Center on Halsted advances community and secures the health and well-being of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people of Chicagoland.

Our Mission
Center on Halsted advances community and secures the health and well-being of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people of Chicagoland.

Our Vision
A thriving LGBTQ community, living powerfully in supportive, inclusive environments.

Our History
Gay Horizons, founded in 1973 as a volunteer-run telephone helpline and meeting place for gays and lesbians, became Horizons Community Services, Inc. in 1985. The organization was renamed Center on Halsted in 2003. After a $20 million capital campaign involving 2,000 donors, Center on Halsted opened its 175,000 sq. ft. building in 2007 with Whole Foods Market in residence. On the precipice of its 10-year anniversary, Center on Halsted has expanded to include Center on Addison, an LGBTQ Senior Center, Town Hall Apartments, LGBTQ-friendly affordable housing, and the Youth Housing Initiative, cluster-site housing for LGBTQ young people ex

Impact
1,400 visitors daily/511,000 annually

Budget
$6.9 million budget FY17
28% government
20% foundations/corporations
18% special events
15% individuals
9% earned income
7% Youth Housing Initiative
3% program fees

Green Building
LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certified for green building: gray water system, recycled building materials, day lighting system, computerized control of HVAC and lighting, energy-efficient roofing

Rentals
Center on Halsted offers rental of its meeting rooms, event/reception spaces, theater, and gymnasium; special rates are offered to not-for-profit organizations

Resident Partners
IMPACT at Northwestern University
Windy City Performing Arts Group
Whole Foods Market
Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles
Athletic Alliance of Chicago
Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame

Our Strategic Priorities
Visibility & Relevance
Promote the visibility and relevance of Center on Halsted offerings in Chicagoland’s LGBTQ community

Health & Well-being
Ensure the health and well-being of LGBTQ people through wellness and lifespan offerings

Geographic Reach
Extend the geographic reach of and access to Center on Halsted

Diversity & Inclusion
Demonstrate a culture of diversity and inclusion through staff, board, programs and community engagement

“Being Transgender for me is being in a state of self-examination and Center on Halsted has been a safe haven and oasis for me to surround myself with positive interaction”
—Rory, Reception Volunteer

“I want to be a mouthpiece for LGBTQ youth and empower others like me to advocate for themselves. This space has been a bright place in the development of my identity.”
—Terry, Youth Program Participant

“As a member of the Senior Services Program and resident of Town Hall Apartments, my life has so much vitality! There is community here and I can look forward to many more happy, healthy, and productive years.”
—Marti, Senior Services Patron
PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL SERVICES

More than 1,400 community members of all ages walk through our doors every day to participate in the diverse public programs and social services offered at Center on Halsted; ranging from volleyball and cooking classes to rapid HIV testing and group therapy. For every dollar donated to Center on Halsted, nearly 75¢ are spent directly on providing these community programs and services.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Center on Halsted advances the LGBTQ community by hosting an array of fun, educational, and enlightening programs open to the public.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS - A full gymnasium used by more than 10,653 community members/year and five recreational leagues for activities, including ballroom dance, basketball, hockey, table tennis, tango, volleyball, and yoga

PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL ARTS - Regular art exhibits, film screenings, dance and live performances in our state-of-the-art theatre, attracting more than 5,166 attendees/year

CYBER CENTER - Providing free Internet access and technology training to nearly 1,555 patrons/year

SENIOR PROGRAMS - Cultural outings, workshops, and social space bringing nearly 500 LGBTQ seniors together/week with more than 200 lunches served/week

SENIOR HOUSING - Town Hall Apartments is LGBTQ-Friendly affordable housing, which opened in 2014, and is the home to 83 residents in 79 1-bedroom and studio apartments. Case management is provided alongside programming for residents

BISEXUAL PROGRAMS - Specific cultural events, workshops, discussions, and networking opportunities tailored specifically to the bisexual community

FAMILY PROGRAMS - Workshops, meeting and family space, serving approximately 1,594 LGBTQ families/year

TRANSGENDER PROGRAMS - More than a dozen workshops, seminars, and social events designed by and for Chicago’s trans community every month, serving approximately 7,239 individuals/year

WOMEN’S PROGRAMS - Special events created specifically by female-identified community members, bringing approximately 574 LGBTQ women together every year

CAREER READINESS - Comprehensive training in culinary arts provided by chefs for new and continuing education students; ongoing vocational training and GED programs for all ages

SOCIAL SERVICES

Center on Halsted secures the health and well-being of LGBTQ individuals through our comprehensive social services.

PSYCHOTHERAPY - Individual, group and family counseling for more than 400 community members a year on a sliding scale with special foci on healthy LGBTQ living, coming out, relationships, and HIV/AIDS

SUPPORT GROUPS - Group meetings offering support for approximately 160 community members on a variety of topics including coming out, grief and loss, living with HIV, 12-step recovery, communities of color, and other identity-specific groups

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER INSTITUTE - Licensed training for local mental health graduate students and LGBTQ competency training for practitioners

LEGAL SERVICES - Free legal consultations, workshops, and referrals serving 220 community members/year

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT - Therapy, social services, and incident reporting for victims of domestic violence and abuse in the LGBTQ community for approximately 200 clients/year

HIV TESTING - Free, confidential, anonymous testing for nearly 4,000 community members/year at Center on Halsted and locations throughout Chicagoland

STATE OF ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS AND STD HOTLINE - Free, confidential counseling and referrals serving more than 9,000 callers/year from across Illinois and the Midwest

YOUTH CLINICAL SERVICES - Housing assistance, professional development, prevention education, crisis intervention, case management, art therapy, and leadership training provided to more than 1,000 young people across Chicagoland

YOUTH HOUSING - Launched in 2016, The Youth Housing Initiative houses members of the Center on Halsted Youth Program in a cluster site Transition Age Youth Housing Model with wrap-around case management and supportive services