+ and HIV+ youth, ages 18-24.
The Center began working with Community Housing Works to establish an LGBTQ-welcoming affordable senior housing project in San Diego.

The Benjamin F. Dillingham, III and Bridget Wilson LGBT Veterans Wall of Honor, first envisioned by Nicole Murray-Ramirez, and co-created by CEO Dr. Delores Jacobs, was established in 2012 to honor and celebrate LGBTQ+ veterans who have served our country.

Project TRANS was established to provide services designed specifically for San Diego’s transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming community.

Founded by CEO Dr. Delores Jacobs, Young Professionals Council (YPC) is a program of The Center that fosters a culture of diversity, service, leadership, advocacy and camaraderie among emerging LGBTQ+ leaders in the San Diego region, typically between 21-40 years of age. Through a service learning model that expands on people’s leadership and network, members have the opportunity to get plugged into and grow within The Center and the LGBTQ+ justice movement at large.

Engage San Diego was established, forming a nonprofit network of local civil rights, social justice, health and environmental organizations focused on nonpartisan civic engagement.

The Center became a monthly distribution site for the San Diego Food Bank.

The #BeTheGeneration TRANS campaign launched.

The #BeTheGeneration campaign launched, with the goal of ending new cases of HIV within a decade.

The #BeTheGeneration campaign launched, with the goal of ending new cases of HIV within a decade.

The Center reaches $2 million fundraising goal. Matching donors Ron Bowman, with his husband Stan Zukowfsky, announce a second gift of $1.65 million to pay off the mortgage for the Centre Street building in spring of 2018.
The Center holds a Town Hall for the Black LGBTQ+ community, which leads to new anti-racism policies and initiatives at The Center and the formation of the Black LGBTQ+ Community Advisory Committee. The Center now provides anti-Black racism trainings for staff, board members, donors, and volunteers.

The Center’s Youth Services staff created and launched The Youth Queer Leadership Council, a three-year leadership development program for youth comprised of three youth cohorts based on age: 12-13, 14-18, and 19-24. The program centers youth of color.

The Center launches the Training Institute providing high-quality, professional trainings to assist organizations to strengthen their knowledge and skills in working with the LGBTQ+ community, as well as how to best serve and respect LGBTQ+ people.

Black Services at The Center is established to provide dynamic programming and direct services for San Diego’s Black LGBTQ+ community.

Marking the one-year of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Center holds a community ofrenda to honor those we lost.

During The Center’s closure due to the pandemic, the main facility at 3909 Centre Street received upgrades including new floors, new lighting, a new welcome desk and lobby area, renovated restrooms, a new Sexual Health & Wellness Lounge, new community meeting rooms, and improvements to the sound system in the historic auditorium, as well as a new HVAC system to provide the cleanest air possible to our community.

The Center expands its Sexual Health and Wellness Program to include STI screening services. The Center now offers chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis screenings as well as HIV and hepatitis C testing.

The Center is notified that Maurice Thimot and Rust Rawnsley had left a sizeable gift to The Center through The Center’s planned giving program, The Stonewall Society. Their gift is estimated at $19M, the largest gift The Center has ever received.
In response to the MPOX outbreak in San Diego, The Center co-hosted a community forum and held vaccinations clinics in our parking lot. The Center also launched a successful MPOX campaign to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Hillcrest Youth Center moved to its forever home, which features multiple rooms to host activities and resources for youth, including the community closet, a game room, library, lounge, kitchenette, and a private area for therapy and HIV testing.

The Center hosted an Open House in May to welcome the community back to The Center’s main building once renovations were completed. The Open House brings over 400 community members to learn about The Center’s programs and services.

The Center gathered community to celebrate The Respect for Marriage Act which guarantees federal recognition and protection of same-sex and interracial marriages.

The Center purchased its first building in 16 years to become the new home of the Hillcrest Youth Center.

The Center expanded LGBTQ Safe STAY from four beds to up to 21 beds for transitional age youth ages 18-24. The new LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center is a space designed by and for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

The Center’s signature events are a great way to make new friends, connect with community, and support the vital programs and services that The Center provides for our LGBTQ+ community.

AIDS WALK & RUN SAN DIEGO
September 2022

AIDS Walk & Run San Diego brought community together to honor the memory of those who have been lost to HIV/AIDS and to raise funds to support the more than 13,000 San Diegans living with HIV/AIDS.

DINING OUT FOR LIFE® SAN DIEGO
April 2023

Each year, thousands of San Diegans Dine Out to Fight HIV in this international fundraising event. The 2022 DOFL event saw 70 restaurants and bars across San Diego County pledge to donate a percentage of that day’s food and liquor sales to benefit HIV/AIDS services and prevention programs at The Center. Save the Date: April 25, 2024.

PACHANGA DE FRIDA
June 2023

The Center celebrates the birthday of Frida Kahlo, commemorating the legendary life of one of the most influential queer Mexican painters of the mid-twentieth century. Guests enjoy live music, multiple art exhibits by local Latin@x artists and vendors, a Frida look-alike contest, great food, and tequila! Proceeds benefit Latin@x Services at The Center. Save the Date: June 29, 2024.
THE CENTER’S LOCATIONS ACROSS SAN DIEGO

- LGBTQ Safe STAY Wellness Center (Future Site opening 2024)
- Hillcrest Youth Center
- The San Diego LGBT Community Center at 3909 Centre St.
- North Park Senior Apartments
- Adult Housing Services and Behavioral Health Services Center
- Sunburst Youth Housing
- South Bay Youth Center
- Karibu Scattered Site Housing Locations
The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, Inc. (d.b.a., The Center) is one of the largest and most vibrant LGBTQ+ community centers in the nation. Functioning as the San Diego LGBTQ+ community’s anchor organization, The Center is led by a 12-member board of directors, employs more than 115 paid staff, and utilizes more than 1,200 community volunteers to achieve its twin goals of promoting LGBTQ+ health/wellness and human rights. The Center provides targeted programs and services to the full diversity of the San Diego LGBTQ+ community, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, nonbinary, immigrant, and HIV communities to the betterment of our entire San Diego region. The Center provides more than 80,000 service visits annually to San Diego community members, and through its events, activities, and advocacy, touches the lives of thousands more. For more information on The Center, visit thecentersd.org and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

THE CENTER’S LOCATIONS

CENTRE STREET – HILLCREST
Mailing Address
PO Box 3357
San Diego, CA 92163
Street Address
3909 Centre Street
San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 619.692.2077
Fax: 619.260.3092
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 10am-8pm

HILLCREST YOUTH CENTER
514 Pennsylvania Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Phone: 619.692.2077 x626

SOUTH BAY YOUTH CENTER
1180 3rd Avenue, Suite C1
Chula Vista, CA 91911
Phone: 619.800.3203

SUNBURST YOUTH HOUSING
Phone: 619.692.2077
Hours of Operation:
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

LGBTQ SAFE STAY WELLNESS CENTER
Phone: 619.694.6182
Hours of Operation:
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

ADULT HOUSING SERVICES AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES CENTER
Phone: 619.692.2077