

CENTER on HALSTED'S

HUMAN
FIRST

gala

THE GERAGHTY 2520 S Hoyne Ave

centeronhalsted.org/gala

APRIL
15th

CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED

Center on Halsted's Human First Honoree Bios

Ann & Jackie Kaplan-Perkins met 25 years ago when both served on the Board of Horizons Community Services. It was at the organization's small, unassuming space on Montana Street that the soon-to-be couple worked closely together planning the annual Human First gala. Prior to meeting, each had been committed to LGBTQ causes, Ann through legal work as one of the founders of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) and as a volunteer for Lambda Legal Defense, and Jackie through political work as Jan Schakowsky's first finance director when she ran and won a race for Congress, as well as co-chairing then State Senator Barack Obama's Gay and Lesbian Committee.

Individually, Jackie has been recognized as a leader and connector whose work has focused on equity and advocating for the disenfranchised, including serving in staff leadership roles at the Chicago Foundation for Women, The Shriver Center for Poverty Law, Human Rights Watch and currently as a Senior Advisor for Movement Voter Project. Jackie has received numerous recognitions, including the Rockefeller Foundation's Next Generation Leadership Fellowship, Personal PAC's Pro-Choice Leadership Award and Chair of Mayor Lightfoot's Advisory Council on Women.

Ann began her legal career as a transactional lawyer in a few small firms, including her own, but she is most proud of the work she has done for the past 20 years as an attorney for the City of Chicago's Finance and Economic Development division, helping to bring low-income housing to neighborhoods all over the City - including an apartment complex dedicated to the late LGBT activist John Pennycuff.

Like many LGBTQ couples, Ann & Jackie count many anniversaries, with the two most important being August 5, 2001, when they had their wedding surrounded by family and friends and blessed by their Rabbi and Congresswoman and May 16, 2003, when their son David came into their lives and they went from being a Kaplan and a Perkins to the Kaplan-Perkins family.



Roderick K. Hawkins is the associate dean of external affairs and chief of staff at Northwestern University's School of Communication. He supports the strategic vision of the dean of the school and leads the teams that manage communications, events, high school programs, and performing arts venues in Evanston and Chicago.

Before joining Northwestern, he was the communications director at Advance Illinois, an independent policy and advocacy organization focused on equity in public education. Prior to that, Hawkins was deputy chief of staff for public engagement in the office of former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Prior to serving in the Emanuel administration, Hawkins was vice president of external affairs at the Chicago Urban League, one of the region's largest civil rights and economic development organizations. There, he led efforts in the statewide marriage equality campaign and sat on the steering committee for Illinois Unites for Marriage.

Hawkins, a Baton Rouge native, previously was the deputy press secretary to Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, where he played a key role in the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He was a communications associate at The Chicago Community Trust where he led the launch of the Trust's philanthropic initiatives in the African American and Latino communities.

In 2018, the Louisiana State University graduate was on the inaugural list of Chicago's notable LGBTQ executives in Crain's Chicago Business. Hawkins' civic engagement includes serving on the board of directors of the Auditorium Theatre, the alumni board of the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University, and the iHEART Media Chicago Local Advisory Board. From 2015-2021 he served on the board of directors of Lambda Legal, the nation's largest legal organization serving the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV.



U.S. Bank has a long history of supporting LGBTQ+ causes and organizations, including Center on Halsted. Through its Business Resource Group, Spectrum LGBTQ+, hundreds of employees participate in events and activities benefiting LGBTQ+ community members across the country and here in Chicago. In addition to being a long-time financial supporter of the Center, U.S. Bank employees have regularly engaged with the organization on a variety of volunteer events related to the Center’s Pride-month activities and beyond.

The bank has received a 100% score on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Corporate Equality Index since 2007 and is proud to be designated a “Best Place to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality.” Additionally, U.S. Bank ranked 17th in the top 50 companies for diversity by DiversityInc in 2022. The bank also has been honored with the Best-of-the-Best award from the National Business Inclusion Consortium, in connection with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce since 2018.

Through U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, its community investment and tax credit subsidiary, the company invests in a variety of projects that support the LGBTQ+ community. The bank is also a national sponsor of HRC, the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization.

With a long-standing hiring commitment to recruit diverse employees, LGBTQ+ support at U.S. Bank is also evident in its business practices. The bank commissioned a research study to help understand and support the needs and goals of the LGBTQ+ community. In response to the learnings from this study, it launched a new online LGBTQ+ family planning resource hub to help community members on the path to parenthood.

Finally, the bank has four LGBTQ+ focused branches in communities across the United States including the Lakeview East branch in Chicago. Opened in 2021, the branch serves the first officially recognized LGBTQ+ neighborhood in the United States. From talent and training to the design, these branches reflect the communities they serve. A fifth LGBTQ+ focused branch will celebrate its grand opening in Phoenix, Arizona, in April.

