

# CENTER point

## CENTER ON HALSTED OPENS ITS DOORS

AFTER A BUSY OPENING MONTH OF INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING, CENTER ON HALSTED STAFF IS EVEN MORE COMMITTED TO FULFILLING OUR MISSION TO SERVE AS A CATALYST AND PROVIDE RESOURCES AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY. THE CENTER'S NEW LOCATION AT HALSTED AND WAVELAND STREETS HAS PROVIDED CHICAGO'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT) COMMUNITY GREATER ACCESSIBILITY TO OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, RESULTING IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS OF NEW CLIENTS, PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND VISITORS. AS OF SEPTEMBER 2007, NEARLY 12,000 PEOPLE HAVE VISITED THE CENTER. AND, WEEKLY WE HAVE SERVED 200 YOUTH, 30% OF WHOM ARE HOMELESS; 100 ELDERS, REPRESENTING A 150% INCREASE SINCE LAST YEAR; 94 CLIENTS SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—48% OF WHOM ARE BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL; AND 500 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING.

AUTUMN 2007



***“THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS.”*** — ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Well, your beautiful dreams built Center on Halsted and they continue to influence the entire body of work and the imaginative collaborations that occur within its walls.

Altruistic dreams of open acceptance, diversity, and sanctuary are fulfilled at your Center: Our Youth Program, with its prevention, life, and job skills programming is reaching hundreds of ethnically and economically diverse young people every single week. Homeless youth are offered hot meals and a welcome respite from daily hardships. Expanded Anti-Violence, AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline and Mental Health Programs offer consolation and support to all who seek our services.

Enduring dreams of meaningful connection and partnership within our community and across our larger society are actualized at your Center: Our Family, Recreational, and Volunteer Programs, along with our alliances with Resident Community Partners and Community friends make it easy to connect with others and work toward common goals.

Worthy dreams of exhilarating educational and artistic opportunities are satisfied at your Center: Through our Community Cultural, Senior, and Community Technology Programs we are able to offer many exciting learning and growth opportunities. These educational and artistic events are a way for us to share our knowledge with each other and to learn from one another.

The initial impetus that spurred the creation of Center on Halsted was our necessary and worthy desire to take care of those in our own LGBT community. But like all great and effective social service movements, we also open our doors to **any** who are interested or in need. In this way we chip away at stereotypes one ally at a time. By accepting **all** who come, we model for the larger society the acceptance that we deserve; by caring for **all** who seek comfort, we show others our compassion and exemplify how we should be treated; by teaching and learning from **all** who desire to share and connect, we embody the respect for diversity that we would have shown to us.

As we hold these lofty dreams for ourselves and our community, we offer them up as a vision for the community at large. Your dreams are our dreams and together we are creating exciting new rituals and roles for our unique community center.

MODESTO VALLE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Center on Halsted  
3656 North Halsted St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60613

773.472.6469  
TTY: 773.472.1277

[www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

# community partners

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR RESIDENT COMMUNITY PARTNERS – SMALL, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT LEASE OUR SPACE FOR OFFICES OR MEETINGS – WE **CONTINUE THE SYNERGY** CREATED THROUGH COLLABORATION AS WE PLAN WAYS TO FURTHER SUPPORT OUR MISSIONS.

As part of Women on Wednesdays summer programming, the Center hosted **BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN**, a reception for women to assess their interest in and ideas for future women's programming at the Center. More than 100 women attended the September 5 event, many visiting the Center for the first time.



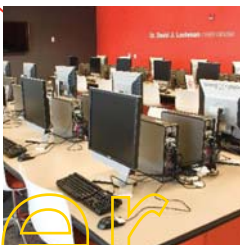
community & cultural programming

Among the nonprofit groups with a presence at the Center are **4+1 Productions**, **achurch4me/MCC**, **Amigas Latinas**, **Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA)**, the **Chicago Area Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**, **GayCo Productions**, **Hubris Productions**, **NAMES Project Chicago**, **Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf**, and **Windy City Performing Arts**. As part of its commitment to growing LGBT nonprofits, Center on Halsted provides our onsite partners continuous operational support to enhance their growth. Using the resources of the Center's community technology center in partnership with Lumity and others, resident partner organizations can attend technical assistance workshops on such topics as grant writing, program development, marketing, communications, and board development.

Center on Halsted also is available for events and activities of other LGBT-affirming organizations. To book your meeting or event, visit [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).



**YOUTH TOWN HALL MEETING** ON AUGUST 30, CENTER ON HALSTED HOSTED NEARLY 200 RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND OTHER INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO **DISCUSS THE GROWTH OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S YOUTH POPULATION**. THE CENTER CONVENED THE DIVERSE GROUP THAT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM CITY GOVERNMENT, MEDIA, THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CHICAGO YOUTH PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE LEADING TO POSITIVE SOLUTIONS. THE WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ILLUMINATED AREAS OF CONCERN, INCLUDING THE PERCEIVED INCREASE IN CRIME BY YOUTH; SCARCE HOUSING RESOURCES FOR YOUTH; AND SAFE, AFFIRMING SPACES FOR YOUTH SOCIAL INTERACTION. A TASK FORCE WILL BE CONVENED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS.



cyber

The **DR. DAVID J. LOCHMAN CYBER CENTER**, our free community technology center, provides technology and Internet resources to help eliminate the digital divide in Chicago's LGBT community. The cyber center is named for its benefactor, the late Dr. David J. Lochman, a radiologist by profession who was a key supporter of many LGBT causes. Since May, more than 1,000 of our neighbors have created user accounts to access free WiFi and other technology resources. **THE CYBER CENTER'S 20 COMPUTER STATIONS** allow for individual instruction in general computer literacy, online resource searches, and assistance with Microsoft Office applications. Courses designed to enhance computer proficiency and promote organizational efficiencies are provided regularly to Center on Halsted resident community partners and other small, nonprofit organizations. This fall, our technology series incubator program for partners and nonprofits includes a primer on obtaining grants, fundamentals of MS Publisher and tips for launching a Web site, among others. The cyber center is also available to clients and staff for specialized training and programmatic needs.

## SAGE

### SERVICES AND ADVOCACY FOR GLBT ELDERS AT CENTER ON HALSTED

With the opening of Center on Halsted, we moved to enhance the lives of older LGBT Chicagoans: SAGE hired its first full-time program director, and recently formed an advisory council of LGBT elders who will inform the program direction and work to improve the lives of LGBT elders through advocacy and public policy reform. The Center also became the first Chicago affiliate of the national SAGE organization. SAGE programming includes opportunities for civic engagement, community and cultural events, adult education and mental health and focused support services. New initiatives include an intergenerational mentoring program, a friendly visitor program for LGBT seniors who are homebound or living in long-term care, and a roommate matching program for seniors living independently. **SAGE SEEKS TO INCREASE DIVERSITY** and membership by joining the existing interrelated communities in the Chicago area and being a catalyst for the growth of new ones. With dedicated resources, programming and program space, SAGE Center on Halsted is equipped to support LGBT elders.

## family center(ed)



In our effort to respond to the needs of our LGBT parents, **62 LGBT FAMILIES PARTICIPATED** in a day full of activities. While there was lots of fun to be had by all, LGBT parents also had a rare chance to network, share resources and provide support. **Watch for more family center(ed) events this fall!**



On Saturday, June 30, nearly 75 volunteers met for a brunch and a recognition awards ceremony on the Center's roof garden and Harris reception hall as a thank you for their long-time contributions to Center on Halsted. New volunteers were also invited to visit the Help Out Volunteer Fair to explore community volunteer opportunities. Twelve other nonprofit providers of services to the LGBT community also participated to recruit volunteers for their organizations. **IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**, contact [volunteer@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:volunteer@centeronhalsted.org). **Fred MacDonald**, a Center volunteer for 8 years, received the Volunteer of the Year award from Jeff Souva, the Center's manager of individual giving, info line and volunteers.

# volunteer



## lgbt mental health symposium

In June, the **Sexual Orientation and Gender Institute (SOGI)** held its first annual symposium focusing on lifespan development, with a particular emphasis on behavioral health issues in the older LGBT population. [SOGI works to expand national access to **HIGH-QUALITY CULTURALLY COMPETENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE** for LGBT individuals

and their families through the development and provision of educational programs for healthcare providers. The Institute also advances clinical practice through the promotion of research on LGBT behavioral health issues.]

At a regional level more than 40 mental health providers, service program administrators, health department representatives and consumers representing diverse economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds **CONFERRED TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** across the lifespan available in the Chicago metropolitan area. The data these subject matter experts collected will be used to formulate a critique of current policies and practices, providing a roadmap for the development of age-appropriate and culturally competent services.

Members of SOGI's National Advisory Council, comprised of notable academics and clinicians with expertise in LGBT mental health, also convened for the first time. These professionals from the fields of anthropology, psychology and social work are key contributors to the theory and practice of LGBT care. During the symposium they examined aging in the LGBT population, shared and integrated their perspectives on behavioral health issues, identified gaps in research, and predicted emerging trends. The results of their work will be published in a white paper early in 2008. During the afternoon a panel presentation was held in the Center's Hoover-Leppen Theatre where members of the community heard summaries of the work the focus groups and the National Advisory Council completed earlier that morning.

Following the symposium COH's Mental Health Services Program hosted a reception and recognition ceremony. Wayne Besen, executive director of Truth Wins Out, presented the keynote address on reparative therapy and the ex-gay movement. During the ceremony, COH's long-term mental health volunteers were honored for their dedication and more than 70 years of service to the community. Gil Herdt, PhD, received the first annual SOGI Award for the Advancement of LGBT Mental Health. Dr. Herdt was coauthor of the ground-breaking 1993 book, *Children of Horizons: How Gay and Lesbian Teens Are Leading a New Way Out of the Closet*, and currently serves as director of the National Sexuality Resource Center located in San Francisco.

The symposium was sponsored by the **American Counseling Association**, the **Chicago Department of Public Health's Office of LGBT Health**, the **Illinois Psychological Association**, and the **National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter**.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING** WATCH FOR NOTICE OF SEVERAL FOCUS GROUPS TO BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE FALL AS PART OF **CENTER ON HALSTED'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**. VARIOUS GROUPS FROM THE LGBT COMMUNITY, INCLUDING STUDENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND OTHERS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS TO HELP COH STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEFINE THE CENTER'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING FUTURE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. LET US HEAR FROM YOU... PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPLETE OUR ONLINE SURVEY AT [WWW.CENTERONHALSTED.ORG](http://WWW.CENTERONHALSTED.ORG).



## OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

With the opening of Center on Halsted, the Chicago-area LGBT community took a bold step toward a bright new future. A community center, however, is only the starting point for creating a society that affirms us, that meets our physical, mental, spiritual and cultural needs and celebrates the full range of our lives.

**How is Center on Halsted working to create this new society?** The Center is caring for LGBT youth with educational, fitness, vocational and arts programs. The Center is working to strengthen the safety net for the growing number of LGBT seniors. The Center is nurturing small organizations such as Windy City Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf and Amigas Latinas. And the Center is presenting performances and exhibitions by Chicago's most talented actors, writers, musicians and thinkers.

You can be part of this work by becoming a member of the Center's Directors Circle. Directors Circle Members commit to supporting Center on Halsted with a gift of \$600 or more each year—as little as \$50 per month.

As a Directors Circle member, you create the foundation for the ongoing work that builds strong community. You help our most fragile people: youth, seniors, people living with HIV, people in crisis. You provide space for our leaders to forge new strategies to address such pressing needs as the plight of homeless LGBT youth and preventing HIV infections. You create a safe space for LGBT athletes, artists, writers and researchers to challenge each other and share ideas. In short, with one Director's Circle gift you affect all the stripes in our LGBT rainbow.

## WON'T YOU JOIN THE DIRECTORS CIRCLE TODAY?

With your gift, we will build a community that reflects the talent, compassion and hope of LGBT people throughout the Chicago area. Give online at [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org) or contact Jeff Souva at [jsouva@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:jsouva@centeronhalsted.org).

# CENTER ON HALSTED



# out & open

## GRAND OPENING

CENTER ON HALSTED, THE MIDWEST'S ONLY CENTER THAT OFFERS CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL, AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMMING UNDER ONE ROOF FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY IS A REALITY THANKS TO THE DEDICATION AND GENEROSITY OF MANY COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS. "THE COMMITMENT OF HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS BROUGHT THE CENTER TO FRUITION. **WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF DEDICATED ELECTED OFFICIALS, GENEROUS DONORS AND THE HARD WORK OF THE CENTER'S VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND BOARD,**" SAID ROBERT KOHL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR CENTER ON HALSTED.

To celebrate its momentous achievement, more than 1,000 guests enjoyed dinner, dancing, a silent auction, and entertainment featuring Betty Buckley and the cast of *RENT* at a grand opening gala on June 5. As part of grand opening activities, the Center hosted numerous community events throughout June: a career and education fair, an HIV/AIDS conference, a sports weekend, an LGBT family fair, and a youth prom, among others.

At three stories, Center on Halsted houses 10 resident community partners, a technology center, a gymnasium, a theater, a roof-top garden, a number of unique gathering spaces and a Whole Foods Market. Several namesake areas of the building are dedicated to some of the Center's most generous and devoted supporters, including the Richard M. Daley Roof Garden, the Billie Jean King Recreation Hall and the Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

The Center worked with Gensler and Power Construction to design a green, energy-efficient building that features natural ventilation and light, CO2 monitoring, rainwater harvesting, solar hot water heating and renewable building materials. The new building creates a healthier environment for its users, and reduces its consumption of nonrenewable energy resources.

# CENTER ON HALSTED

3656 NORTH HALSTED ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60613