

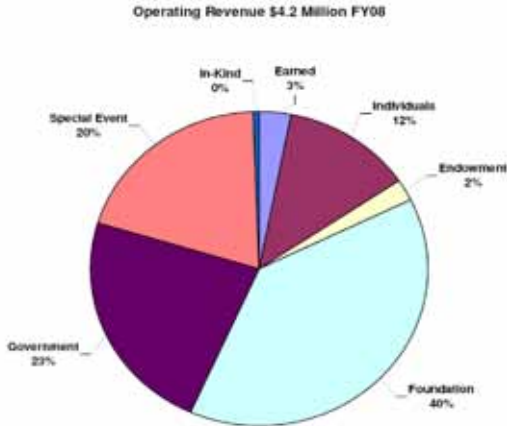


FIND YOUR CENTER | CENTER ON HALSTED | 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



CENTER ON HALSTED 2008 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES - \$4.2 MILLION FY08



Fiscal Year FY 08 ended with total revenue of \$4.2 million during the first year of full operations. Total revenue includes unrestricted individual gifts, earned rental income, and foundation and government dollars which accounts for 63% of total funding including gifts from the Alphawood Foundation.

Of the \$4.2 million in operating expenditures, 72% were related directly to programs which includes Mental Health, 25%, Youth Services, 18% and Sage/Community Programs, 22%.

From the Board Chair and the Executive Director

Center on Halsted has now been open for over a year, and we have been excited and gratified by the community's and neighborhood's embrace of the community center and all of its programs and services.

"Embrace" is to put it mildly. "Group hug" would be the better way to describe the Center's reception from the community and the neighborhood. 1,500 people come through the Center every day; many come to participate in the Center's wide-ranging programs and some come to spend time in our lobby, enjoying a take-out meal or an organic tea from Whole Foods, meeting friends or taking advantage of free wireless internet service.

The growth of program participation in just a year's time has been incredible. The Youth Program now serves over 150 participants each week. Mental health client numbers have increased to over 500 each year, providing 11,500 hours of service. We have experienced a 400% increase in the number of SAGE participants from 113 to 664 and a 20% increase in the number of women who use SAGE services. In the first 45 days of the Center's offering rapid HIV testing, 126 people were tested (making Center on Halsted one of the busiest state-funded, rapid testing sites in Illinois). Community and Cultural programming has included partnerships with the Chicago History Museum, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art, Reeling Film Festival and the Goodman Theatre. The Center now features LGBT and allied community artist exhibits in two new art galleries. The Billie Jean King Recreation Hall has exploded with activity. The Cyber Center has served well over 2,000 computer users and has offered over 20 classes and workshops. There has also been an exciting rush of people interested in volunteering at the Center, and our volunteer count has grown from 300 to more than 600 active, valuable volunteers!

Center on Halsted has quickly become the epicenter of LGBT and allied community activity in Chicago. Not only does the Center provide important space to house many organizations as Resident Partners, but it also hosts meetings, social events, fundraisers, theatrical performances, recreational activities, art shows and so much more offered by diverse community organizations and individuals, whose numbers continue to grow exponentially.

The vision that once was to have an LGBT community center in Chicago is now a beautiful reality. Hearing people say "I'm going to the Center for a meeting" or "Meet me for lunch at the Center" or "You should have gone to that amazing concert at the Center with me last night" is simply music to our ears. Center on Halsted has quickly become a part of LGBT and the allied community's lives, and of the life of the neighborhood.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of many, many individual, corporate, foundation and government donors. We are humbled by the growth in the number of donors who make it a priority to support the Center on Halsted. Indeed, without that growing support it would simply be impossible to meet the growing needs of the community--particularly in the present times. Thank you to all of our donors, for playing such a vital role in the life of the community.

Center on Halsted is your community center. In the next few days please take a few moments to visit www.centeronhalsted.org to see exactly the kinds of programs and events happening at the Center. Sign up to receive Center email updates (Only two are sent out per month.) We know that you'll find something of interest. Also, we are happy to hear the ideas and suggestions about how we can better serve community needs and interests. We welcome the feedback!

We hope, (if you haven't already done so) that you will soon discover your Center.

Warm Regards,

Robert Kohl, Board Chair

Modesto Tico Valle, Chief Executive Officer



YOUTH

Helping Our Youth Become Productive Adults

Center on Halsted has had a long-standing commitment to LGBT youth, which has culminated in the creation of the Polk Bros. Foundation Youth Center that develops potential among our young people.

As our Youth Program grew, we began seeing higher numbers of young people who were struggling with homelessness, poverty, racism, violence, unemployment, broken families, mental illness, addiction and a lack of a high school diploma or GED. These realities have driven us to offer increased services by expanding our staff, adding interns and training additional volunteers and mentors to assist us.

The more thoughtful the Center becomes in anticipating the needs of the youth in our community, the stronger the opportunity we have to bring our young people off the street and into a positive, challenging and confidential environment. By instituting new programs and researching future ones, we are strengthening tomorrow's LGBT community while keeping our neighboring residents and businesses excited about the Center's mission and progress.

The Youth Program participation has almost doubled, from 292 individual participants to 646 weekly since July 2007.

*"I would not be
where I am if it were
not for the Youth
Program staff."*

— Point Foundation

Scholar



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Providing a safe and nurturing environment for our clients....

Center on Halsted's Mental Health Services continued to achieve unprecedented growth in all areas of the program. Also added were an array of new services and support groups, as well as linkage agreements with new community partners, including Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), Hazelden, the Pride Institute and Insight Psychological Services.

This year marked an important shift in our philosophy of service delivery. Historically, Mental Health Services has organized its programming around pathology, crisis response and problem issues. We now include programming that is strengths-based and highlights resiliency. Newer offerings emphasize health, wellness and prevention and reach a larger audience of consumers who might not ordinarily seek out services. Some examples of this type of programming include "Beyond Words," an expressive art workshop for women and "35 Plus," a support group for gay men transitioning from young adulthood to middle age.

The number of clients served rose from 360 to 507—a growth rate of 41%.

"I desperately needed help and I am so very appreciative of the Center for being here and providing affordable mental health counseling. I am very impressed and grateful."

— Center Client



SAGE

Similar to most COH programs, SAGE's year was marked by remarkable growth. Our Friendly Visitor Program, a new program for isolated or homebound elders, is currently serving individuals in retirement and nursing homes.

Overall, we have significantly increased the number and variety of all of our programs. In July 2007, we offered 18 programs, and by July 2008, we were offering 27. Not only has the number of programs increased but, through collaborations, we have been able to increase the variety and depth of programming. For example, over the past year we have worked with Primetimers to offer a monthly book group and the Chicago Department of Senior Services to offer a benefits check-up.

We have seen a 400% increase in the number of participants we serve from 113 FY07 to 664 FY08, with a 20% increase in the number of women who use our services.

"I came out late in life to quit living a lie and instead live as who I am with my real identity. SAGE has helped reinforce the belief that I should be who I am and not worry about what others think."

— Jim J



ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM & TRAINING

Proudly, Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The Anti-Violence Project (AVP) 24-hour Crisis Line, 773.871.CARE, began initially in 1988 to respond to hate-crime calls, however, volunteers and staff soon began receiving calls from individuals experiencing domestic violence from their same-sex partners. From that experience, AVP developed services and advocacy initiatives for survivors of violent crimes.

AVP works to eliminate violence based on sexual orientation and/ or gender identification, hate crimes, domestic and sexual violence, police misconduct and discrimination by providing judgment-free support for survivors and their loved ones. Services include crisis counseling, information, referrals and legal advocacy.

Legal services are now part of AVP's confidential advocacy and counseling services. The Program provides the LGBT community with referrals to non-profit legal organizations and private attorneys specializing in both civil and criminal fields of law.

During 2008, the average number of new clients increased steadily, going from 19 to 23 new clients per month, with an average of 18 returning clients for various services.

The educational and outreach work AVP produced this year almost doubled from 72 presentations in 2007 to 130, reaching nearly 2,000 people in 2008.

*Advocating for
Community Safety
Since 1988*



SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER INSTITUTE (SOGI)

The Sexual Orientation and Gender Institute (SOGI) welcomed the fiscal year with the arrival of a new training class. Six students pursuing graduate degrees in psychology and social work joined the Center in mid-July. These advanced students provided over 2100 hours of direct clinical service. The training year included a pilot program for psychological testing.

SOGI made its national debut in August at the American Psychological Association's annual convention, which was held in San Francisco. An overview of the Institute and its mission was presented to the Society for the Psychological Study of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns.

The Institute provided a wealth of opportunities for clinicians serving the LGBT community. In September, a partnership with the Rockway Institute and GLAAD resulted in training for therapists on how to successfully interact with the media. During the year, SOGI also offered trainings on the acclaimed Gottman Method of Relationship Therapy. An introduction to the model was presented in November. Later in March, a two-day certification program in Gottman Therapy was offered in collaboration with the Illinois Psychological Association. This training focused on applying the model to work with same-sex couples.

The National Advisory Council met May 8th through 10th to formulate the core curriculum for the Institute's distance learning program. The Council also created an operational definition of "culturally competent care for LGBT individual and families, which will inform all of SOGI's work.

SOGI collaborated with the San Francisco-based Community-Academic Consortium for Research on Alternative Sexualities (CARAS) to hold the first annual Alternative Sexualities Conference on May 22nd. Clinicians and researchers from California, Illinois, New York, Virginia and Washington, DC. convened to address therapeutic challenges in work with, and review current literature on, the leather/kink and polyamory communities.

INSTITUTE STATISTICS

120 individuals participated in SOGI trainings during the fiscal year.

"I loved my time with SOGI at the Center on Halsted. In addition to a warm and enthusiastic welcome, I found a collective where I was encouraged to develop my skills in working with the Queer community. It was a privilege to participate in the tapestry of services that the Center provides, and I look forward working with the mental health team as a professional serving LGBT clients in other settings."

*— David,
SOGI Class of 2008*

HIV TESTING & PREVENTION PROGRAM

A New Safe Space to Learn Your Status

According to the Centers for Disease Control, an estimated quarter of a million people in the United States are living with HIV but do not know their status. This leads to increased incidence of infection and jeopardizes the health of those living with the virus by delaying care.

On May 17, 2008, Center on Halsted launched a new program to help lower that number and to more fully support those living with the virus by linking them to care. Funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Center's HIV Testing & Prevention Program offers free, anonymous, rapid HIV testing that allows people to know their status in 20 minutes. Walk-in and appointment testing sessions are accepted from 8am-9pm, 7 days a week.

One of the highlights from the first month was an event hosted by Jeanne White Ginder, AIDS activist and mother of Ryan White. Over 70 people heard her inspirational speech while also attending professionally run workshops on HIV and substance abuse and HIV and women's issues. 32 clients were tested during this event.

Center on Halsted offers a safe and comfortable space that has led to an unprecedented amount of word-of-mouth referrals to friends and family. Also, many clients have related that it is easier to visit the Center for an HIV test as Center programming affords many reasons someone might enter the building and so has less stigma associated with it than might be felt walking into an AIDS Service Organization or an STD clinic.

126 people have been tested for HIV in the program's first 45 days.



"It's so wonderful that this program puts such an emphasis on the counseling session associated with the test. Getting an HIV test is nerve-wracking as it is, but talking with one of your counselors was such a calming experience. I can guarantee that from now on, I'm getting tested at COH and I'm going to tell all my friends so they'll get tested more often, too."

— Enrique



STATE OF ILLINOIS AIDS/HIV & STD HOTLINE

Professionally trained Hotline Resource Counselors answered calls from individuals aged 10 to 80. Information was shared regarding HIV/AIDS and STDs included new medical treatments routes of transmission disease and testing specifics and personal risk assessments. The Hotline received calls from diverse populations such as general consumers, survivors of sexual assault; newly diagnosed individuals with HIV or and STD as well as long-term HIV survivors who were undergoing a crisis.

One of the tools that have been very helpful to the Hotline Resource Counselors is the Online Searchable Resource Database. The Database contains more than 2300 HIV/STD related services sites that are available throughout the state of Illinois. Many callers are seeking free or low-cost HIV/STD care, testing and counseling services in their area. This Database allows for accurate, easy access to this vital information.

The Hotline sponsored many community outreach efforts and hosted numerous events at Center on Halsted. Outreach to Hispanics in the community included health fairs, Hotline ads, and programs on Spanish language radio stations. Additionally, Hotline Resource Counselors participated in the Illinois Department of Public Health's 2008 HIV/STD Social Marketing Campaign. This campaign specifically targeted the Hispanic and African-American communities. Additional outreach efforts and events included: Wellness Fairs at area grade schools, high schools, and colleges; the Chicago AIDS Run/Walk; and sponsoring special testing and educational opportunities in conjunction with World AIDS Day, Chicago Syphilis Testing Day, and National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The Hotline distributed condom stickers and wallet cards (printed in both English and Spanish) advertising the Hotline services.

Call volume to the State of Illinois AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline grew significantly in FY2008. The Hotline received over 17,000 calls from Chicago, the state of Illinois and from across the United States. More specifically, the Hotline received over 6000 more calls than the previous year. And, by focusing their marketing efforts on the Hispanic population, Spanish speaking calls rose by 33%.

"The staff member on the hotline was professional and most importantly, made me feel safe and secure talking to her. She was also able to link me with other resources in the community."

Lisa K.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Center on Halsted continued to be a convener to the Chicago land community in 2008, offering a wide array of events that brought together LGBT individuals and their allies from across the city, suburbs and beyond. We welcomed people from all races, genders, ages and income levels. Center on Halsted has now become known as the preferred partner to such institutions as Chicago History Museum, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lakeside Pride Ensemble, Reeling Film Festival, and Goodman Theatre. The Center also collaborated in programming with our resident partners that include Gayco and Windy City Performing Arts.

A significant highlight of our 2008 cultural program focused on utilizing two unique on-site art gallery spaces that benefited both arts patrons as well as existing and emerging LGBT artists. The Center also initiated strategic transgender community programming including transgender legal rights, a discussion group and a workshop on civil unions legislation in Illinois.

The Center's literary program increased public awareness of LGBT authors, performance and visual artists, as well as academic scholars, engaging a diverse audience for book signings, exhibitions, lectures, and panel discussions.

Women's programming in 2008 featured "A World of Women (WOW)", including events throughout the year that offered monthly social networking gatherings, comedy nights, and theater.

The growing popularity of the Center's Billie Jean King Recreation Hall continues to draw nearly 60 volleyball players every week. Athletes and enthusiasts also enjoy open gym which includes new offerings such as early-morning walks, yoga, dance & Pilates.

LGBT families continue to find activities and programs that welcome them to Center on Halsted with twice-monthly play dates, workshops and social events.





Dr. David J. Lochman CYBER CENTER

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Center on Halsted's Community Technology Center (CTC) was first established in 2003 to provide technology and Internet resources to help eliminate the digital divide specifically for the LGBT populations in Chicago and surrounding communities. In 2007, the initial six workstations of the CTC were expanded to 20 and two staff members were added. The new CTC, renamed the Dr. David J. Lochman Cyber Center, was designed to provide a safe, accepting, and nurturing environment for LGBT clients to express their individuality, cultivate relationships, develop self-esteem, and connect with the LGBT community in Chicago.

The Cyber Center is the only CTC in Chicago that is specifically LGBT-affirming. This is essential for many individuals. For example, employment-seekers who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender may have discrimination concerns that other resources are not equipped to address. In addition, many community resources employ filters to block content deemed "offensive"—which often includes LGBT-related content.

The 20 computers in the Cyber Center are almost always in use and waiting lists are frequently full as well. The Cyber Center has expanded its hours and is now open seven days a week.

The Cyber Center is now an Illinois WorkNet Access Point, and the Community Technology Center (CTC) Coordinator is fully trained in using the Illinois WorkNet site to help participants work on their resumes, research new careers and find jobs.

The Cyber center served more than 2,000 participants in FY08 and offered over 20 classes and workshops where more than 200 participants were trained on a variety of topics, including computer basics, creating resumes, Microsoft Publisher, FAFSA applications and job searching.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers: Our Heart and Soul

The many programs, events and activities hosted by Center on Halsted would not be possible without the time and effort donated by our generous volunteers.

Center volunteers shared their talents, experiences and career advice with young adults through workshops, discussion groups and our Mentoring Programs. Volunteers provided support and assistance to participants in our SAGE Program, to Anti-Violence Project Crisis Hotline callers, computer users in the Cyber Center, answering the LGBT Info Line to leading building tours; we have a full variety of opportunities at the Center.

As we opened the doors in 2007, we welcomed nearly 300 new volunteers. In 2008, our active volunteer numbers have grown to 600 plus. Last year, volunteer mental health therapists provided counseling to hundreds of clients and offered thousands of hours of referral information to callers. Volunteers now provide an average of more than 100 hours of service each week at the Center.



ANNUAL FUND

Please join the Center in recognizing the selfless commitment of the following individuals who support the Annual Fund and ensure the Center's ability to maintain and build its programs -

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Department of Children and Youth Services - Youth Career Development
Goldman, Sachs & Co
ICJIA
Illinois Department of Public Health Hotline
Illinois Department of Public Health Testing
JPMorgan Chase
Polk Bros. Foundation
The Edward S. Gould Charitable Trust
The Elizabeth Morse Foundation
UBS

\$25,000 – \$49,999

AGO Hate Crimes
AIDS Foundation Of Chicago CRYSP
Bank of America
Crown Family Philanthropies



DCYS - Youth Development
Harris Bank Foundation
John Baran Fund [Steamworks]
Kraft Foods
Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
McCormick Foundation
Power Construction
Ravenswood Health Care Foundation
Ryan White
Sara Lee Corporation
The Comer Foundation
The Irving Harris Foundation
UBS
United Airlines

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Cubs Care Foundation
36 Foundation Inc
After School Matters
AGO Domestic Violence
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Blackman Kallick Bartelstein
BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois
Chicago Neighborhood Development Award
DCEO - Tourism Grant
Kraft Foods
Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
Northern Trust Corporation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Quaker Oats Foundation
Sara Lee Corporation
The Bluhm Family Charitable Foundation
The Comcast Foundation
The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
The Sidley Austin Foundation
United Way
Walgreens

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Adler School of Professional Psychology
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
AIDS Foundation [AIDS Walk]
Arnstein & Lehr
Chicago MSA
Citigroup Foundation



Deloitte & Touche
DIFFA Foundation Chicago
Equality Illinois
Exelon Corporation
Goldberg Kohn
Greenberg Traurig LLP
Jenner & Block LLP
Jim Beam Brands Co.
Minibar
Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Foundation
Public Allies
SAKS Incorporated
Shawn M. Donnelley Fund
Southern Wine & Spirits of America Inc
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey
Whole Foods

\$2,400–\$4,999

Ariel Capital Management LLC
Chapman and Cutler LLP
Great Expectations
Chicago Department of Public Health
Gensler
Motorola Foundation
The North End, Inc.
Schwartz Cooper Chartered
The Rhoades Foundation
New Trier Township High School District 203

\$1,200–\$2,399

American Medical Association Foundation
BlueCross Blue Shield of Illinois
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago Free Press
CNA
DCYS Summer Mini Grant Initiative 2007
Estelle Ecker Foundation
GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Museum of Contemporary Art
New Prospect Foundation
University of California, San Francisco
University of Illinois at Chicago



\$600–\$1,199

Berlin

Chicago Tribune Foundation

Citizens For Gregory Harris

Citizens for Richard Devine

Friends of Aurora Austriaco

Houghton Mifflin Matching Gift Program

IBM

Illinois Tool Works Inc.

John S. Merlo

LPI Media

LPI Media

Playboy Enterprises, Inc.

Sidetrack

Stephen Solovy Art Foundation

Stockamp & Associates, Inc

Tattooed Tees

The Chicago Diner, Inc

The Palmer House

The T Rowe Price Foundation

Transportation Solutions Group LLC

Wachovia Securities, LLC

Waveland Bowl Inc

\$599 and under

Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital, LLC

Benjamin Foundation, Inc.

Big Chicks

BP Fabric of America

Buck's Saloon

Century Mall, LLC

Charles Schwab & Co Inc

Charlie's Chicago

Chicago Academy of Dog Training

Crew Bar + Grill

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Euchre Club of Chicago

Hamburger Mary's Bar Event

HB Home Bistro

Hunter's Nightclub

Innovative Concepts

J & L Catering

JackHammer

Kane Property Management Corp

KAUFMANHALL

Klein & Slotten Medical Associates
KPW Family Foundation
Las Mananitas
Lincoln Park Athletic Club
McKesson Foundation
Motorola Foundation
Peck, Bloom, & Koenig, LLC
PFLAG Glenview
Roosevelt University
Roscoe's Cafe
Steamworks
Whole Foods
Window to the World Communications Inc

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Schwartz Cooper Chartered
First Slice
Turner Broadcasting (Dane Kantner)
Robert Kohl and Clark Pellett
IBM
teuscher Chocolates of Switzerland
Jewell Events Catering
Tattooed Tees
Ginny Sykes
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United Postal Service
Mary Morten and Willa Taylor
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