



Happy Holidays From Your Center Family

Dear Friend of The Center,

I won't mince words. We are preparing for an uncertain and potentially hostile future for LGBTQ people and our allies. Our community's public safety, critical funding for HIV testing and domestic violence support, and ability to safely travel without fear of interference from our government is at risk. Your Center is committed continuing to lift up our LGBTQ community now more than ever. We are moving forward no matter what the future holds, but **we can't achieve our mission of creating a more equitable society for LGBTQ people without your support.**



The Center has an ambitious agenda in the months and years ahead and we know that we cannot rely on federal funding alone to support the tens of thousands of LGBTQ people who are counting on us. We need grassroots support from our community, for our community, to ensure that everyone in Long Beach has a chance to thrive and achieve their tremendous potential in this world.

The Center is taking immediate action to address the increasing number of people reaching out for support including:

- Mobilizing dozens of attorneys to support transgender and gender nonconforming clients update identity documents at rapid-fire legal drop-in clinics scheduled now through January 2017.
- Doubling the number of available weekly legal clinic appointments to support everyone in our community.
- Reaching out to other organizations to collaborate in providing support for LGBTQ immigrants.
- Hosting free self defense seminars throughout December in collaboration with Groundwork Fitness.
- Plans to hire The Center's first Senior Services Coordinator in January 2017 to ensure resources and support for pioneers in our community.
- Moderated community feedback forums including LGBTQ people in North Long Beach, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and seniors so that our staff and board of directors can learn more about the types of programs we need to be developing in the years ahead.



Enjoying a Thanksgiving meal at The Center

Through increased staffing, expanded programs, and targeted outreach to those who continue to experience the greatest need we will be doing our part to create opportunities for everyone in our community to not only live in dignity, but to thrive. This also includes our staff who are one of the most diverse and community reflective teams you will find at any LGBTQ center. **We are also incredibly proud to have been one of the only LGBTQ centers in California to both endorse and commit to paying a \$15 minimum wage for all employees** and this commitment has been instrumental to ensuring our staff are given the same opportunities for success that we afford our clients.



Trans Day of Remembrance 2016

Moving into 2017 we will have one of our largest budgets to date and the most diversified programming we have ever offered. We are driven to support our community but we can't do it without you. **Invest in the LGBTQ Center Movement today to ensure the future success of your center and your LGBTQ community.** It takes a movement to sustain a community and your gift, in any amount, will play an instrumental role in ensuring our clients are able to continue to access vital health, wellness, safety, social, and cultural programming.

As always, for more information on any of our programs, check out our website at www.centerlb.org. On behalf of everyone at The Center, I want you to know how thankful we are for your support and belief in our work. Together, the

possibilities for our community are endless.

In Support and Solidarity,



Porter Gilberg

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director

DONATE

