



2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT



July 2024 -
June 2025



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on my first full year as CEO of Center on Halsted, I am deeply inspired by the resilience, creativity, and commitment that define our community. Fiscal Year 2025 was a year of growth, innovation, and impact, marked by milestones across our programs, facilities, and partnerships—each achieved amid challenging political times. Our community has weathered difficult moments before, and together we will continue to meet this moment with strength, vision, and care.

At Center on Cottage Grove in Woodlawn, programming is now available every day, deepening access to care, youth services, and community connection. Through new partnerships and initiatives—including Midwest Pride, which convened over 130 LGBTQ+ nonprofit leaders—we strengthened collaboration and laid the groundwork for a broader regional movement.

We also advanced important work to keep our programs community-centered. Over the past year, community surveys and focus groups gave us invaluable insight into emerging needs and priorities, helping guide both existing initiatives and new directions. Programs across Center on Halsted reflected this spirit of listening and innovation: Behavioral Health expanded clinical training opportunities; Youth Programs extended services to Center on Cottage Grove and Gary Comer Youth Center; Pride in Aging launched new groups to foster connections and belonging; Silver Fork reimaged its training program with digital tools, achieving outstanding employment outcomes; and our Training & Public Education and HIV Resources & Prevention teams reached thousands with affirming, high-impact engagements.

Our facilities and operations also evolved in creative ways to support both our community and sustainability. From welcoming new tenants to introducing fresh uses of our spaces—including the addition of pickleball—we continue to reimagine how our building can serve as a hub for health, joy, and connection.

Leadership development was another area of impact. The Inclusive Futures Leadership Institute created space for emerging leaders to build skills, networks, and confidence, ensuring that our LGBTQ+ leaders across sectors are prepared to carry our movement forward.

Together, these efforts represent more than program growth—they reflect our shared vision of a future where every LGBTQ+ person can thrive. As we look ahead, we are preparing to embark on a strategic planning process that will guide us through the next chapter of impact. This process will build on the wisdom of our community and partners, ensuring that our work remains bold, inclusive, and responsive to the times.

I am profoundly grateful to our staff, board, volunteers, donors, and community members whose support makes this work possible. Your belief in our mission fuels every step forward. I am honored to lead Center on Halsted into this next chapter, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together.

With gratitude and pride,



Joli Robinson (she/her)
Chief Executive Officer

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

10,802 units of service provided

346 new clients

1,773 clients served

110 letters of support for gender-affirming surgeries provided

Awarded *Outstanding Training Site* by the Association of Chicagoland Externship and Practicum Training

In FY25, Center on Halsted's Behavioral Health program continued to provide inclusive, trauma-informed care while navigating staffing transitions and program growth. We expanded our group therapy offerings, introduced a new post-doctorate fellow role, and began offering services at Brave Space Alliance while starting a BIPOC support group at Center on Cottage Grove.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

In FY25, Youth & Family Services at Center on Halsted united its Youth Housing and Youth Services teams into a single, integrated department—enhancing holistic support for LGBTQ+ youth. The team launched new partnerships, including offering services at Gary Comer Youth Center on the South Side, and expanded access to essentials through a rapidly growing Gender-affirming Clothing Closet and an expanded pantry. The Trans Youth & Family Action Summit nearly doubled in attendance, while weekly programs like Trans Youth Group and Lavender Living saw increased participation and deeper youth engagement across the board.

3,000+ clients served



PRIDE IN AGING

Center on Halsted's Pride in Aging program strengthened community, connection, and care for LGBTQ+ older adults through new initiatives and vibrant events. The team introduced Thinking Out Proud, a memory support group, and the Inclusive Writing Group, while also hosting the LGBTQ+ Senior Resource Fair, the 2nd Annual Senior Fest, the Trans Fall Festival at Center on Cottage Grove, and a special visit from Mayor Brandon Johnson.



6,143 clients served

18,284 units of service provided

Honored with the *Community Partner Award* from the Center for Disability and Elder Law

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

SILVER FORK

50 students enrolled

82% graduation rate

73% job placement rate

Silver Fork experienced significant innovation in FY25, successfully transitioning to a fully digital learning and enrollment system that enhanced student engagement and tracking. Students demonstrated remarkable skill gains—cooking methods proficiency increased from 45% to 91%—and participated in revenue-generating projects such as pop-up sales, catering, and a student-run pierogi sale, providing hands-on job readiness experience. Expanding partnerships with Hyatt, Hilton, Levy, and Whole Foods supported strong outcomes, with over 80% of graduates securing culinary employment.



LGBTQ+ TRAININGS

78 trainings given

2,622 training participants

39 organizations activated

Center on Halsted's LGBTQ+ Training and Public Education program delivered high-impact, affirming trainings across healthcare, education, corporate, and government sectors. Sessions on microaggressions, allyship, and transgender inclusion received overwhelmingly positive feedback for clarity, accessibility, and practical application—with 95% of participants reporting they learned new information about how violence uniquely impacts the LGBTQ+ community. The team also launched its first public event for Trans Day of Visibility and strengthened internal onboarding and professional development.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HIV RESOURCES & PREVENTION

1,229 tests given

3,040 clients served by The HIV Resource HUB (“The HUB”)

19,750 units of service provided by The HUB

Center on Halsted’s HIV/STI Resources & Prevention team continued delivering compassionate, client-centered care while expanding community impact. We launched the Center on Cottage Grove (COCG) Online Market in partnership with Nourishing Hope, providing over 1,100 boxes of food and connecting more South Side neighbors to HUB supportive services. We also began offering regular testing at Steamworks, bringing essential services directly to the community. Our team stayed strong through staffing changes, kept services timely, and shared our work at outreach events and the premiere of our newest HUB zine at PRIDE Fest.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL

132 new volunteers

2,000+ hours of volunteer service

In FY25, Center on Halsted celebrated community and culture through Latinx Heritage Month, Black History Month, and hosting the Legacy Wall from The Legacy Project. We introduced new recreation programs like lunchtime basketball, senior pickleball, and open gym pickleball, creating more ways for people to connect and thrive. Volunteers powered much of this work, with 132 new volunteers contributing over 2,000 hours and a new Volunteer Ambassador Committee leading tours, events, and outreach. Their dedication was vital to major events like Midwest Pride and the launch of our monthly Career Workshop in the Cyber Center.



FACILITIES USAGE

CENTER ON HALSTED

Center on Halsted continued to be a vibrant hub of LGBTQ+ life, hosting 983 community meetings and events that brought people together to connect, celebrate, and organize. We welcomed new partners like PrideArts and Lambda Legal Midwest, expanding the range of programming and advocacy offered in our space. Major events—including Midwest Pride, the Holiday Open House, the return of the Trans Ice Cream Social, and our Pride Watch Party—highlighted the Center’s role as a gathering place for joy, resilience, and visibility.



983 community meetings and events

CENTER ON COTTAGE GROVE

Center on Cottage Grove reached a major milestone in FY25, launching daily programming for the first time in its three-year history. This expansion drove unprecedented community engagement, with annual attendance soaring by 863%—from 192 individuals in FY24 to 1,657 in FY25. Regular offerings included wellness classes, support groups, HIV testing, food distribution, and cultural programming, reflecting the diverse needs of the community. While this rapid growth created new demands on space, staffing, and technology, it also affirmed the vital role Center on Cottage Grove plays. Looking ahead, we remain focused on securing the resources needed to sustain daily programming and meet the growing demand for LGBTQ+ affirming services.

1,657 attendees

863% audience increase



NEW INITIATIVES

This year, Center on Halsted launched a number of bold initiatives to expand our impact and strengthen connections across the LGBTQ+ community. We completed the inaugural Inclusive Futures Leadership Institute, bringing together 25 emerging LGBTQ+ leaders from over 80 applicants, with sessions hosted by partners including KPMG, US Bank, the Chicago Blackhawks, Goodman Theatre, and Navy Pier. We also hosted the first Midwest Pride, convening LGBTQ+ nonprofit leaders from across the region to connect and find support. In service delivery, we began regular HIV testing at Steamworks and introduced daily programming at Center on Cottage Grove, including the first-ever Trans Fall Fest. New partners, including PrideArts, Pride in the Pews, and Blue Lotus Yoga, joined us to host events in our spaces. We overhauled centeronhalsted.org and began partnering with Nourishing Hope and The HUB to bring groceries to our Woodlawn neighbors.



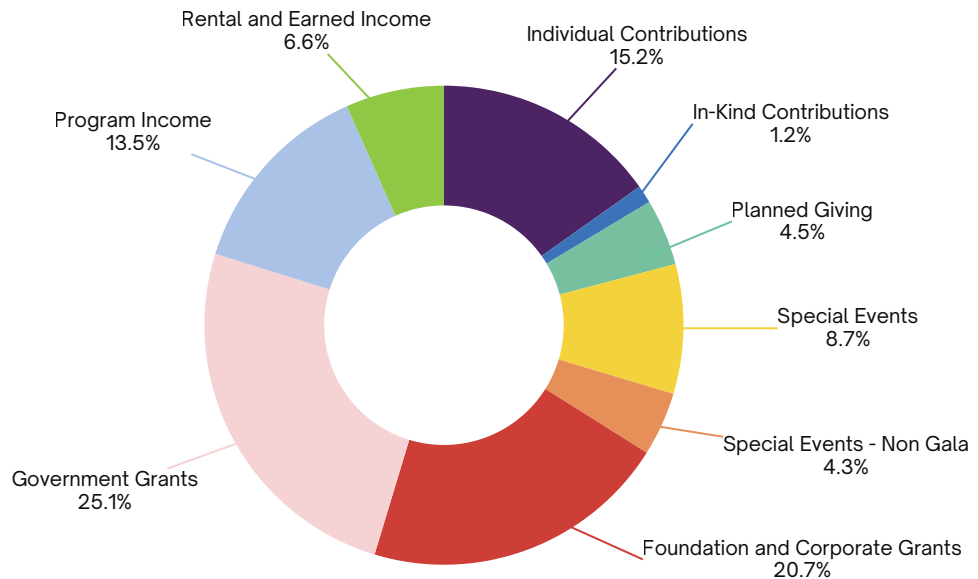
FUTURE OUTLOOK



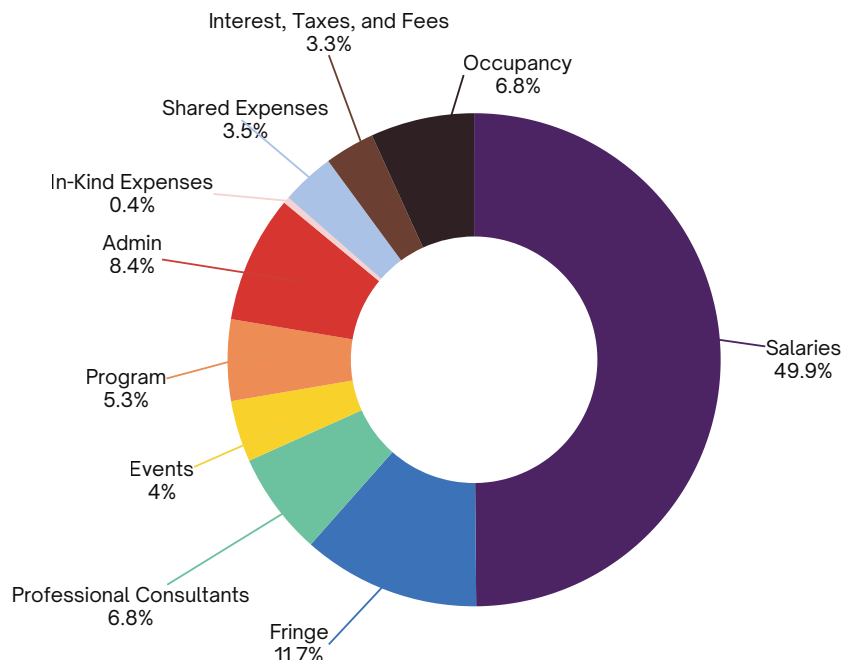
Looking ahead, Center on Halsted is focused on strengthening our impact and preparing for the future. We are engaging in a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide the organization's priorities, expand resources, and enhance services. We will continue to grow programming at Center on Cottage Grove, ensuring the community has access to vital support, services, and connection. At the same time, we remain committed to standing with the LGBTQ+ community, providing care and community in the face of increasing anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRE-AUDIT FINANCIALS FY25 - REVENUE



PRE-AUDIT FINANCIALS FY25 - EXPENSES



REACH

37,132 followers across LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram

12,501 Instagram followers **7,186** LinkedIn followers **17,445** Facebook followers

109,000+ website visitors

32,000 email subscribers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chartise Clark (she/they) **Chair**
Susan Betteridge (she/her) **Vice-Chair**
Victor Ravago (he/him) **Treasurer**
Lee VanderLinden (they/them) **Secretary**
Nick Bruce (he/him)
Calvin Cottrell (he/him)
Anne Dooley (she/her)
Victor Draine (he/him)
Troy Fahey (he/him)
Jesse Leung (he/him)
Jason Lyrla (he/him)
Kimberly Motes (she/her)
Michael Nelson (he/him)
Alicia Ozier (she/her)
David Petro (he/him)

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Lupe Sanchez (he/him)
Jacqueline Sinclair (she/her)
Alithia Zamantakis (she/her)



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Mo Buti (she/her)
Ryan Coventry (he/him)
Starr De Los Santos (she/her)
Bret Deyo (he/him)
Rosanna Diaz (she/her)
Emily Esquivel (she/her)
Jessica Esquivel (she/her)
Cam Finley (he/him)
Jillian Furey (she/her)
Francisco Gutierrez (he/him)

Elvis Guzman (he/him)
Jay Hardin (he/him)
David Harris (he/him)
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Jordan Hunt (he/him)
Matthew Huston (he/him)
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Kevin Keado (he/him)
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Amanda Kiphart (they/them)
Kelsey Kyle (she/her)
Darek Lambert (he/him)
Katie Lorenz (she/her)
Darien Marion-Burton (he/they)

Nikhaule Martin (she/her)
Randy J Mitchell (he/him)
Keerti Nandanampati (she/her)
Conor Oswald (he/him)
Agata Paciora (she/her)
Kevin Pitts (he/him)
Michael Raffety (he/him)
Terumi Randle (she/her)
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