

# centernews

## Miriam Hoover Pledges \$1 Million to Name Hoover-Leppen Theatre at Center



Michael Leppen and Miriam Hoover



Alderman Tom Turney and Miriam Hoover

Her husband, the late H. Earl Hoover, was very influential in her becoming a donor. "He was my best friend and my counselor. I was very happy learning about philanthropy as my husband felt very strongly the joy of giving – giving back something you've earned to help others."

The pledge brings Center on Halsted one major step closer to successfully completing the \$20 million campaign. Mrs. Hoover is thrilled that she can help us expand our programs for those in need. "[The new building] will be a better place to go seek help and not be afraid to go in. Everyone needs the liberty and safety to go into a place for help and I think Center on Halsted will be a sanctuary for those people."



Lewis Manilow, Jane Sak, Susan Manilow, and Gregory Thompson

Mrs. Hoover has been a long time supporter of many organizations, but this is her first gift to Center on Halsted. Her reasons for making the gift were clear. "It's a place where people can go – a sanctuary where they can get help, get together, and get a feeling of community. There are so many components: recreation; dance; business; all the things that will make it a community in itself. ... Every city should have one of these. It's a ray of hope for everyone," she said.

For more information about Mrs. Hoover's gift check [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).



The first week of October marked a major milestone for Center on Halsted. Local philanthropist Miriam Hoover became the newest donor to Center on Halsted's Capital Campaign with a pledge of \$1 million - the largest individual contribution to the campaign. Hoover's gift was made in honor of her nephew and campaign donor, Michael Leppen. In recognition of her gift, the performance space at Center on Halsted will be named the Hoover-Leppen Theatre.

Mrs. Hoover's most direct connection to Center on Halsted is her nephew, Michael Leppen. Michael has been a long time supporter of Center on Halsted through both the Annual Fund and Capital Campaign. For the past twenty-five years he has worked very closely with Miriam as the Vice President of the Hoover Management Corporation. The \$1 million pledge to the campaign is also a tribute to his years of dedication. "He is the most giving person I've known in my life – with time and with any means that he's had. I don't know anyone, except for maybe my husband, who has so passionately wanted to help make the world a better place," said Hoover.

A resident of Illinois for nearly seventy years, Mrs. Hoover has a long history of generosity. She has been involved with many organizations ranging from social services to the arts.

**Mission** In a safe and nurturing environment, the Center on Halsted serves as a catalyst for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community that links and provides community resources and enriches life experiences.

**Vision** A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender journey... celebrating, affirming, and discovering possibilities.

## Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project

### New AVP Team

It is with much pride and enthusiasm that Center on Halsted introduces Laura Velazquez and Lisa Gilmore as the new Anti-Violence Project (AVP) team.

Laura Velazquez has been promoted to Manager of the AVP. Laura has worked as the Victim Advocacy Coordinator for the past year. Her professional background spans ten years of work in anti-violence advocacy and domestic violence issues. She draws upon a diversity of experience, including domestic violence trainings and her time as a police officer in the Western Suburbs of Chicago. During this time she engaged, firsthand, issues faced by victims of violence.

In addition to responding to calls on the Crisis Line, assisting clients through the court system, and attending area coalition meetings, Laura has provided numerous trainings for area agencies on domestic violence and hate crimes.

Lisa Gilmore was welcomed to the AVP team on October 3rd as the Anti-Violence Therapist. Lisa recently completed a year long mental health internship at the Center and is extremely excited about her move into this new position. During her internship, Lisa gained valuable experience working with persons who have experienced trauma, as well as additional insight concerning clinical work with persons who identify as LGBTQ. She will bring this experience and knowledge into her new position as she provides counseling to individuals seeking services.

### AVP Initiatives

Laura and Lisa recently produced the annual Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Vigil, held on October 19th, 2005. The vigil was an opportunity for community members, social service providers, and survivors to commemorate and celebrate the lives of both victims and survivors of violence. Through the AVP team's dedication and collaborative work the vigil was very well attended and brought the issue of violence within the LGBTQ community out of the shadows, bringing a great sense of awareness to this complex and multi-faceted issue.

In addition to providing direct services to clients, Lisa will be working on the continuing development of a service provider network to more adequately serve the multitude of cultural identities individuals possess. Collaborations with other LGBTQ providers will be developed and fostered to enhance overall service delivery. As awareness and exposure are at the center of addressing the impact of violence, Lisa will be leading educational seminars to both LGBTQ identified

groups and non-LGBTQ groups on violence within the LGBTQ community.

Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) has served thousands of survivors of anti-LGBT hate crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, discrimination, and police misconduct since the program's inception in 1988. Crisis Hotline services, advocacy, community education, and incident documentation comprise key components of the Anti-Violence Project and are central to the program's goal to holistically serve survivors of violence and increase community awareness.

Sponsors of the AVP include Illinois Criminal Justice and Information Authority, Illinois Attorney General's Office, Sara Lee Foundation, Chicago Foundation for Women, and the Alphawood Foundation

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## Lawyers for Diversity Host Summer BBQ

SideTrack bar provided a lovely venue for the first Lawyers for Diversity summer barbecue, held on July 28th and benefiting both Center on Halsted and Equality Illinois. The barbecue celebrated the contributions of lawyers in the fight for LGBT civil rights.

Attendees, who represented multiple LGBT supportive and Chicago based law firms, were greeted by Jeremy H. Gottschalk, Esq. of Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss LLP, a presenting sponsor of the event. Guests later heard remarks from Center on Halsted executive director Robbin Burr and guest speaker Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Madigan highlighted the recent passage of the Illinois Non-Discrimination Bill as a legal accomplishment and a reason to be proud. She went on to address the importance of lawyers being active participants in the progress toward equality.

Following welcoming remarks, attendees enjoyed an opportunity to relax and mingle at a reception held on SideTrack's beautiful rooftop patio. In all, over \$24,000 was raised to support the programming and pursuits of Center on Halsted and Equality Illinois.



Mike McHale, Lisa Madigan, Jeremy Gottschalk and Art Johnston

Presenting legal organizations included the Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance of John Marshall Law School and the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association Chicago.

Other firms sponsoring the event include: Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Foley & Lardner LLP; Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP; Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP; Quarles & Brady LLP; Holland & Knight LLP; Jenner & Block LLP; Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP; Sidley, Austin, Brown & Wood LLP; Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP; Vedder Price and Winston & Strawn LLP.

## AIDS Walk & Run

A special thank you goes out to our #1 fundraiser Jose Lugo (COH walkers team). Jose raised a whopping \$2,550. Our #2 fundraiser position goes to Stephen Murphy (COH runners team). Stephen's fundraising efforts reflect \$680. The COH team members collectively raised over \$4,000. Our corporate partner team, UBS Investment Bank, donated \$5,000, half of which will come back to COH as well as any other funds that the UBS team members raise individually.

On a more athletic note, Center on Halsted team is very proud to have had Nathaniel Ekman representing our group. Nathaniel finished the run in 18 minutes! You do the math: 5K or 3.1 miles in 18 minutes. FANTASTIC!

The AIDS Walk & Run Chicago took place September 17.



Volunteers, staff and UBS sponsor support the fight against HIV/AIDS

## "WHEN WE SAY GAY, YOU SAY PRIDE!"

A battle cry echoed throughout the streets of Lakeview Sunday, June 26th, as Center on Halsted marked its second year of participation in Chicago's Pride Parade.

Forty-two representatives boarded Center on Halsted's red double decker bus for an enchanted magical ride armed with bubble-blowing guns, bubble wands, flavored-ice pops, iridescent flower-pinwheels, balloons reflecting every color in the rainbow, ice-cold bottles of water, and just enough sun block.

Out Latino actor and gay youth advocate, Wilson Cruz, was the Grand Marshall of the 36th Annual Chicago Pride Parade. From the corner of Belmont and Halsted the procession traveled north on Halsted, south on Broadway, then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.



Volunteers and staff show their PRIDE by riding on the Center trolley

Some crowd estimates approached 400,000 spectators. There were over 250 registered parade entries including floats, decorated vehicles, and walking contingents representing gay-friendly businesses, organizations, politicians, and individuals.

## Hot Fun in the Summer Time

On Friday June 24th, Center on Halsted sponsored the second annual Pride Dance.

With temperatures hot enough to melt an iceberg, over 20 dedicated volunteers transformed the empty lot at 3640 North Halsted -- the future site of the Center on Halsted -- into a vibrant, fun, and relaxed atmosphere.

Guests were welcomed by friendly volunteers, colorful table top décor, the smooth jazz rhythms of Katherine Davis, and the variety of flavors created by Rave Review Catering.

From smiles to service to great music to great food to great brew and all around great fun, it was a pivotal experience in the history of Center on Halsted. It was the presence of true community spirit ripe with cultural diversity and served up al fresco!

Soon to be recognized as one of the most popular destinations in the Midwest, the Center on Halsted will be a safe and inviting location where both young and old will learn and play together.

## Upcoming Community and Cultural Programming

### February 1

Elva Rubio, Gensler Project Design Director

A Presentation on the LEED certification of the Center's new building

*Collaboration with Chicago Architecture Foundation*

### February 23

Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein

Hosted at the Museum of Contemporary Art

*Collaboration with About Face and the Museum of Contemporary Art*

### March 5

Oscar Party

*Hosted at Circuit Night Club*

### March 23

SUPERNOVA: Stars, Deaths, and Disasters

An Andy Warhol exhibit

*Collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art*

### April 8

17th Annual Human First Gala

Benefit for Center on Halsted's Community & Cultural, Mental Health, and Horizons Youth Programs

*Hosted at Chicago Hilton & Towers*

### May 5th

Joffrey Ballet

*Collaboration with the Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University*

# MIRIAM HOOPER PLEDGES \$1 MILLION

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## Center On Halsted Staff Roster 2005

<b>Ian Bonner</b> Young Men's Program Coordinator	<b>Susana McLellan</b> Hotline Counselor
<b>Robbin Burr</b> Executive Director	<b>Kathleen Neville</b> Senior Director of Programs
<b>Willie Cervantes</b> Hotline Counselor	<b>Todd Odell</b> Associate Director, Mental Health Department
<b>Janine Denomme</b> Director, Horizons Youth Program	<b>Nicole Patin</b> Young Women's Program Coordinator
<b>Jill Dispenza</b> Hotline Call Center Manager	<b>John Prather</b> Receptionist
<b>Terry Gaskins</b> Hotline Counselor	<b>Rolando Renteria</b> Hotline Counselor
<b>Sanford Gaylord</b> Hotline Counselor	<b>Pedro Rodriguez</b> Hotline Counselor
<b>Lisa Gilmore</b> AVP Therapist	<b>Karen Rothstein</b> Client Services Coordinator; Therapist
<b>Erik Glenn</b> Hotline Counselor	<b>Carolyn Schneider</b> Director, Mental Health Department
<b>Michael Hogan</b> Finance Manager	<b>Jeff Souva</b> Development Assistant; Volunteer Coordinator
<b>Cathy Jones</b> Youth Prevention Case Manager	<b>Chris Taylor</b> Grants Manager
<b>Jim Klein</b> Manager, Information Systems	<b>David Thomas</b> Legal Program and Info Line Coordinator
<b>Jeff Logan</b> Hotline Counselor	<b>Gayle Thompson</b> Operations Manager
<b>Jose Lugaro</b> Deputy Director of Development	<b>Modesto Tico Valle</b> Deputy Executive Director
<b>Joel Mangers</b> Director, Community and Cultural Programming	<b>Laura Velazquez</b> AVP Manager
<b>David Matthews</b> Community Technology Center Instructor	<b>Jason Yamashita</b> Bookkeeper