

**THE CENTER:  
STANDING STRONG IN A TIME OF NEED**

# *IMPACT 2016*



**the center**  
Serving the LGBTQ  
Community of Nevada

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Supporter of The Center —

It is with pleasure that we present to you The Center's 2016 Impact report, which provides a snapshot of the number of people we served through the delivery of our free programs and services to the LGBTQ community and our allies.

This is your "impact" in our community. It is because of your unwavering support — financially, through volunteerism, or by way of partnership — that we are able to touch the lives of thousands of people in Southern Nevada.

The Center and its staff are working so hard every day to provide services to the LGBTQ community that sometimes it is difficult to step back and look at the big picture. But when you add it all up, our "impact" is impressive:

- **Signature Programs:** The Center's signature programs — QVoution (youth), ACT III (senior), Identi-T\* (transgender) and HIV Services (including testing) — continue to have high levels of participation.
- **Youth:** In 2016, the youth program partnered with Las Vegas-based nonprofit Andson to deliver financial literacy and tutoring to youth, and we implemented a successful Access to Higher Education project that included a campus tour of UNLV.
- **Seniors:** The senior program helped provide meaningful social opportunities to thousands of Southern Nevadans. These social



opportunities included a series of lunch and learns, a trip to Grand Canyon, and a Thanksgiving dinner with nearly 150 seniors in attendance

- **Transgender:** For the transgender community, The Center produced a three-day conference, Genderfest, where attendees learned about the history of the transgender movement, hormones, and legal considerations such as changing one's name.
- **Health Services:** The Center expanded its HIV Services programming to include a HIV Peer Advocate to help newly diagnosed individuals, and those out-of-care, connect with services.

Though our programs have seen tremendous growth and success, at its heart, The Center is still all about the people. It is where we gather as a community. Whether it is a joyful gathering, like when we celebrated marriage equality in 2015, or a sorrowful gathering, like when we came together last year in solidarity for the victims of the horrific shooting in Orlando, we rally together because we know we are stronger as a community. The Center is an expression of that unity.

Thank you for all your support in the past year. We are humbled!

Sincerely,

André C. Wade

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## DONATE TODAY — [THECENTERLV.ORG/DONATE](http://THECENTERLV.ORG/DONATE)

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**95** community groups, boards, and organizations met at The Center. They hosted **2,407** meetings and **23,365** persons attended.

In support of the community, The Center contributed **\$48,060** in room space assisting community groups and self-help programs in 2016. It contributed an additional **\$39,600** in room space reserved by our LGBTQ sponsors and allies.

The David Bohnett Cyber Center hosted **10,720** cyber sessions in service to patrons.

**214** persons volunteered over **12,086** volunteer hours, recording an amazing **49%** increase of volunteer hours over the previous year.

The Center made **11,950** referrals to community resources on behalf of patrons.

Youth participated in a variety of QVolution youth programs that represented **2,572** service units.

**186** LGBTQ and allied youth from all over Southern Nevada attended our popular Youth Prom while **63** attended the Youth Thanksgiving.



**391,825** HIV prevention materials, condoms, and safer sex kits were distributed throughout Southern Nevada.

## The Center provided **68,785** units of service through our programs and services.

**1,388** units of participation were registered in our Identi-T\* transgender and gender non-conforming programs, and **78** people attended the first Genderfest conference.

**1,118** units of participation were registered in our ACT III (Aging Communities Together) senior programs while **78** attended the Senior Prom in 2016.

**4,922** HIV tests were administered at The Center while **79** new HIV positives were identified and assisted with getting into care.

**4,402** STD tests were administered at The Center while **213** new STD positives were identified and assisted into care.

**1,133** persons were provided immunizations at The Center.

# TOGETHER, WE STAND STRONG; YOU MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

**In 2016, 562 persons made generous donations to The Center to fund key programs and services. You are one of those amazing people, and we simply can't thank you enough. Your donation made all of this possible. Thank you for your generous support, and for making all the difference for our LGBTQ community.**

# MISSION & HISTORY

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, a community-based organization, supports and promotes activities directed at furthering the well-being, positive image, and human rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, its allies, and low to moderate income residents in Southern Nevada.

## HISTORY OF THE CENTER

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in the summer of 1992 through efforts inspired by the Friday Night Men's Rap Group at Community Counseling Center. For several months the Center's Board of Directors met in a small room at Community Counseling Center, but in June 1993 the Center bought a small former dental office at 912 E. Sahara Ave. Not only was this the Center's first independent home, but it was the first safe public space in Las Vegas for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people. That year, the Nevada legislature repealed the state's sodomy law and the Las Vegas gay community rallied to celebrate and dedicate its new Center on October 15, 1993.

Within a few months of opening, the Center offered the community a host of services and programs. It provided free HIV testing; office space for the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, the NAMES Project, LAMDBA Business Association, PFLAG, Delta Lambda Phi, Senior Action Gay Environment; and meeting space for groups in support of lesbians, gay youth, gay and lesbian parents, Hispanics, gay seniors, transgender people—even a gay science fiction club. In January 1994, the Center sponsored the first annual Man and Woman of the Year Awards, known today as the Honorary.

By 2001, however, the Center had outgrown its small space and in February 2002 it moved across Sahara Avenue into a 6,000 square-foot storefront in Commercial Center. A ribbon-cutting and dedication was held on October 11,

2002 in association with the city's National Coming Out Day celebrations. With its membership and community programs growing rapidly the Center in June 2006 moved into a larger space nearby. This expansion included a computer lab, two large meeting/game rooms, a comfortable community room, and Las Vegas' first LGBTQ library.

In 2007, faced with more and more demands on its mission from Las Vegas' burgeoning queer community, the Center embarked on a five-year strategic plan to once again purchase its own building and to increase the scope and quality of its programs and outreach. By 2012 the Center surpassed its fundraising goal and bought the free-standing building at 401 S. Maryland Pkwy. After a \$4 million dollar renovation the Center hosted its grand opening on April 6, 2013. Named for Las Vegas businessman and community philanthropist Robert "Bob" Forbuss, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada offers state-of-the-art meeting, convention, and performance spaces, the David Parks LGBTQ library, an enhanced computer lab, and the award-winning Bronze Café. The Center significantly increased its programming and outreach and in 2015 was named by *Vegas Seven* magazine as the Best Full-Service Community Center in Southern Nevada.

Like Las Vegas, the Center is constantly growing and will continue serving the Southern Nevada LGBTQ community with professionalism, dedication, and compassion.

*Special thanks to historian Dennis McBride.*

