

# CREATING a Legacy



2010  
Annual Report

# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Board Chair  
**BARBARA R.  
HARRISON**



Board Chair  
**CHRISTOPHER  
K. M. LEACH**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## The Center: Creating Colorado's LGBT Legacy

2010 was the year the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of Colorado made the leap from "merely" making history as one of the oldest LGBT Centers in the country to establishing a legacy for LGBT Coloradans by becoming one of only a small percentage of LGBT Centers across the country to own their own building.

On July 6, 2010 The Center moved into its new home at 1301 East Colfax Avenue, right in the heart of Denver's historic Capitol Hill "Gayborhood." For the first time in The Center's 35-year history, we owned our own building. This move was the realization of the hopes and dreams of so many in the Colorado LGBT and allied community. A reward for all the blood, sweat, and tears shed by those of you who have wished and worked so hard for so long to create not just a safe space for Colorado's LGBT community, but a true and permanent home of our very own.

Standing on the rooftop of our new building at The Center's Grand Opening - addressing the hundreds of Center donors and supporters who made the move possible - we were suffused with overwhelming feelings of warmth, pride and a sense of accomplishment. It

was a feeling that we will never forget. The move was a risk but it was a risk we gladly took for the community and it was a risk that paid off in spades. And it couldn't have happened without you, The Center's donors and supporters.

The Center's new home is our gift - our legacy - to future generations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Coloradans who, because of your commitment and generosity, will be secure in the knowledge that they have a home that nobody can ever take away from them. A place where they belong. A safe place. A place for our LGBT Elders to meet for coffee and conversation; a place where our LGBT youth can be who they are and free from bullying and hate; and a place where the community can plan and gather to continue the fight for LGBT equality and acceptance in years to come, not only in Colorado but throughout the nation.

The poet Robert Frost said, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." The Center is our home and our home is the legacy we leave to future generations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Coloradans. We thank you for creating a home for LGBT Colorado. We thank you for creating this legacy. •

Sincerely,  
Barbara R. Harrison  
Christopher K. M. Leach  
Center Board co-chairs

**"Home is the place where,  
when you have to go there,  
they have to take you in."**

**– Robert Frost**

The Center thanks our Community Advisory Committees for all of their hard work in 2010:

Youth CAC  
Elders CAC  
Transgender CAC  
Legal CAC  
Inclusivity CAC  
Community Connections CAC  
Health CAC

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
**CARLOS MARTINEZ**

## The Center: Who We Are, What We Do and What it Means To You

As we here at The Center continue to settle into our new home and look ahead to our 35th anniversary in 2011, we feel that it is important to look back over the past year and communicate with our donors, supporters, and constituents about who we are as an organization, how we have evolved over the years, where we're going in the future, and just exactly what The Center means to the LGBT people of Colorado that it serves.

Established in 1976, The Center is one of the oldest LGBT centers in the country. And while half of all LGBT centers have budgets of less than \$50,000 and no full-time staff, The Center has an annual budget of over \$2 million and a full-time staff of 15. We are also among a small percentage of LGBT centers that own their own building. This means that Colorado's LGBT community will never know what it means to be without a safe and permanent home to call its own.

Why is this so vitally important? According to CenterLink ([www.CenterLink.com](http://www.CenterLink.com)), an online community of LGBT centers, centers such as ours serve a vital role in their communities across the country. They are often the only staffed non-profit LGBT presence in the area and are usually the first point of contact for people seeking information about LGBT issues, coming out, accessing services and programs, or organizing for social change.

Having finally moved into our home at 1301 E. Colfax Avenue on July 6 of last year, The Center now has 15,000 square feet of space in our new facility - twice the size of most LGBT centers nationally. Your ongoing support has not only allowed us to double our space with the new building, but it has also enabled us to increase the services and programming we offer

to the community, our visibility statewide, and our online presence and resources. In addition, we have created a vibrant new image with a new logo and aggressive branding campaigns, put on the biggest and best PrideFest ever, expanded inclusivity in the community, and raised almost \$3 million with our capital campaign.

The Center is proud to have accomplished so much in 2010 and grateful to those of you who have helped us do so. All of this is made possible thanks to your unwavering support of the Colorado LGBT and allied community. Each year, you give your time, you contribute financially, and you provide feedback to help us get better. As we embark on our next three-year strategic plan, we look forward to your continued support and inspiration. With it, we know that we can accomplish our goal of becoming the premier LGBT organization in the Rocky Mountain region. •

Warm regards,  
Carlos Martinez



Director of Development and Communications  
**Debra Pollock, Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, and  
Executive Director Carlos Martinez**

## 2010 CENTER STAFF

Rahn Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator  
Cory Barrett, Rainbow Alley Director  
Melinda Barton, Legal Director  
Kayln Bohl, Rainbow Alley peer staff  
Eleanor Dewey, Rainbow Alley peer staff  
Heather Draper, Communications and Marketing Manager  
Amy Drayer, Associate Director of Development and Communications  
Jessie Genther, Events Coordinator  
Shay Gonzalez, Rainbow Alley peer staff  
Ken Helander, SAGE of the Rockies Coordinator  
Rob Hoiting, Development Associate  
Dylan Lenz, Rainbow Alley peer staff

Laurie Leonard, Facilities Coordinator  
Andie Lyons, Rainbow Alley Program Manager  
Carlos Martinez, Executive Director  
Dan Mestas, Rainbow Alley Peer Staff  
Robert Mosher, Director of Finance  
Moises Muñoz, Rainbow Alley Program Coordinator  
Craig Overholser, Executive Assistant  
Debra Pollock, Director of Development and Communications  
Savannah Sanburg, Community Services Coordinator  
Juli Weiser German, Community Engagement Coordinator  
Jason (Jay-Lo) Wilson, Rainbow Alley Peer Staff  
Hope Wisneski, Deputy Executive Director



The Board of The Center would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the team that made our new home possible including:  
Fransen-Pittman  
Studio DH  
Jones Corp.  
City Projects  
RDM Communications

# RAINBOW ALLEY



Rainbow Alley Volunteer  
Dominique Malik



Rainbow Alley  
Peer Staff Jay-Lo

LGBT youth can often feel socially and emotionally isolated in their lives. Studies show that youth who have access to LGBT-supportive programs like Rainbow Alley are happier, healthier, and do better in school than those who do not.

In 2010, Rainbow Alley averaged more than 600 visits each month to the youth drop-in space where all activities are created and run by youth-participants with trained adults providing supervision. With increased reports of teen bullying and, tragically, a rash of highly publicized teen suicides in 2010, safe places for LGBT and questioning youth are more important than ever.

Rainbow Alley provides resources, counseling and a social outlet for youth ages 12-21. Programming in Rainbow Alley includes Education 4 Action, a grassroots organizing and leadership program; Sex@Six, teaching youth to consider both the physical and emotional aspects of sex and sexuality; Dinner and a Movie, which provides a meal and substance-free social activities on Saturday nights; and the Qings and Kweens dance troupe and as well as a theater troupe to encourage participation in the arts. All of these programs help youth build confidence and self-assurance while encouraging them to explore their interests and become more well-rounded individuals.

Services offered to the youth at Rainbow Alley include a daily group check-in with youth and staff members to air any concerns or problems they are facing in their lives; a weekly support group with a Licensed Professional Counselor for more in-depth exploration of issues; and a weekly clinic with a Registered Nurse from Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics to receive free STI testing and seek medical treatment.

Youth Alley at PrideFest



In addition to regular programming, Rainbow Alley offers special events throughout the year, cosponsoring the annual Queer Youth Summit in February, throwing Queer Prom in May, hosting Youth Alley at PrideFest in June and the annual fundraiser, Gaybutante, in October, which honors youth who share their inspiring coming-out stories in front of a large group of supportive adults.

Rainbow Alley staff also work on outreach in the community to talk about their programming and the importance of eliminating discrimination against LGBT youth in schools and other youth-serving organizations. They work with many community organizations to ensure that LGBT and questioning youth aren't left feeling alone or isolated, and that the challenges unique to LGBT youth are considered in programs such as Child Protective Services or mental health facilities.

In the fall of 2010, Rainbow Alley partnered with One Colorado, The Healthy Colorado Youth Alliance and Denver Public Schools to work on programs to eliminate bullying in the DPS school system.

recalled. "Her message to me was ... absolutely not here. You can't come out of the closet here."

Not surprisingly, Alison stayed in the closet in high school due to small town attitudes and prejudice, which is why she thinks it's vitally important to have a space like Rainbow Alley where youth feel safe to be themselves.

"The environment the kids create at the Alley makes it easier for LGBT and questioning youth to be who they are," she said.

That's the difference she hopes to make by being involved with Rainbow Alley – to allow youth the opportunities she didn't have, to grow into the people they truly are in an affirming environment. Alison and all the mentors in Rainbow Alley are making an impact on the lives of LGBT youth. The Center's surveys have shown that youth who spend time in Rainbow Alley feel more positive about the future and more connected to a community than before they became involved with the program, and that is truly a legacy worth creating.

# TRANSGENDER PROGRAMS

The Center's Transgender Programs were run by the Transgender Community Advisory Committee in 2010. The committee produced the Trans Rest and Resource area at PrideFest in June, offering a gathering point for the transgender community at the festival, and resources for support and services. In August they hosted a community potluck in collaboration with The Gender Identity Center of Colorado. The event was used as an open house to gauge the climate within the transgender community and to collect information regarding their wants and needs for services.

Trans 101 was a seminar held at The Center in the fall to educate those outside the community on what it means to be transgender. The course tackled many issues, including the difference between sexual orientation and gender, the correct use of pronouns, gender identity versus gender expression, and the legal protections afforded to transgender people. The transgender community still faces many obstacles to full acceptance, even amongst the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, and The Center is working diligently to overcome these hurdles.

Securing employment in the face of discrimination is one of the transgender communities greatest challenges. To assist with this, the Transgender Community Advisory Committee is organizing the Transgender Career Advancement Project (TCAP). Planned for production in the spring of 2011, the project consists of topics from resume writing to personal presentation to one's legal rights once hired. All of this preparation will pay off at the Transgender Job Fair in May, 2011. The project's goal is to recruit 10 companies to participate in the job fair, presenting participants with the chance to network, practice interviewing skills and, with any luck, land their next job.



"It will be the first transgender job fair ever in a non-coastal city," said Courtney Gray of TCAP's Transgender Job Fair. "I think it is going to be a wonderful resource for Colorado – and the region's – transgender community."

## Bridging divides and fostering a sense of community

Courtney Gray's volunteer work with The Center is all about overcoming divides, building community and fostering understanding.

"One of my biggest goals in my volunteerism is to bring the trans community together, past its internal and agency divides," said Courtney.

Courtney came to The Center several years ago looking for community. She did a number of different volunteer jobs, including working at the front desk. As a volunteer, she saw transgender people coming to The Center looking for advice, resources and direction. The experiences inspired her to take a more active approach.

"Information has to be made available," Courtney said, adding that information providers need training on how to talk to transgender people.

Cody Ortiz-Oldham first came to The Center as a Rainbow Alley youth in 1997 and has maintained ties ever since. Ortiz-Oldham has been co-chair of the Transgender CAC for the past year and is proud of taking the committee from an abstract concept to a concrete program benefitting the transgender community.

"It's like a dream to see the Transgender CAC come into creation," said Ortiz-Oldham. "Trans resources have really come a long way in recent years and I think some of the greatest resources an organization can provide are helping folks to find jobs and offering healthy support groups and social events where people can find community."

## PROFILE



Alison Dozier  
Rainbow Alley Volunteer

### Rainbow Alley mentor knows first-hand how isolating being different can be

Licensed professional counselor Alison Dozier has been a volunteer adult mentor at Rainbow Alley for two years. She spends time with youth in the drop-in space, offering a compassionate ear and the insight born of experience – resources she wishes had been available to her when she was growing up in Moscow, Idaho.

When she was a junior in high school, Dozier told her guidance counselor that she was dating a girl and she asked the counselor how other LGBT kids dealt with their sexual orientation while in high school.

"She told me I had two choices: 'You can either stay in the closet until college or you can drop out,'" Dozier

## PROFILE



Courtney Gray and  
Cody Ortiz-Oldham  
Transgender  
Community Advisory  
Committee Co-Chairs

# PRIDE FEST

Denver PrideFest  
Audiences Watch  
En Vogue



PrideFest Performer

With attendance of 300,000 people over the weekend, the economic impact created for the city of Denver by PrideFest is estimated to be \$25 million.



Latin Stage Entertainer Antonio Reyna

PrideFest celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2010, and for this momentous occasion, they pulled out all the stops. PrideFest 2010 was the largest on record, with more than 300,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies coming to Civic Center Park on June 19th and 20th to celebrate the movement for their equality.

PrideFest is uniquely positioned as the one time each year that every contingent and clique of our community gathers to celebrate the strides that we have made toward equality and justice. The festival is an open invitation and offers something for everyone. Youth Alley is an area dedicated to youth under the age of 24, free of alcohol and tobacco, and introduces youth to resources and services available to them such as HIV testing or opportunities to become involved in the arts. The Center's Transgender Community Advisory Committee hosted a Transgender Rest and Resource Area, and SAGE of the Rockies had its own delegation in the parade that marched to a choreographed routine using walkers.

Saturday once again featured PrideFest's Family Fun day, featuring the Kids Parade, field day games, the Dogs in Drag contest, birds of prey from the Raptor Education Foundation, and activities for kids throughout the day. The 2nd Annual Denver Dyke March happened Saturday afternoon, beginning with a political rally followed by a march down Colfax and into the park. Saturday also saw performances by singer Coles Whalen and

comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer.

Sunday morning kicked off with the PrideFest Parade. To commemorate the 35th anniversary, individuals who have made great impact on Colorado's LGBT community were invited to participate as Grand Marshals of the parade, representing each decade of the movement's history. Sunday afternoon feature the festivals headlining entertainers, En Vogue. Audience members packed the coliseum area surrounding the main stage and enjoyed a rousing performance by the iconic band.

New to PrideFest in 2010 was the addition of a Country Stage. Billed as the OutWest Country stage, festival goers were treated to line dancing lessons, a Cowboy Church service on Sunday morning, exhibitions from Denver's LGBT square dancing team the Rocky Mountain Rainbeaus as well as plenty of opportunities to line dance and two-step on the dance floor themselves.

The Center's Something for Everyone Capital Campaign hosted a booth at PrideFest and saw great results. Members of The Center's Board of Directors staffed the booth both days of the festival, and talked with community members about opportunities to support the campaign. In total, 67 new donors committed to the campaign, with many of them joining the \$27.77 club, which offers a \$1,000 donation broken into monthly payments over the course of 36 months. •

# SAGE OF THE ROCKIES

SAGE of the Rockies (SAGE) had a banner year in 2010. After winning a grant from SAGE, the national organization of which the program is an affiliate, in February, the Program Coordinator and two community members traveled to Long Island, NY to participate in SAGE's Constituent Advocacy Training Program. The program educates elders on public policy that affects them and some of the challenges they will face as they age, and prepares them to become advocates for themselves and their peers.

In June, SAGE of the Rockies received a grant from the Colorado Culture Change Accountability Board, and began working with Piñon Management in their Parkview Care Center to address the needs of LGBT elders living in long-term care facilities. Together they are developing a program to educate staff and residents about the LGBT community, address misconceptions and prejudices, and bring about a change in culture within the facility. This program will then be replicated to improve the lives of all LGBT elders living in long-term care facilities throughout the state.

In October, the inaugural SAGE of the Rockies Regional Conference on Aging was held in Denver. The central theme of the conference was helping elders address the question 'Where will I live as I age, and who will care for me?' Over 200 elders attended workshops on housing options, end of life planning, spirituality and holistic health, social media, and a myriad of other topics.

The conference coincided with Gaybutante, The Center's annual fundraiser for Rainbow Alley, and it was featured as the conference's Saturday night event. The evening was a wonderful comingling of different generations of the LGBT community and an overall success.

In addition to these highlights, SAGE of the Rockies continued to host its regular programs. Each week elders congregated at The Center for Tuesday Morning Coffee, an informal gathering of conversation and support, a caregivers support group, and a grief support group for those who have lost a partner. SAGE of the Rockies also offered workshops on medication management with a Geriatric Pharmacist, a safe driving course offered in conjunction with AARP, financial planning seminars, and yoga classes. Elders from SAGE of the Rockies also attended four Breakfast and The Opera outings, watching recorded performances from the New York Metropolitan Opera in a movie theater, as well a special viewing of the King Tut exhibition at the Denver Art Museum. SAGE of the Rockies has created an active and vibrant community of LGBT elders, fighting isolation among them and enhancing the quality of life for all. •



SAGE of the Rockies Meeting



Capital Campaign Donor Leonard Samson and SAGE of the Rockies Coordinator Ken Helander

SAGE of the Rockies won the 2010 Partner of the Year Award from AARP of Colorado for collaboration on multiple projects, especially the SAGE of the Rockies Regional Conference on Aging.



Carmah Lawler, Kathryn Glass, Rosalie Dorland, Linda Warren, and Barbara Jones

## PROFILE



PrideFest Production  
Volunteers Extraordinaire

David Garcia and Matthew Carver have been deeply involved with PrideFest for a number of years. As volunteer Quadrant Coordinators, they are onsite for the entire festival, from Friday's setup until the end of tear down Sunday night. These are two dedicated volunteers.

The couple originally met while living in Sacramento, California. It was only after David had moved to Denver in February of 2005, however, that they reconnected, while he was on a return trip home, and became a couple. Shortly after, Matthew moved to Denver as well, and the two have been inseparable since.

David first started volunteering at the front desk at The Center in 2007 as a way to contribute and connect with the community. He was recruited to work at that year's PrideFest by The Center's Volunteer Coordinator. It was in his second year, though, that he took on the responsibilities of Quadrant Coordinator (QC), assisting with the onsite production and execution of the festival.

Matthew assisted David the first year he was a QC, and was then thrown into the position himself the next year after another volunteer decided he couldn't be so heavily involved at

the last minute. That was two years ago. In the years since, David and Matthew have both looked forward to spending PrideFest working behind the scenes.

"I love it. Each year I say I'm not going to do it again, but I always end up coming back because it's so fun," said David.

When asked to recall favorite memories of PrideFest, David said, "The people. It's nice to get the picture of what goes on in the background and the people are just really great."

"The dancing cowboys on the country stage," said Matthew with a mischievous grin.

PrideFest is a celebration of community and The Center would be hard pressed to produce the festival for the LGBT community without the dedication and generosity of volunteers like David and Matthew. •

## PROFILE



Michael King  
Center Volunteer

It took Michael King almost 70 years to come to terms with his sexuality. But after attending Denver PrideFest three years ago and becoming involved with first the Colorado Prime Timers and then The Center's SAGE of the Rockies' Tuesday Morning Coffee group, in March of 2010, Michael decided that the time was finally right to come out to his family.

"It took me a whole lifetime to come to terms with my issues but after almost 70 years of confusion I think I've finally found what I'm looking for," said King. "It started with Tuesday Morning Coffee and I've just gotten more involved with The Center as time goes by. I now have something going on six days a week and I'm no longer spending every day alone with a bottle of vodka. If I ever won the lottery I would give a tremendous amount of financial support to The Center. That's how much it means to me."

King is particularly proud of his work with The Center's SAGE of the Rockies program, which offers programming and events specifically for LGBT people over 50. After only two years in existence, the program is considered a particularly vibrant elder program.

"There are so many people who benefit from The Center," said King. "But particularly retired people, it gives them something to do, a reason to get out of the house. It's amazing. You never know who you're going to meet or what you'll talk about at The Center." •

# THE LEGACY



On July 6, 2010, The Center took historic steps and moved into a new home at 1301 East Colfax Avenue. The first building to be owned by The Center in its 35-year history, the undertaking of this project rallied Colorado's LGBT citizens into action and made it evident how far, as a community, they had come.

When one of The Center's donors, a gentleman in his 50's, toured the building for the first time, tears came to his eyes as he took in all of the building's windows. "For so long we had to meet in places without windows, where you entered from the alley and the location was kept secret. We deserve to have all this light now," he said.

Fourteen years ago, Linda Harmon and her students, with the help of The Center's Legal and Advocacy Program, sued the Cherry Creek School District for the right to form Colorado's first Gay Straight Alliance at her school. As a straight ally to the community, she knows the importance of creating safe spaces for LGBT people to live authentically. She was motivated to donate to the capital campaign by the idea of Rainbow Alley youth having a permanent home, one where they would never again have to fight for acceptance.

The Center was warmly welcomed by the Capitol Hill neighborhood and Denver's civic leaders. The Center received the 2010 Mayor's Design Award, the 2010 Project of the Year-Adaptive Use Award from the Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management-Daniels College of Business at the

University of Denver, and the Capital Hill United Neighborhoods Good Neighbor Award.

The garden level of The Center is home to Rainbow Alley. Youth coming to the drop-in space are greeted by one of the peer-staff at the large reception desk, behind which sit computers for peer staff and interns, lockers for the youth's personal belongings and the DJ booth. After signing in, they are free to hang out in the lounge area, or hit the Imagination Suite, a room especially designed for creative endeavors such as crafts or painting. When hunger strikes, youth can grab a snack from the kitchen, or if they're feeling under the weather, the Wellness Studio is a fully equipped medical exam room where they can access health care.

The first floor is where community members enter the building and sign in at the volunteer-staffed reception booth. Over 460 active volunteers logged 5,386 hours at The Center and its events in 2010 which were worth more than \$112,298. The Terry Mangan Memorial Library, the largest collection of LGBT literature in Colorado, is around the corner and accessible to all. Across the southern side of the building is the Stonewall Suite, one of The Center's largest community rooms where many of the 22 outside groups who meet at The Center convene; among them 12-step recovery groups, women's and men's groups, the Two Spirit Society, and Unidos N Orgullo, a Latino LGBT organization.

The first floor is also home to the Landmark Legal Suite, where The Center's Legal Director works for LGBT equality and interns field calls on the Legal Helpline. Next door is the Victory Suite, a midsize meeting room where staff can often be found meeting with one of the 50 collaborating organizations The Center partners with. Throughout the building, and the first floor especially, is the Pride Gallery, wall space to exhibit the work of local artists.

Across the open library from the Victory Suite are the Justice and Equality Studios, intimate rooms perfect for the free HIV testing offered each week or a private consultation with a community member in crisis. Next door to these rooms is the Cyber Center.

The Center's David Bohnett Cyber Center received a reboot when The Center moved. The Cyber Center now houses 10 new computers each equipped with the Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe design software and internet access. The Cyber Center is open to all community members during Center hours, excluding class times and Fridays and Saturdays after 5:30 p.m., when it is reserved for youth under the age of 21 from Rainbow Alley.

Stepping off the elevator onto the second floor, community members are in the Legacy Lounge, the space where The Center recognizes its annual donors. Just off the Legacy Lounge is the Leadership Suite, a large conference room where the Board of Directors holds its meetings, community groups assemble, and many of the Community Advisory Committees meet. The east side of the second floor houses The Center's administrative offices, a suite of open-environment offices and the staff meeting room, the Think Tank.

Atop the building rests the rooftop terrace – 2,000 square feet of mountain and city views, perfect for fundraisers, events and social gatherings. A perfect view of the Colorado capitol dome reminds all who see it that, although much progress toward equality has been made, there is still more work to be done.

The Center and the LGBT community are deeply proud of this new home. It stands as a monument to what can be accomplished when all members of the community work together, pool their resources and assemble with purpose to create something meaningful. It is a legacy that will last for generations of LGBT Coloradans to come. •

It's not too late to be a part of Something For Everyone, The Center's comprehensive capital campaign!

Join the \$27.77 Club and donate \$1,000 over the course of three years.

Donate \$10,000 or more for a naming opportunity within the building.

Contact The Center's Director of Development and Communications, Debra Pollock *Capital Campaign Director*, for more information at 303.951.5204.



Grand Opening Attendees DeMarcio Slaughter and Shane Hodges



Grand Opening Performers the Two Spirit Society



Grand Opening Attendees Barb Harrison, Michelle Cooney, and Friends

## TIMELINE

**September 2008:** Organizational readiness plan

**December 2008:** Development audit and campaign feasibility study

**May 2009:** The Center closes on ownership of 1301 E. Colfax Avenue

**August 2009:** Renovations at 1301 E. Colfax Avenue begin

**December 2009:** \$2 million raised, exceeding yearend goal by \$500,000

**July 2010:** The Center officially moves into 1301 E. Colfax Avenue

**November 2008:** Capacity building plan

**January 2009:** Board ratifies strategic plan and campaign feasibility

**July 2009:** Capital campaign cabinet holds first meeting

**November 2009:** Something for Everyone comprehensive capital campaign is launched

**March 2010:** \$27.77 Club is created to expand accessibility to donors

**September 2010:** 1,000 community members enjoy the Grand Opening Celebration



December 2010: \$2,767,970 raised

Revelers line up at The Center's Grand Opening

# CYBER CENTER



The Center's Cyber Center

With the creation of The Transgender Career Advancement Project, The Center hopes to increase participation in all computer classes.

In the hope of helping members of the LGBT community be more desirable candidates for employment, The Center began offering formal computer classes in 2010. The Center's client data shows that 40% of constituents earn less than \$20,000 per year. Key to helping these community members enjoy a greater quality of life is education. Microsoft classes covering the basics of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint were offered in both English and Spanish in the fall.

SAGEworks, a project of SAGE of the Rockies, also offered computer classes for elders. Thursday mornings was an introductory class for those not familiar with computers, covering the basics and essential uses. On Friday mornings, the computer applications class was held, which taught different software programs, internet browsing and even social media. Teaching elders to utilize this technology

which seems ever-present in today's society keeps the mind active and even helps fight isolation.

On Monday nights, a class was offered on Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Creative Suite 5, all graphic design software. Students learned to manipulate photographs, design print materials, and website design.

With the creation of The Transgender Career Advancement Project, The Center hopes to increase participation in all computer classes. On average, more than 100 community members use the Cyber Center each week for employment searches, internet access and printing capabilities. In today's technology-driven society, access to and familiarity with computers is essential, and The Center is grateful to be able to offer these resources in a safe and accepting environment for the LGBT community. •



The David Bohnett Foundation's Paul Moore, Director of Development and Communications  
Deb Pollock, Executive Director  
Carlos Martinez

## Financials

For year ended Dec. 31, 2010 (unaudited)\*

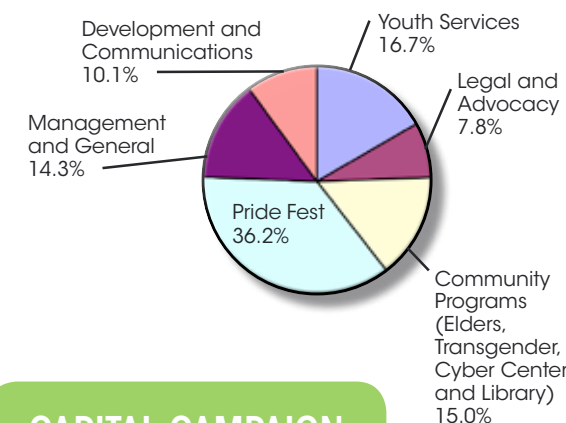
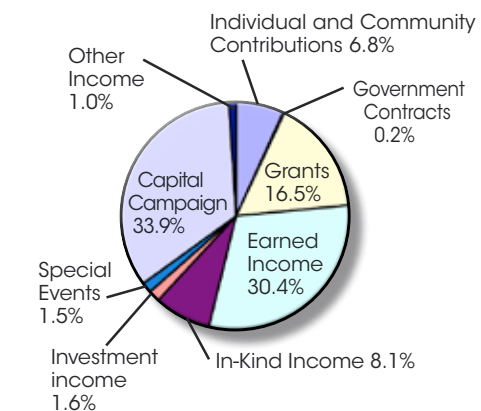
### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual and community contributions	\$ 142,491
Government contracts	3,963
Grants	345,558
Earned income	636,631
In-kind income	168,889
Investment income	33,869
Special events	31,607
Capital campaign	710,672
Other income	21,375
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>2,095,055</b>

### EXPENSE

Program services	
Youth services	290,785
Legal and advocacy	136,066
Community programs (Elders, transgender, cyber center and library)	261,837
PrideFest	631,405
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>1,320,093</b>
Supporting Services	
Management and general	249,718
Development and communications	175,885
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>425,603</b>
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>1,745,696</b>
Change in net assets	349,359
Net assets at beginning of year	1,827,957
<b>Net assets at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 2,177,316</b>

(Copies of audited financials available upon request)



### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

(to date)

Three Year Goal: \$ 3,500,000

Individuals	\$ 1,874,119
Foundations	566,830
Corporations	43,020
City of Denver	250,000
Community Organizations	34,001
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,767,970</b>

# LEGAL AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Center's Barrister of the Year  
Denise Maes, Executive Director  
Carlos Martinez, Ramona Cruz



The Center's Legal Helpline assisted with over 330 contacts seeking basic information or referrals to LGBT-friendly attorneys or agencies.

The Center's Legal & Advocacy Program serves as a watchdog for the LGBT community while the Colorado Legislature is in session. It played a primary role in working with the State of Colorado regarding expansion of health insurance benefits to domestic partners of state employees through their rulemaking process. The Center also fought legislation which could harm the LGBT community such as the "religious bill of rights" and actively supported positive legislation such as the needle exchange bill. Work was also done surrounding the 2010 U.S. Census and the handling of sexual orientation and gender identity both through local and national efforts.

The Center's Legal Director spent a significant amount of time in 2010 working in public outreach and education. She conducted more than 25 public speaking engagements during the year, educating more than 800 attendees on the five Colorado laws that offer protections to LGBT citizens and their rights under these laws. This also included a considerable amount of media education relating to California's Proposition 8 marriage equality case, potential hate crimes in Colorado, and other LGBT legal areas.

The Center's Legal & Advocacy Program dedicated considerable resources to a pro

bono direct representation case involving the application of the 2007 amendments to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which include protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The case brought attention to the discrimination that LGBT people still face in the workplace, and efforts to improve the reach of the state discrimination prohibitions and to add these protections at the federal level are continually underway.

The Center's Legal Helpline assisted with over 330 contacts seeking basic information or referrals to LGBT-friendly attorneys or agencies. The majority of contacts are provided with referrals or basic information over the phone. The Legal Helpline this year created Spanish language forms to increase the effectiveness of our work. Throughout the year the program utilized the talents of seven interns from both University of Colorado and University of Denver law schools, and introduced them to the world of LGBT advocacy and legal work, planting the seeds for the next generation to undertake the fight for equality. Five of the interns handled intake on the Legal Helpline, while the others focused specifically on research for the direct representation case. •



John Kelly  
Center Volunteer

## PROFILE

John Kelly's life story is one of service to his country and his community. He was in the United States Air Force from 1958-1967 and even managed to survive a "gay witch hunt" in 1961 during which he was investigated for being gay but managed to beat the charges. He even went on to re-enlist.

Kelly eventually left the service and came out of the closet at age 40 but his commitment to service has never waned. Kelly became involved in local gay veterans' groups but health issues forced him into retirement and boredom. A year

ago he became a member of the Denver GLBT Commission and that led to increased activity within Colorado's LGBT community and The Center.

"I love being a part of the Denver GLBT Commission," said Kelly. "And that became the catalyst for other things. I started coming over to The Center for Tuesday Morning Coffees about a year ago and got involved in the SAGE conference and even ended up on the advisory council at The Center for SAGE of the Rockies. In a matter of a year I've gone from just sitting around on my duff to being here at The Center 20+ hours a week. I'm as excited as hell about what we do here because in just the short amount of time that I have been volunteering here it has really made me aware of just how important The Center is."

Kelly has even gotten credentials through the District Attorney's Victim Advocate Program to be

able to provide even more support to Colorado's LGBT community.

"When I got involved with the District Attorney's program I knew I had to take that training back to the gay community. I've had enough encounters working at the front desk now just with people walking in or calling on the phone - people making that first outreach - to see firsthand what The Center means to people and why they need it. There was a young man who walked in here a week ago, escorted by two police officers. He was the victim of domestic violence and he needed help. Or to see the mothers and their children coming into Rainbow Alley - once you've seen stuff like that there's just no going back. When it comes to The Center, anywhere I can get involved, I will get involved and I will do whatever they need me to do for as long as I'm able to do it." •

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## PROFILE



Linda Warren

Linda Warren is a staple at Center events and a long-time champion of the organization. She is a favorite amongst

the staff and brings a smile to everyone she greets when she is in the building. As one of The Center's Legacy Donors, she has included The Center as one of the beneficiaries in her will. As an ardent and tenured supporter to The Center, she felt it appropriate to provide one final gift.

Each year, Linda plays Santa Claus to dozens of kids. She collects a wish list from the youth of Rainbow Alley, shops for them, and ensures that each has a holiday gift. She likes to purchase items the kids want and most likely won't get anywhere else. This is very much in keeping with her giving and playful personality.

The tradition started in 1999 with her long-time partner Lin Bocher. At the time Lin and Linda, who owns a flooring business, did all the shopping and made all the purchases themselves. The two met after Linda moved

to Denver from Mississippi in 1987, and were together for 14 years.

After Lin passed away in 2002, Linda started soliciting help from friends. She now calls almost everyone she knows, and asks for donations.

"I call it my hit list," she said with a quick laugh and all her Southern charm.

Linda is an unsung hero to Denver's LGBT community who has given so generously to hundreds of youth over the last 12 years. When thanked for everything she does for The Center, she is adamant that she doesn't do it all on her own.

"Make sure to say I have helpers. I couldn't do this without the support of the community," she said, ever humble and gracious. •

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**PROFILE**



**b. Frank**

Despite a 20-year interval spent living and working in London, England, b. Frank has considered Denver home since 1969. She and partner Ronni McCaffrey met 15 years ago at The American School in London where they were both employed and the two returned to Denver to live full-time in 2006. The move came as both a culture shock and a wake-up call to the couple. In the UK, b. and Ronni were legally recognized as civil partners and had rights that are still not accorded to same-sex couples in the US. Having a legally recognized civil partnership was immensely important to the couple and returning to a country and a state that did not recognize their partnership concerned them greatly. The two debated whether they should continue to live and work in Europe or return to the US and join in the fight for LGBT civil liberties here. They chose to return and to get involved by becoming supporters of The Center.

"Living openly in a supportive community was one of our primary goals," said Frank. "We believe that a viable and visible LGBT center is indicative of a strong and vibrant community, the kind of community in which we want to live. The central location and visibility of the new site for The Center are symbolic of how central our community is to Denver and Colorado. By supporting The Center we are- perhaps somewhat selfishly- helping to create a community where we, our friends, and our family can live open, honest and productive lives." ●

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