

the Voice

VOL. 31 NO. 2 DECEMBER 2020

RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS
BRINGS FREE
DRIVE-UP
HIV TESTING TO
ORANGE COUNTY

MEET OUR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AN INTIMATE
CONVERSATION WITH
A LONG TERM CLIENT

MEET OUR
CLINICAL TEAM



Radiant
Health Centers
Compassionate Care for All



TheVoice

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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.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friend,

The year 2020 will go down as one of the most challenging years in modern history, remembered for the deaths of legendary figures like Kobe Bryant and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a global economic crisis and a pandemic that has staggered our world.

In challenging times like these, we have seen firsthand how people come together to support one another. In 1985, during a period when the larger part of American society shunned people battling AIDS, we began a journey with like-minded individuals that continues today. We were and are the change needed for those seeking healthcare equity.

Now, more than 35 years after its founding, Radiant Health Centers is adapting to yet another public health crisis. As the fallout of COVID-19 evolves by the day, Radiant Health Centers is pivoting how it delivers its services to offer safe options.

Medical care continues through telehealth platforms. Access to food through our pantry continues through increased delivery and enhanced safety measures for pantry pick up. Our case managers never lost sight of their clients and stayed connected through phone and email communications, and our support staff transitioned successfully to working from home.

These dramatic changes have led Radiant Health Centers to completely reinvent the way it operates. As access to health care for the most vulnerable and at-risk continues to be threatened, the community

can look to us to offer solutions today and into the future. Thanks to Radiant Health Centers' dedicated staff and insightful board, we have proven that we will not be deterred from helping those most in need in Orange County. We remain committed to providing compassionate care for all.

As always, we thank our supporters for making our vital work possible.

Most sincerely,

Philip Yaeger
 Executive Director/CEO



Mark Gonzales
 Board President



MEET RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS'

Board of Directors

On behalf of the clients we serve we want to thank our board officers and members for their commitment and dedication to our work. We are pleased to welcome our newer members and honor our long-standing members. Their combined leadership is the catalyst that drives our mission to provide healthcare equity for all and focus on ending the HIV epidemic in Orange County. Thank YOU!



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MEET OUR
Clinical Team

Radiant Health Centers' medical providers, nurses and social workers work to provide professional, accessible healthcare services for eligible community members in Orange County.

RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS' CLINICAL TEAM

- Dr. Bonnie Bock** – Physician
- Michelle J. Sherman** – RPh, APH, FASCP, FACA, AAHIVP
- Matt Lopez** – LVN
- Ida Duron** – Clinic Manager
- Dave Usman** – Nurse Practitioner
- Jay Kim** – Nurse Practitioner
- Gabe Durnian** – Medical Assistant
- Hernan Santilianan** – PrEP Navigator
- Jonathan Ramirez** – Clinic Support Services Supervisor

The Radiant Clinical Team has provided uninterrupted care even after COVID-19 was dictating we limit interaction and stay at home. This team of professionals is committed to providing the care our clients need and deserve, and have adapted to the circumstance to do so in a safe manner for staff and clients alike.

Many of you are already familiar with our HIV testing and treatment options, PEP, PrEP and Rapid ART (rapid, or same day antiretroviral therapy), but you may not know

about our new HepC program where we work with the local prison system to treat recently released individuals who have HepC. Through this program, we provide treatment and case management to help these individuals assimilate back into society as productive, healthy community members.

We've also added free Family Planning services, which offers expert care by our team made up of physicians and nurses who specialize in family planning.

The LGBTQ+ community faces unique issues when considering parenthood, from same sex couples to nonbinary folks to transgender men and women. The 2010 US Census reported that approximately 19% of same-sex couples are currently raising children, and a 2013 Pew Research national survey found that 51% of LGBTQ+ adults of any age have children or would like to have children in the future.

OUR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Pelvic examinations
- Pap smears
- HPV vaccine administration
- Clinical breast examination
- Contraceptive care
- STD and HIV prevention education, counseling, testing and treatment
- Adolescent services
- Pregnancy testing and options counseling

Another new program we've had tremendous success through our satellite location, RADAR, is free, at-home HIV testing program and we now offer drive through testing with same day results and medication. You can read more in the following article.

Clients seeking service come to us with a variety of needs and we are proud to offer a welcoming, no judgement and stigma free environment for all. We are forever grateful for those who support our work. You make our growth and service possible.

RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS BRINGS

Free Drive-up HIV Testing to Orange County

Making HIV and STD testing quick and accessible is part of Radiant Health Centers' efforts to advance LGBTQ+ health equity and ending the HIV epidemic in Orange County. As stay at home orders loomed and people were distancing themselves from others, the team at Radiant Health Centers responded with in home testing kits and drive-up testing.

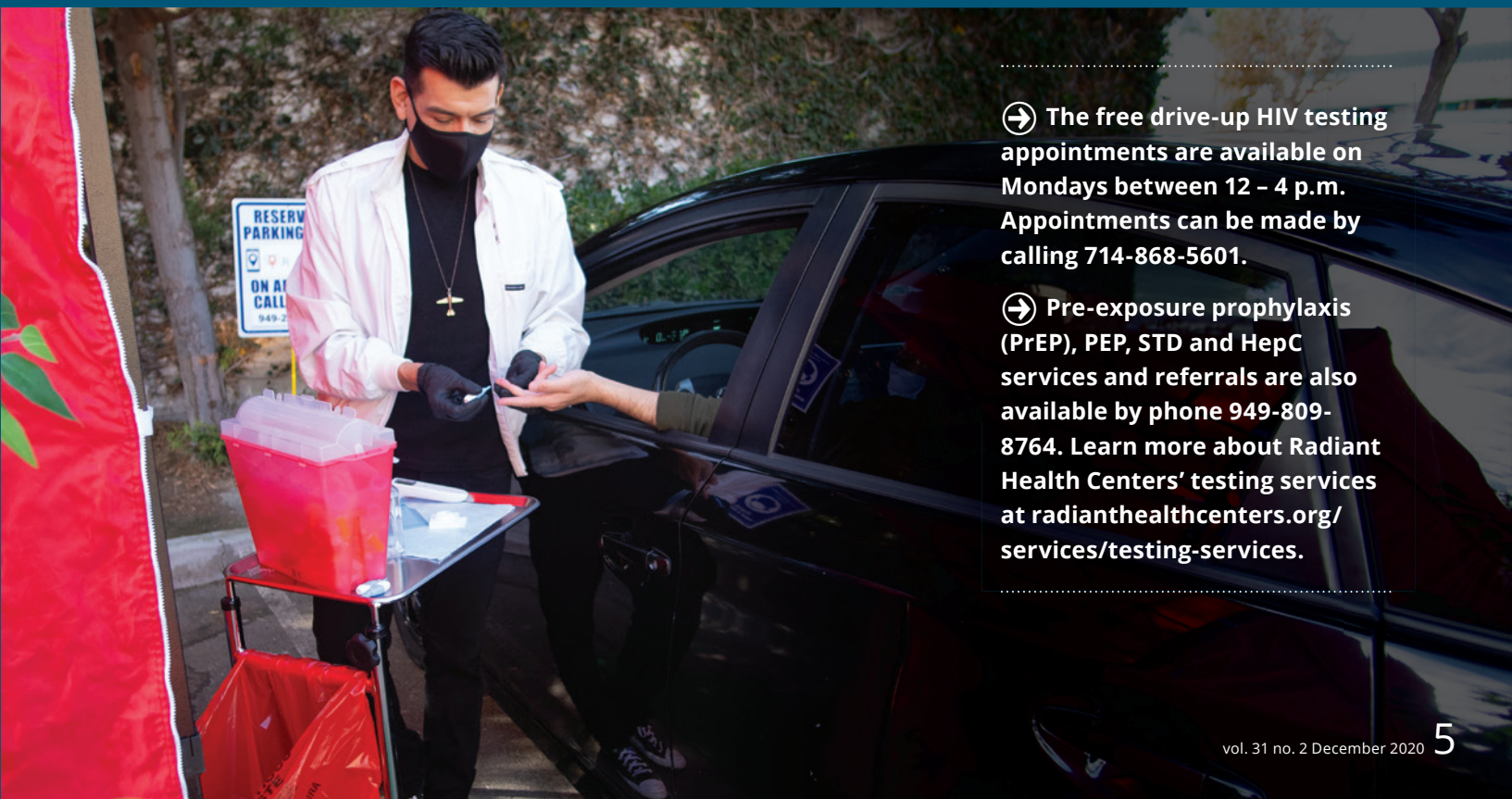
The drive-up process is by appointment only and includes testing for HIV, counseling and education to insure proper follow through for treatment or prevention. All appointments are private and confidential. Clients arrive at Radiant

Health Centers' satellite location in Santa Ana, RADAR, for their scheduled appointment where the testing counselor administers the test while the client remains safely in their vehicle. Results are available in minutes and treatment or prescriptions are made available the same day.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've been constantly reimagining how we provide our programs and services," said Phil Yaeger, CEO of Radiant Health Centers. "One of the services where we see the highest demand is our HIV and STI testing and treatment. Early during the pandemic, we



deployed the at-home HIV testing kits. Now our drive-up HIV testing program offers another option for confidential and compassion testing with more in-person interaction. This new process complies with CDC guidelines and we're proud to continue our outreach to the community – especially our more vulnerable populations – in a safe and healthy manner."



➔ **The free drive-up HIV testing appointments are available on Mondays between 12 – 4 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 714-868-5601.**

➔ **Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), PEP, STD and HepC services and referrals are also available by phone 949-809-8764. Learn more about Radiant Health Centers' testing services at [radianthealthcenters.org/services/testing-services](https://www.radianthealthcenters.org/services/testing-services).**

Anita's Story

Radiant Health Centers' development staff member, Rodrigo Reyes, has an intimate conversation with long-time client Anita.



Rodrigo: Thank you for agreeing to do this interview today.

Anita: Thank you.

Rodrigo: I want to ask, when was the first time you accessed services from Radiant Health Centers?

Anita: I have been accessing services for a while.

Rodrigo: Can you remember how far back?

Anita: I want to say 10 or 11 years.

Rodrigo: So, you found us when we were AIDS Services Foundation?

Anita: Yes. After I was diagnosed with HIV, I was referred to Jorge who was my first Case Manager.

Rodrigo: Let's talk about your experience. What services do you access?

Anita: I get food from the pantry, I get my housing through you, and I get help with transportation. I am so grateful and satisfied with the care I get from all of you at the agency.

Rodrigo: Do you go to Armida's women's counseling group?

Anita: Yes. Yes, I did but with everything that is going on I haven't been able to attend them. I love that group, it's my support. I miss them terribly.

Rodrigo: Yes, unfortunately right now we can't meet in person, but hopefully we will soon.

Rodrigo: May I ask? Do you have children?

Anita: Yes, but they are grown. When my children heard I had HIV, they decided to distance themselves from me.

Rodrigo: Oh Anita, I am so sorry.

Anita: Thank you.

Rodrigo: Can you tell me how you feel about our staff and how they serve you?

Anita: Well, let me tell you, without Radiant's staff I would not have a family.

Rodrigo: Would you say that your life changed when you found ASF, now Radiant Health Centers?

Anita: Oh my gosh, yes, extremely. I thank God every day that I was able to find you. I don't know what would have happened to me if I didn't find the agency.

Rodrigo: If you could say one thing about Radiant what would you say?

Anita: I would say that the staff and services at Radiant Health Centers are the best thing anyone could find to help them with this problem. Others who live with HIV should know about you because you are a blessing from the Lord. I hope that everyone can find this agency because I am so happy that I did. I found the blessing I needed in my life. You helped me find my way. When I found out what I had, I felt that,

well (pause), I don't know if I would still be alive if I didn't find you.

Rodrigo: I can share that I have an uncle who is also positive. He is living with HIV and because of an agency like ours, he is well and healthy. He was able to move forward with his life.

Anita: I did too. I was able to attend classes and I received my GED.

Rodrigo: That's amazing. Congratulations.

Rodrigo: I understand your case manager now is Pau. Is that correct?

Anita: Yes, I am working with Pau. I love it, because my own children don't know how to treat me, but Pau and everyone at the agency treats me like I'm a normal person.

Rodrigo: That is our goal, to make you feel like you, because at the end of the day you are you and nothing can change that.

Anita: Thank you. It is lovely to have people like you.

Rodrigo: That is wonderful to hear. Well, Anita, I think these are all the questions I have for you. Do you have anything you would like to add?

Anita: Just to thank you for what you do for people like me. You and the entire staff at Radiant Health Centers are a blessing.

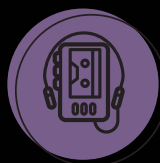
SAVE THE DATE!

BACK TO THE FUTURE

February 6, 2021

CELEBRATING

Radiant Health Centers' Past, Present and Future



Radiant Health Centers' upcoming gala will offer a new and unique approach. With current social distancing mandates in place, we will explore fun and informational ways to engage our audience. Guaranteed to entertain. Watch for updates on our website at www.radianthealthcenters.org. Hope to see you on February 6!

RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS WELCOMES

Joe Alfano as Director of Individual Giving



Joe Alfano brings more than 20 years of nonprofit fundraising and management experience to Radiant Health Centers. Most recently he worked for the national environmental advocacy organization Food & Water Watch, and prior to that worked for prominent New York organizations like Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Mohonk Preserve.

Joe is a California native with a passion for both LGBTQ+ and environmental causes and strives every day to share his passion with others and encourage them to invest in their community and their future. He and his husband moved back to California in 2017 after living in New York City and the Hudson Valley for 23 years. In his free time, Joe enjoys spending time with his family, riding roller coasters, and exploring the great outdoors with his dog, Nemo. He is also a classically trained singer, holds a B.F.A. in Drama from New York University, and loves to perform whenever time permits.



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