

# the Voice

VOL. 31 NO. 1 MARCH 2020

RADIANT  
HEALTH CENTERS  
CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL  
TRANSGENDER  
DAY OF VISIBILITY

EXPANDING PrEP  
PRESCRIPTIONS

AIDS WALK 2020

MEET OUR NEW CFO



**Radiant**  
Health Centers  
*Compassionate Care for All*



**OUR MISSION** Radiant Health Centers provides the LGBTQ+ community medical services that are compassionate and comprehensive while continuing to serve those living with and affected by HIV.

# TheVoice

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## Board of Directors

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Friend,

**I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of Radiant Health Centers' team to advance the social and medical care we provide to the LGBTQ+ community. I'd like to share the successes we've had in becoming a medical clinic and where we are in the process.**

Building organizational capacity was a priority for us this past year. We were determined to play a key role in getting proper medications in the hands of those most at risk of contracting or spreading HIV. This is a vital first step to ending the epidemic and we've made headway in doing this through three crucial accomplishments.

### MEDICAL STAFF HIRED

Healthcare and social work begins and ends with the people providing it. We have a fantastic team at Radiant Health Centers and were able to add experienced, compassionate care providers to bolster our capacity. With these strategic hires, we have the expertise and resources to provide expanded services such as medical exams and the ability to distribute life-saving medications on site.

- Medical Director – Dr. Rodney Samaan
- Infectious Disease Doctor – Dr. Bonnie Bock
- Advanced Practice Pharmacist – Michelle Sherman, RPh, APH, FASCP, FACA, AAHIVP
- Nurse Practitioner – Jay Kim

### MEDICAL CERTIFICATIONS AWARDED

In 2019, an important step was to earn certification and licensing that allowed us to expand our medical care. By earning these certifications and recognitions, we solidified our clinic as a community health resource.

- California Department of Public Health Community Clinic License
- MediCal Certification as a Primary Care Clinic
- Cal Optima Community Network Provider Status

### GRANTS AWARDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT

of Public Health to Advance our Work  
 Finally, our results to date and innovative ideas for approaching community health needs helped us earn public funding to deploy new services that move us toward our mission. The most recent awards from the CDPH included support for the following:

- RAPID ART (Anti-Retroviral Treatment) for individuals who test positive for HIV
- PrEP Navigation which includes medications for high-risk individuals who test negative for HIV

Please join me and the entire Radiant Health Center staff as we celebrate these accomplishments that will have a lasting effect on the health and well-being of thousands of individuals living in Orange County. Although our work is not done and we remain laser focused, today we are closer to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Orange County.

I look forward to another successful year and I am honored to have your support.

Yours in service,

Philip Yaeger  
 Executive Director/CEO



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## DAPHINY'S STORY

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**Meet longtime Radiant Health Centers client Daphiny. She first came to California in 1980 as a trans woman seeking a place to feel welcomed and accepted. She has been accessing services at Radiant Health Centers since 2005.**

At an early age, Daphiny knew that she was different from most of her friends, and when she was 15 she decided to come out to her family as a transgender woman. "My mother told me it was a fad – she only identified me as her son," Daphiny says.

The early years were difficult for Daphiny in her home town in Indiana, which was, and still is, highly conservative, so she moved to New Orleans and took a job in a nightclub. This is where she had the opportunity to talk to other girls and learned about transgender clubs and communities in the area.

In the '80s and '90s the trans community, with Daphiny as one of its strong advocates, was openly fighting for trans rights, but it was difficult because they faced constant discrimination from both the straight and gay communities.

Daphiny says she was one of the lucky ones. She found a mentor, a mother figure, who gave her strength and shared her own experiences about coming out in the early 1950s. Her mentor also introduced her to an endocrinologist who specialized in HRT—hormone replacement therapy for trans individuals—and was able



to help Daphiny access hormones, which were not readily available at that time except on the very expensive, and illegal, black market.

When in California, Daphiny researched and found AIDS Services Foundation, now Radiant Health Centers, via the Internet. She was looking to connect to people that didn't make her feel different. She just needed medical and emotional support.

Over the years with Radiant Health Centers, Daphiny has accessed a range of services including: benefits counselling, social services case management, nutrition services with our registered dietitian, transportation, dental referrals

and most recently nursing case management to assist her with her upcoming surgeries.

"Today I am dealing with new health issues related to my heart and I feel fortunate to have the support of Radiant Health Centers' staff and programs to help me through this difficult time," says Daphiny. "Aging as a trans individual and living with HIV is new territory for me."

One of Daphiny's case managers, Pau Lagarde, shared the following about his client. "Daphiny has been through a lot but she's a survivor. A fighter. She always has a bright smile on her face, even on her bad days, and behind that smile there's a powerful story to be told." Pau goes on to say, "Daphiny is a pioneer in the transgender rights movement. She helped pave the way for transgender and gender non-conforming people who came after her, especially those living with HIV."

**WHEN ASKED "WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU'D LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS?" DAPHINY ANSWERS, "THE PEOPLE MAKE YOU MATTER."**



To learn more about the services available for the trans community, and about TAP, Radiant Health Centers' Trans Awareness Project, please visit our website or contact Pau Lagarde at [plagarde@radianthealthcenters.org](mailto:plagarde@radianthealthcenters.org) or 949-809-5719.



RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS RECEIVES **\$459,000** FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO **Provide PrEP Navigation Services**

Radiant Health Centers has received a \$459,000 grant from the California Department of Public Health to provide PrEP navigation services to HIV negative individuals from high priority populations for three years. This funding will allow Radiant Health Centers to expand the number of PrEP prescriptions provided to patients and amplify community outreach efforts to educate young people about the benefits of staying protected.

The Orange County Health Care Agency reports that there are 6,369 persons living with HIV who are aware of their status and another 893 estimated persons who are unaware of their HIV status. In 2018 alone, there were 280 persons diagnosed with HIV. Of those, 57 were concurrently diagnosed with AIDS. Studies have shown that PrEP is highly effective when taken daily and reduces the risk of getting HIV by about 99%.

The funding from this grant will support Radiant Health Centers in ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Orange County by offering full access to PrEP through testing, prescriptions and support for medication adherence for high-risk individuals who test negative for HIV.

Radiant Health Centers' services are vitally important because not all healthcare providers are familiar with PrEP or comfortable prescribing it. This underlines the importance of Radiant Health Centers mission to provide medical services to the LGBTQ+ community that are compassionate and comprehensive while continuing to serve those living with and affected by HIV.

One client shares,

“

**I am incredibly thankful for Radiant Health Centers and their dedicated staff. I had been trying to get on PrEP for two years but was unsuccessful. My doctor didn't feel comfortable prescribing me PrEP and when she finally did, my insurance was going to charge me \$1,700 for a 30-day supply. It wasn't until I met with Radiant Health Centers' staff that I learned about my options. I was able to get access to the medication I needed on my first visit. The staff was incredibly helpful, knowledgeable and professional. I am so relieved to say that after two years of seeking help, I now have access to the care and medication I need to stay healthy.**

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RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS WELCOMES

# Daniel Seargeant as Chief Financial Officer

Radiant Health Centers, a nonprofit that offers free HIV testing and other specialized medical and comprehensive social services to Orange County's LGBTQ+ community, welcomes Daniel Seargeant, DrPH, MBA as its new Chief Financial Officer.

Dr. Seargeant is an experienced CFO, internal audit manager and financial consultant in the acute care, outpatient services, medical groups, home health and managed care sectors. He holds a Doctor of Public Health in health management and an MBA with a finance and IT emphasis, both from the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Daniel Seargeant's experience in public health and educational programs made him a natural fit for Radiant

Health Centers and we are thrilled to have him on our team," said Phil Yaeger, CEO and Executive Director, Radiant Health Centers. "We are also excited to have his extensive experience in opening new health service locations, which will assist with our new Family Clinic in Santa Ana."

Dr. Seargeant was previously the CFO of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties, which provides essential reproductive health care, comprehensive primary care, nutrition services and education programs to the community.

➔ **Radiant Health Centers provides the LGBTQ+ community medical services that are compassionate and comprehensive while continuing to serve those living with and affected by HIV. Learn more at [www.radianthealthcenters.org](http://www.radianthealthcenters.org).**



## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to Dr. Armida Acosta, Psy.D for her 10 years of service with Radiant Health Center and Rob Natsuhara for his 18 years of service with Radiant Health Centers.

Dr. Acosta is our Director of Mental Health. Armida has helped expand services to individuals living with HIV and the broader LGBTQ+ community. Her team consist of Mental Health Counselors and interns working on their licenses.

Greatest accomplishment: Creating a robust Clinical Training program for master and doctorate level interns.

Rob Natsuhara is our Case Manager & Benefits Counselor. Rob assists our clients with applications, enrollment and management of their health insurance and medications coverage.

Greatest accomplishment: The ability to assist individuals who are ill and unable to work to stay connected to their doctors and maintain their medication schedules.

**Thank you, Armida and Rob for your years of service!**

# CIRQUE ROUGE FEB 15 2020 GALA

**Radiant Health Centers raised more than \$920,000 at their 34th annual gala at the Yost Theatre in Santa Ana on Saturday, Feb. 15. The funds raised also included a substantial gift from the trust of the late Leslie A. Timmons who was celebrated during the event.**

The evening's festivities hosted over 225 Orange County community members and supporters and included a silent and live auction and featured the heartfelt story behind the sizeable donation from the trust of the late Leslie A. Timmons, presented to Radiant Health Centers' CEO Phil Yaeger during the event.

"The evening was so much fun and a great success," said Larry Will, gala co-chair and Radiant Health Centers board member. "We were thrilled to exceed our fundraising goal, which means Radiant Health Centers can provide even more care, for our deserving clients.

The significant donation from the trust of Leslie A. Timmons was presented by Timmons' friend, Bill Lawrence, to Radiant Health Centers' CEO Phil Yaeger during the event. Lawrence shared the story of his friendship with Timmons that he and his partner, Jeff Stuckhardt, fostered for almost 10 years.

A commemorative bronze plaque honoring Leslie A. Timmons will be showcased at Radiant Health Centers to acknowledge her generosity.



Bill Lawrence and Phil Yaeger, *Executive Director and CEO, Radiant Health Centers*



Geoff Hicks, Jason Chen, Damon Chen and Howard Gleicher, *Aristotle Funds*



Philip Yaeger, Megan Gorman, *Chequers Financial Mgmt*, Mark Gonzalez, *Perceptyx, Inc.* and RHC Board Chair and Roger Nabedian, *E. & J. Gallo Winery*.



Gala Chair, Larry Will and Co-Chair Vail Roe.

➔ **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GALA SPONSORS:**

**Gold Sponsors:**

Mr. & Mr. Howard Gleicher and Damon Chen

**Silver Sponsors:**

ADP, Avita Pharmacy and Union Bank

**Bronze Sponsors:**

Gilead and Pacific Life

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# AIDS WALK

2020 ORANGE COUNTY

ON THE BOARDWALK

**SATURDAY, MAY 30TH**  
**HUNTINGTON BEACH BOARDWALK**  
 (HUNTINGTON STREET & PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY)

**EVENT FESTIVITIES: 8:30AM • WALK TO BEGIN AT: 9:30AM**

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO END HIV AND AIDS  
 TO REGISTER TO WALK OR TO FORM A WALK TEAM, VISIT:  
**[WWW.RADIANTHEALTHCENTERS.ORG/AWOC](http://WWW.RADIANTHEALTHCENTERS.ORG/AWOC)**

**ENJOY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, VENDOR FAIR, FUN ZONE AND FOOD TRUCKS**

EVENT PARKING: \$15 PER VEHICLE

## OUR SPONSORS

**Special Thanks to the Private Foundations, Public Grantors and Corporate Supporters committed to advancing Radiant Health Centers' mission.**

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## Questions & Feedback:

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## Save the Date

**MARCH 28, 10AM - 4PM**  
**TRANSGENDER HEALTH & WELNESS RESOURCE FAIR**  
1475 S. State College Blvd Anaheim, CA 92806

**MAY 30**  
**AIDS WALK 2020**  
HUNTINGTON BEACH BOARDWALK

