



"A Place Called Home"

When Judah began coming to The Center, he had no support at home. He faced harassment at school, didn't know what he wanted to do once he turned 18, and was faced with the real possibility of having nowhere to live.

Through The Center's Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment Program Judah found a place to belong. Through The Center's supportive staff, volunteers, and mentors, Judah found the family he needed. We are counting on your support to ensure that no one in our community gets left behind. I am happy



Joel Gemino (Youth Services Manager) and Judah Peralta (2016 Black and White Ball Honoree)

to report that Judah applied to college, and now serves as the president of his dormitory at California State University Long Beach.

While we're taking a little time to celebrate our Pride, we're also working hard to serve every single person walking through our doors. [We hope you will make a commitment to our community today with a one-time or monthly gift to The Center.](#) Your support is essential to supporting our community in accessing



services that would otherwise be unobtainable like free legal and career counseling, free cyber center, mental health counseling, and more than 20 social and support groups. ***You're not just supporting your Center, you are saving lives.***

Our youth aren't the only ones counting on us to help them through difficult times. The Center is committed to serving everyone seeking support, assistance, and affirmation.

Expansion and Growth

Over the last year, we have adjusted our programming and added new staff to support our LGBTQ community. Services include:

- ***Comprehensive Youth Services*** We are proud to provide support services to LGBTQ youth and families of all ages. From our groundbreaking Transparent Families playgroup for gender creative children and their caregivers, our highly respected Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment (MYTE) drop-in program for teens, to case management and support services for young adults, our Youth Services department is driven by leading experts dedicated to ensuring the success of our future leaders.
- ***Domestic Violence Support*** The Center is only one of two agencies in Southern California providing LGBTQ-specific domestic violence support services. Our program staff are national experts in the field of LGBTQ domestic violence and are equipped to help our clients leave abusive relationships and work with the community to foster healthy relationships to prevent abuse before it starts.
- ***Senior Services*** As our community ages we know it's critical that our Center's programming reflect the unique needs that impact our community's pioneers. Our volunteer-driven senior services department offers monthly drop-ins, social activities, and is driving a community needs assessment to better inform our Center of the types of additional support services we need to build.

- **STI Testing and Treatment** As one of the only agencies in Long Beach providing no-questions-asked, completely confidential, and free testing and treatment, we are testing clients who don't receive these valuable health screenings anywhere else. More than 20% of all clients we serve have tested positive for an STI making this service one of the most critical and valuable health programs in the City.
- **Social and Support Groups** The Center provides dozens of additional groups, programs, and cultural activities to improve the health, wellness, and vibrancy of our local LGBTQ community.

Visit our website at www.centerlb.org/about-us to view our latest video highlighting our biggest programs, services, and events.

Upcoming Events

We are thrilled to invite you to a very special event. Join us on May 20 for the annual Pink Party from 7:00pm-12:00am at the brand new WE Labs at The Packard (205 E. Anaheim Street Long Beach, CA 90813). More info is always available at www.centerlb.org/pinkparty.



Your support is essential to continue providing services to our community that would otherwise be unobtainable. You're not just supporting your Center, you are saving lives. Your gift in any amount is easy to give. [Simply click here to partner with The Center today.](#)

Thank you, as always, for being a part of our Center and our community. We look forward to seeing you at one (or more) of our many cultural and social events this year.

Yours in friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Porter Gilberg'.

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director

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