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Center on Halsted relocates its offices to 2855 N. Lincoln Ave. following condemnation of the property at 961 W. Montana.
As construction of Chicago’s LGBT community nearest completion, we watched our programs work to fulfill our mission. In a safe and nurturing environment, we serve as a catalyst for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community that links and provides resources and enriches life experiences. Put simply, we are here to serve the diverse needs of our clients and now we are doing so from your beautiful new Center on Halsted.

During this past fiscal year, hundreds of youth received case management, hot meals, HIV testing and prevention counseling, and found role models, friendships, and a safe place to explore their identity and community. We’ve expanded our curriculum to include youth vocational training and job readiness as a result, youth attending our programs are getting jobs! In Mental Health, we doubled our number of clients from last year and have added several new support groups in addition to our traditional offerings. Our award-winning and nationally recognized Anti-Violence Project has provided support and training regarding violence in the LGBT community to Chicago Public Schools, to the Chicago Police Department and to many service providers. In addition, we’ve served hundreds of clients who come to us for assistance and referrals in matters of domestic violence and harassment.

We operate the State of Illinois AIDS/HIV & STD hotline and through that program we offered emotional support, accurate information and statewide referrals to more than 10,000 callers. With Spanish-speaking staff in nearly every department, we’ve seen escalated numbers of Spanish-speaking clients and are proud to be able to effectively meet their needs.

Center on Halsted is also a source for fun, recreation and cultural activities thanks to Community & Cultural Programming. SAGE at Center on Halsted movie nights for LGBT elders, wine tasting evenings, art exhibits, and classes on subjects like identity theft, LGBT adoption and home purchasing by LGBT couples all demonstrate how we have been expanding our community and cultural programming focus to address the interests of diverse individuals and families of all ages. When the community center opens in June of 2007, we’ll dramatically expand our cultural and recreational programming in the Hoover-Leppen Theatre and the Billie Jean King Recreation Hall.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our government, foundation, corporate and individual donors, we ended the fiscal year with an operating surplus and we achieved record fundraising success. Many thanks are due to our phenomenal staff and the hundreds of volunteers who are critical to our success. And, of course, we offer a special thanks to our talented and devoted Board of Directors.

This coming year we will reach an amazing milestone when we open Center on Halsted and begin offering new and expanded programs in Chicago’s LGBT community center. We invite the LGBT community and our friends and allies to get ready for an extraordinary celebration this year.

As you review the 2006 Annual Report, know we could not have achieved a successful year without you. On the coming pages, we gratefully honor our donors, volunteers and staff. It is this team that enables us to serve our community and fulfill our mission. Thank you!

Warm regards,

Bobbi Rusk
Executive Director
(2003-2007)
As we complete the capital campaign at the Center, activity to secure donors with generous gifts from $10 to $1 million continues. Center on Halsted is proud to be the catalyst for a new era of LGBT life in Chicago.

From donations big and small, Chicagoans made a difference. We made significant progress on meeting the challenge issued by the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., to secure 1,000 new donors and complete our capital campaign goals by December 31, 2006. A community has come together in support ranging from intimate gatherings of friends and families at home parties to our fourth successful Millennium Park donor dinner, which secured more than $50,000 and included a leadership gift of $100,000 from Laura Ricketts and Heidi Greenwood. And, a successful evening of outreach at our community’s watering holes gave new meaning to “it takes a village” when 450 individuals reached into their pockets to contribute more than $20,000.

Bringing it home, 100% of the staff at Center on Halsted contributed to the capital campaign, pledging more than $20,000 for the new facility in addition to their continuing dedication to provide community-centered programming and resources.

The generous response of the community to the Center on Halsted campaign has been overwhelming. It’s not too late to add your name to our thousands of donors. Visit CENTERONHALSTED.ORG to make your gift today.

directors circle update

While the bricks and mortar are settling into place at Halsted and Waveland, a dedicated group of individuals is continuing and growing their support of Center on Halsted’s programming. Such support ensures the Center will provide relevant programming of the highest quality that will make a marked difference in the quality of LGBT life in Chicago.

In growing our Center on Halsted Directors Circle by 25 percent in 2006, we are privileged to have engaged a dedicated base of supporters. We formed a committee to oversee expansion of our Directors Circle and ensure its members unique access to events and programs.

Gay Horizons' first women's union opens a coffeehouse as an alternative to the sexualized atmosphere of the bars which many of the youth are using to socialize. Gay Horizons becomes affiliated with a gay and lesbian polymer group that has been meeting every early evening. Gay Horizons also becomes affiliated with Lambda Resource Center for the Blind, which was founded in 1979. Gay and lesbian organizations, including the first African American board member, and a more professional approach are resulting at Horizons, which by now has an annual budget of under $1 million. Horizons began responding to the AIDS crisis.

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Making a Difference

The Annual Fund

Support Programs

We recognize the generous people who support the Annual Fund each year and who ensure that the Center’s ability to maintain the selfless commitment of our donors now has two names: Gay Horizons and Horizons Community Services, Inc. The name Gay Horizons is changed to Horizons Community Services, Inc. in memory of Pam Cunningham.

Making a Difference: The Annual Fund

Robert L. Jones & Carol A. Connelly

The following individuals represent a sampling of the fund raisers and the donors of the Horizons Youth AIDS Action Project.

Todd W. Bruce

William O’Meara & Chris Ball

Jerry J. Burgdoerfer

Karen Dixon

Shawn M. Donnelley

Roger Hickey & Kenneth J. Smith

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receives a letter from

of the Prairie State Empire

- United Way

Alternatives Inc.

Annual Fund Gifts $1,000 - $4,999

Abbeville Federal Savings & Loan

Abbott Laboratories

Hull Family Foundation

Brookdale Living Communities

Public Allies

Illinois Clean Energy

Wellington Management

Sutcliffe Pharmacy

Smart Girl Squared Inc.

Richard & Susan Kiphart

Wolfgang Puck

Robert E. Cichocki & John F. Schussler

Jim Alexander & Curtis Drayer

Findables

Abra Prentice Wilkin Charitable Trust

Chicago Youth Centers

John Newman & Iris Newman

Findables

Philipsburg Post-News

Fannie Erlanger

Frederick O. Nelson

Gary Marr & Mark A. Allen

The John Baran Fund

Garrison Clarke & Sebastian T. Patti

Jose Lugaro

Lawrence J. Kohl

Jim Parro

Mary A. Leppen

The Thomas E. Buchanan & Robert Bell Foundation

Elijah Ward

Michael C. Gardner & Mary S. Graham

Susan C. Greenberg

Nancy J. Katz & Janine Denomme

Garvey & Loria

Bruce Savage

Karen L. Bickers

The John Baran Fund

The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS

Lincoln National Insurance Company.

Fast Forward

The Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS

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Center on Halsted launches the public phase of the capital campaign. The first annual anti-violence vigil is held.