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.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, PHILIP YAEGER AND INCOMING BOARD CHAIR, DAVID HARROD

On behalf of Radiant Health Center’s Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank Mark Gonzales for his years served as Radiant Health Centers’ Board Chair. After three years serving as Chair, Mark will be handing off his responsibilities in this role to our supporter and board member, David Harrod. We are honored to welcome David as Radiant Health Centers’ incoming Board Chair.

In his new leadership role, David and I would like to thank our dedicated supporters who virtually attended Radiant Health Centers’ 35th annual gala. Because of you, we successfully raised more than $183,000 to fund our critical social and medical services for the LGBTQ+ community.

At the center of this year’s gala’s celebration was the presentation of the inaugural Radiant Compassion Award, which honored Jeanne and Gideon Bernstein who launched the #BlazeitForward movement in honor of their son Blaze Bernstein. This movement was created to promote compassion, acceptance and kindness for all. You can learn more about Blaze and the BlazeitForward movement by visiting blazebernstein.org.

We’d like to thank the Bernstein’s for their inspiration to create our new Compassion Award and we look forward to honoring others in the years to come who are dedicated to inspiring our community through their compassionate work.

As always, we are honored and privileged by the outpouring of support from our incredible donors, volunteers and sponsors. You are a vital part of the Radiant Health Centers family, and exemplify compassion, acceptance and kindness.

Yours in Service,

Philip Yaeger
CEO

David Harrod
Board Chair
Last spring, as all our lives were thrown into uncertainty and COVID-19 disrupted daily routine, Radiant Health Centers sounded the alarm on an urgent and growing need – a 300% spike in clients seeking mental health care. This increased demand was yet another impact of the pandemic on the LGBTQ+ community, a group already at greater risk for mood, anxiety, and cognitive disorders. It arrived at a moment when our staff had to manage increased stress in their own lives from the abrupt transition to a work from home reality. Despite the professional and personal challenges, the staff worked diligently to meet the community’s growing mental health needs.

But resources were limited and as many as 30 people were on our mental health waitlist at any given time. Without help, we simply could not handle all the cases. There was not enough staff, time, and resources to provide care to all those in need.

So, we sounded the alarm, and Radiant Health Centers’ supporters joined us to save the day. Thousands of dollars in donations poured in from people who wanted to lend a hand and help our clients in need. Gifts of all sizes funded the much-needed expansion of our mental health services at this crucial moment.

Thanks to our supporters, we were able to hire an additional licensed therapist to take on more clients and provide the quality mental health care people in our community so needed. With the new therapist on board, the waitlist diminished, and clients began to receive counseling in a timely manner.

Without the support of these donors, Radiant Health Centers would have struggled to fill the gap. Their generosity resulted in a positive impact on the mental health needs of hundreds of LGBTQ+ people in our community.

The lingering impacts of the pandemic mean we must remain vigilant and find new ways to expand our program. The mental health needs of the community continue to increase and will once again outpace our ability to provide compassionate care for all. But despite these challenges, we look to the future with optimism, knowing we can work together to face the next obstacle and find real solutions for our clients.
Diversity, equity, and inclusion are more than just words at Radiant Health Centers

They encompass both our history and our vision for the future. We recognize that our clients come from all walks of life, and we are committed to treating the whole person with dignity and humility.

Here are a few examples of Radiant Health Centers’ commitment to celebrate and serve Orange County’s diverse communities.

Co-chairs photos Pau Lagarde and Martha Gomez

TRANS AWARENESS PROJECT

Radiant Health Centers’ Trans Awareness Project (TAP) serves as a Trans advisory committee for Radiant Health Centers. TAP provides the agency with tools and guidance to better address the unique needs of Trans patients and increase our delivery of culturally competent care. The goal of this program is to build a community with
transgender people and their allies across Orange County through advocacy, health education, support, and empowerment. Through a collaborative effort, TAP aims to address the needs of the transgender population in Orange County, particularly Trans people living with HIV, and bring attention to the health disparities that affect trans people and their families.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Trans Awareness Project, please email us at tap@radianthealthcenters.org or call our co-chair Martha Gomez at 949-809-5716.

“A Transgender people face inequities that stem from discrimination, stigma, harassment, poverty, and a lack of Trans-specific health information and training. The Trans Awareness Project was created to help bring attention to the unique needs that Transgender people have and help bridge the gap in services for Trans people living in Orange County.”

—Pau Lagarde, he/him/el
Linkage To Care Case Manager / TAP Co-Chair

AIDS ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, rates of HIV among Black cisgender women are 14 times higher than in white women and 5 times higher than Latina women, and an estimated 44% of Black transgender women are living with HIV. Women and girls face unique challenges that can prevent them from engaging in much needed HIV care and treatment. Issues associated with stigma, isolation and limited access to health care, and HIV prevention education affects the health and well-being of women and girls with and at risk for HIV.

“HIV remains a significant health issues for cis and trans gender women of color in this country,” commented Dr. Ivy Turnbull, Deputy Executive Director for AIDS Alliance. “With funding from Viiv Healthcare we’re excited about our Women Informing Now (WIN) Micro-Grant project which supports grassroots community organizations and leaders conducting innovative ways to breakdown isolation and stigma for women of color living with HIV across the gender spectrum.”

Radiant Health Centers is a proud recipient of the WIN Micro-Grant and the only agency on the West Coast to be selected for this funding. Congratulation to our Director of Mental Health, Armida Acosta, PsyD for her excellent work in the area of women’s mental health and for securing this grant for Radiant Health Centers.

CREATE+EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

Radiant Health Centers is a proud member of the Create+Equity Collaborative, a national quality improvement initiative to mitigate barriers associated with the social determinants of health that are experienced by people with HIV. This collaborative is focused on improving the viral suppression of patients experiencing unstable housing, substance use, mental health issues, and barriers associated with their age. This 18-month collaborative aims to improve health outcome and advance local quality improvement capacities. The Create+Equity Collaborative is managed by the HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Center for Quality improvement & Innovation and is supported by HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau.

To learn more, check out the Create+Equity YouTube video at https://youtu.be/kCQaPzpwxkY
Leave a Lasting Impact with a Charitable Bequest

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest, most flexible, and impactful ways for you to support Radiant Health Centers.

Here are some of the ways you can leave a bequest:

• Include Radiant Health Centers in your will or trust.

• Designate Radiant Health Centers as a beneficiary of your retirement account.

• Name Radiant Health Centers as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

If you would like more information about your charitable bequest options, please contact Joe Alfano, Director of Individual Giving at (949) 809-5772 or jalfano@radianthealthcenters.org. If you have already been so generous as to include Radiant Health Centers in your estate plans, please contact Joe. We would like to recognize you and your family for your generosity!
RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

The following individuals were honored by friends and loved ones of Radiant Health Centers’ supporters. Consider making a gift in memory of a special person or in honor of someone you admire.

**In Memory of**
Anthony Carter
Arthur Gomez
Dan Conway
Dan Westerfield
David Lewallen
Ed Mitchell
Frederick Walker
Gary Niksich
Gerald Pav
Greg Schmidt
Herrera Gabriel

Hudson Williams
Jack Reising
Jerry P
Joe Towner
Jose Mireles
Keith Roberta Francis
Mark Lucio
Marshall Klapman
Paul Starr-Fuhr
Rob Hooper
Rodney Howorth
Scott Myrick

Steven Downes
Sven Johnson
Terry Johnson
Todd Rovazzini
Uncle Donnie

**In Honor of**
Adrienne Matros
Brit Cervantes
Duane Vajgrt & Jeff Benedick
Elliott Kornhauser

Esther and Carl Suderman
Families of Abrams/Moonitz/Suderman
Joe Baker
John Mitchell
Julluis Jimenez
Larry Cloud
Larry Haber
The Miller Children
Temple Bat Yahm Food Drive
Todd Todd

RADIANT HEALTH CENTERS

Corporate Supporters

Special thanks to the corporations and foundations that support Radiant Health Centers’ work through sponsorships and grants. We are inspired by their commitment to the health of Orange County.

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AES Huntington Beach, LLC
AIDS Assistance Program
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anaheim Community Foundation
Anaheim Ducks Foundation
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Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP)
Avita Pharmacy
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Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, Inc.

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Save the Date
AIDS WALK ORANGE COUNTY SEPTEMBER 2021 WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION