



IMPACT REPORT 2023

"Our mission is to serve, empower and advocate for North County's diverse LGBTQIA+ community."



BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR PARTNERS



**ALLIANCE
HEALTHCARE
FOUNDATION**



A MESSAGE OF IMPACT & GRATITUDE



Ken Grandlund

When I joined the Center's board of directors in 2018, we had recently moved from our original space on North Coast Highway into our current location on Mission Avenue in Oceanside. We had **two full time employees, four board members, and a team of volunteers** working

together to make the dream of a sustained organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ people and families in North San Diego County a reality.

With a handful of programs designed to support, advocate, educate, and celebrate our uniqueness, **"the Little Center that Could" became a beacon of hope for a queer community** too often ignored by mainstream organizations. We provided space for support groups to connect, for young people to find their authenticity, for families to get vital information, and for us all to feel seen, valued, loved, and supported.

When the pandemic turned everything upside-down and other non-profit organizations weren't sure how they could continue, the Center's board and staff made a commitment to keep our doors open, even if virtually, and to continue to serve our community. From delivering food and providing shelter, to creating virtual support meetings and mental health support, our mission was as clear as it had ever been: **to serve, empower, and advocate for North County's diverse LGBTQI community.** With your support, and through grants and other funding we did more than just survive; we thrived,

we met the needs of the community, and along the way we became a consistent provider of and voice for social justice in our small part of the world.

As we begin our 13th year in operation, we can rightly take pride in how far we've come – nearly **30 full and part-time employees,** an operating budget around \$1 million, more than a dozen grants funding numerous programs, 160+ people supported through free mental health therapy and other medical support, a one-of-a-kind Unicorn Homes program to combat homelessness, more than **20,000 visitors to 2023's Pride by the Beach** ... I could go on and on and on.

While we can and should celebrate our successes and thank our donors and volunteers for their commitment to the cause, we recognize that **we still have much to do.** It's 2024 and while many have become more accepting of our right to equality and happiness, just as many would shove us back into the closet, or worse. The need for advocacy, social justice, and filling in the gaps of a sometimes-broken public safety net has rarely been greater and we will continue to **show up, speak out, and offer a hand where and when we are needed.**

As you review our annual impact report, I encourage you to consider how you can help. Become a monthly donor at any level. Share the story of our Center with friends, families, or business contacts. Look for more opportunities to volunteer. Do you have a special skill or know someone who does? Let's see where we can put that to good use. It's been said that it takes a village to raise a child. Working together we'll raise our new Center and continue to provide a safe place for every LGBTQ+ person in North San Diego County.

-Ken
Board Chair

Thank you for your past, present, and future support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corinna Contreras (she/her)
Member at Large

Maria Al-Shamma (she/her)
Secretary

Yu-Wen Chio (she/her)
Treasurer

Paul Garza (he/him)
Member at Large

Aaron Giron (he/him)
Member at Large

Ken Grandlund (he/him)
Board Chair

www.ncresourcecenter.org/our-board





STAFF MEMBERS

Max Disposti (he/him)
 Executive Director & Founder

Lisa Nava (she/her)
 Director of Operations

Carlos Tabora (he/him)
 Director of Development

Roxanne Deatherage (she/her)
 Pride by the Beach Director

Jennifer Ianole (she/her)
 Unicorn Homes Director

Jessica Fairchild (she/they)
 Grant Accountant

Nicole Kent (she/her)
 Clinical Program Supervisor

Jodi Fiel (she/her)
 Clinical Program Manager

Val Wood (she/her)
 Program Manager

Helen Pfalzer (she/her)
 MAT Case Manager

Nani Love (she/her)
 Housing Lead

Agustin Perez (he/him)
 Project Youth Coordinator

Ezme Ramos (she/her)
 Peer Specialist

fran bautista (they/she)
 Stop the Hate Program Coordinator

Grant Patterson (he/him)
 Case Manager

Gregory Richardson (he/him)
 Foodies & Goodies Coordinator

Ines Delgado (she/her)
 Immigration Advocate

Jeri Nicolas (she/her)
 Front Desk Administrator

Jet Finnell (they/them)
 GAP Program Coordinator

Joshua Silva (he/him)
 Housing Navigator

Keith Marshall (he/him)
 Affirming Services Lead

Leticia Negrete (she/her)
 Referral Coordinator

Lou Callies (they/them)
 Youth Host Home Coordinator

Max Cooley (he/him)
 Media Specialist

Meg Martinez Vargas (they/them)
 Training Navigator

Stephen Smyth (he/him)
 Behavioral Health Therapist

* list reflects staffing as of April 2024

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Max Disposti

We are building an organization where journey and growth are measured and reflected in the number of people we've hired, the lives we've impacted, and the families we've served. **We are changing the way nonprofits hire, engage, and deliver services.** In a landscape where homelessness, food insecurity and poverty have been historically criminalized, we aim to empower those on the journey of recovering from poverty, violence and isolation. **We believe that an LGBTQI organization has the responsibility to serve, represent, and give voice to our diverse community** that still struggles after years of stigmatization, racism, violence and anti-LGBTQ policies.

An LGBTQI organization has the responsibility to **lead with kindness** and a determination to bring science, gender-affirming healthcare, and access to both to the forefront of conversations. **Our sole existence is a threat to those who want to turn back the hands of time** and reverse the progress our LGBTQI community in California has

brought to others across the world. Our opponents aim their sights on California, and the history of our movement, to send a message to the rest of the country **but we are responding by helping and supporting one individual and one family at a time**, changing hearts and minds along the way.

Our 2023 impact report is your impact report. **Your support to the Center not only impacted thousands of lives this year, it also supported science, equitable practices and social justice.** Your support is an act of love – love for other human beings, their identities and heritage, a love for Mother Earth, love for democracy and all we stand for. Your love and support have grown so much that we now need a new home to continue our work, **I hope you can join us in our new challenge: purchasing a new home where we can nurture our dreams, serve more people, and create space for all to feel safe and empowered.**

Max

Executive Director & Founder



TO SERVE 2023 EXPANSION OF SERVICES

"In 2023, after years of planning and preparation for increased capacity and service needs, we increased our incoming grant funds with three new programs and staff. Grant funding is a critical part of the foundational planning that impacts the people we serve everyday."

-Lisa Nava



- Housing
- Affirming Services
- Victim Services
- MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment)
- Unicorn Homes and Villages
- Immigration Services
- Gender Advocacy
- Project Youth
- Volunteers
- Foodies and Goodies
- LGBTQIA+ Training
- Support Groups
- Behavioral Health
- MPOX
- Sexual Health
- Mobile Dental Services
- Agency Referrals



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACT STORY

160 is the number of therapy clients/cases served by the center in 2023. 160 is not just a number. Each number represents a person who was suffering, who reached out to us for help, and who found support from us during their time of need. Just one of these 160 might represent a transgender preteen who we will call Sky. Sky and his parents came to us; at the age of 12 Sky was experiencing gender dysphoria, he was self-harming, and living with severe depression and anxiety that prevented him from being able to function in school and home. Sky's parents were confused and resistant about his new name, pronouns, and how to help him. After a few months of working both individually with Sky as well as with his family, Sky's sense of self as a young transman increased, and his depression and anxiety decreased, his parents affirmed his gender identity and proudly supported his social transition; furthermore, Sky stopped self-harming, he was able to return full-time to school, and enjoys a robust social life. He learned important skills for regulating his emotions and coping with minority stress. And, like the butterfly effect, 160 doesn't fully represent the impact, as each person helped is connected to others: families, peers, and community who are also benefiting, as what happens in one part of a family or community system affects all of those in the system.



**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**

Behavioral Health hours:

4,043

Individuals in therapy:

160

“We believe that an LGBTQI agency has the responsibility to serve, but also represent and give voice to our diverse community that still struggles after years of stigmatization, racism, violence, and anti LGBT policies.”

-Max Disposti



UNICORN VILLAGE IS OPEN!



The Unicorn Homes program was founded in 2018 and partners a host home with an LGBTQI youth aged 16+ who has experienced homelessness due to family rejection. Recently, in partnership with the faith community and Casas de Luz, a 5-cottage campus was opened for youth aged 18-29, greatly increasing our ability to stabilize youth through a housing-first model.



TO ADVOCATE

This past year alone we have seen over 700 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in our state assemblies and senate chambers, many becoming law. From the "Don't Say Gay" bill to the criminalization of gender identity and bathroom usage, these bills brought back the urgent need to fight for the Equality Act that guarantees protections for LGBTQI people under federal law. Passage of these anti-LGBTQ laws cause families to flee to California from other states and they're coming to our Center.

ADVOCACY OF 2023

Anti Drag Queen Narrative
Books Banning
Parental Right And School Outing Policies
Attacks To Trans Youth In Schools:
Fallbrook, Escondido, Carlsbad, Rancho Santa Fe, San Dieguito, Temecula and More...
Supporting Unhoused Individuals
National Narratives Against Gender Affirming Care
Anti-Rainbow Flag Policies
Immigration Support In Oceanside
Counter The Trend Of Hate In Our County
Harm Reduction Related Advocacy
Reproductive Justice



IMMIGRATION RESPONSE

1,482 IMMIGRANTS SERVED
500 HYGIENE KITS DISTRIBUTED
100 MEALS SERVED



"Books and flag banning and false narratives against our trans students have been a driving force of discrimination in many school districts - even here in the San Diego region - while hate crimes against LGBTQI people and people of color continue to increase year after year."

-Max Disposti

DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

.83¢ PER DOLLAR GOES TO PROGRAMMING

\$94,374.54 - GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$36,000.00 - MONTHLY DONORS

\$27,759.09 - CORPORATE MATCHING



MAKE YOUR IMPACT



ONLINE: Visit www.ncresourcecenter.org.

IN THE MAIL: Checks payable to: The North County Resource Center.

MATCHING GIFTS: Double your impact!

VEHICLE DONATION: Donate your old vehicle to sustain our work.

MONTHLY DONOR: Sustain our future with a monthly donation.

IN-KIND: Donate to our fundraisers or give items to support our participants.

OPPORTUNITIES: Annual Gala, Pride by the Beach, Queer Prom or Trans Day of Visibility.

SPONSORSHIP: Increase your reach to the LGBTQIA+ community and become a sponsor.

HELP BUILD OUR FUTURE

We are delighted to announce our little Center that could is taking the next big step – purchasing our own building in Oceanside. Our new home will secure our future and give us the space needed to continue our lifesaving work. Throughout the year, you'll see new fundraising initiatives. I urge our community to contribute in any way possible. If you have any ideas to help us reach our goal, please email: development@northcountycenter.org.

Exciting news: this year's Gala theme is "Welcome Home," celebrating our journey toward finding a permanent space. Save the date for Saturday, **September 28th**, and keep an eye out for sponsor packages, early bird pricing, and the big reveal of our new Gala venue.



Carlos Tabora

-Carlos

Director of Development





**THANK YOU TO THE
VOLUNTEERS & DONORS.**

OUR IMPACT = YOUR GENEROSITY



CONTACT US



www.northcountycenter.org



3220 Mission Avenue, Suite 2
Oceanside, CA 92058



760.994.1690



www.ncresourcecenter.org/donate

