Dear Friends,

David and I are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of Radiant Health Centers’ team to advance the social and medical care we provide to our LGBTQ+ community. We’d like to share the successes we’ve had over the past year and our plans for the year to come.

Preparing to achieve Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status has been and will be our top priority moving into this coming year. The process began mid-year as we secured Gary Bess and Associates to help guide us through the compliance process, which has focused our team to strategically prioritize the actions needed.

In line with working through the FQHC compliance process, we have also been renovating our building to expand our clinic space and increase our capacity for medical care. We are thankful for the leadership of our Medical Director, Dr Duy Nguyen as he reshapes and hires a dedicated team that will deliver the expertise needed to address the growing needs of our community.

We have also been hard at work implementing the first stages of our five-year strategic plan, which includes the launch of a program geared to youth who identify as LGBTQ+. We have secured a partnership with the Santa Ana School District and the Southwest Community Center in Santa Ana to connect us to youth who would benefit from our program, which is currently offering specialized counseling sessions. We look forward to the coming year when we will add mentorship opportunities as well as a dedicated youth drop-in center, which will offer a safe and secure environment for additional activities and support.

Please join us 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. We thank you, our loyal supporters, for joining us on this important journey.

We look forward to another successful year and we are honored to have your support.

Yours in Service,

Philip Yaeger
CEO

David Harrod
Board Chair
As Radiant Health Centers prepares to grow our new LGBTQ+ Youth & Mentorship program, it’s a good time to reflect on the challenges many young people in our community face each day.

Social stigma, discrimination and judgment about identities are frequent sources of stress during the pivotal adolescent years. And now more than ever, it’s important to raise awareness of these issues and deliver comprehensive LGBTQ+ youth services.

“I feel a sigh of relief to have this space to talk about my life.”

As the largest LGBTQ+ healthcare provider in Orange County, we are constantly reminded of the struggles facing young people. Many LGBTQ+ youth lack a support system to guide them towards adulthood. Consequently, individuals are left to navigate home, school, healthcare and workplace environments that are often less than accommodating of their needs.

“I set better boundaries with my parents and honor my own needs.”

Stress, anxiety, depression, body dysmorphia and other mental health disorders impact Orange County LGBTQ+ youth. Unfortunately, these issues often have a cumulative effect that leads to other health issues. Statistics show that our LGBTQ+ youth have disproportionately high rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and are also more likely to attempt suicide.

“I feel connected”

According to a survey by The Trevor Project, 42% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide during the last year. In addition, 94% of respondents also reported that recent politics had negatively impacted their mental health. By contrast, they reported that having access to spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation led to lower rates of attempted suicide.

“I no longer feel alone in my journey, I know I can handle difficult things.”

Access to uplifting, inclusive spaces is one of the goals for our youth program. A drop-in center will provide a place for LGBTQ+ transitional-aged youth to join an accepting community. Similarly, LGBTQ+ counseling groups, mentorship and sexual health education will provide solid foundations for individuals as they develop into adulthood. Thankfully, as awareness is raised on the mental health struggles of LGBTQ+ youth, more help and guidance can reduce inequalities and create a better future for young people in Orange County.
Radiant Health Centers Expanding to Provide Greater Care

Construction has begun at the Radiant Health Centers office in Irvine, CA. This extensive project funded by the City of Irvine through a capital improvement grant and tenant improvement dollars will include 3 additional clinical examination rooms, space for dental services, and a dedicated entry for expanded mental health and counseling services.

Phase 1 of the project began in September of 2022 with the reconfiguration of RHC’s programs area. Phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2023 with the expansion of our medical clinic.

Our team remains resilient throughout the process with continued work-from-home schedules and near-by off-site space that is temporarily housing our mental health and youth programs. We are committed to bring the best of care to Orange County’s LGBTQ+ community and we are thankful for the support of our board, staff and leadership team as we fulfill our vision.

If you are interested in supporting our expansion efforts to fund medical equipment and increased staffing, please contact Joe Alfano at jalfano@radianthealthcenters.org. Be part of the lasting impact Radiant Health Centers will have to provide stigma-free care in Orange County.
On most weekends, you can find Justin and Ryan Clayton-Palmer of the RC Palmer & Co. busy producing one of the many arts and trades markets throughout Orange County. These markets offer unique goods to purchase, support local artisans and small businesses, and give back to nonprofit organizations in the community.

Giving back to the community is an important goal for the couple, and Radiant Health Centers is one of the local groups that Justin and Ryan support at their markets. During Pride Month, the Made with Pride LGBTQ+ Makers Market at the Anaheim Packing District featured 25 vendors donating a portion of sales to support Radiant’s new LGBTQ+ Youth & Mentorship Program.

“We grew up in a time when it was difficult to be gay. That’s why we feel so close to our LGBTQ+ community,” Ryan said. “We enjoy giving back and giving to our own community means the most to us. We always said we would do it for our community first. Our community is like a family.”

The couple grew up in the Midwest, and those Midwestern values of being hospitable and welcoming are at the core of their business. They want each show to uplift the community and support small businesses in Orange County.

“We try to make it a win-win for our vendors and the charities we support,” Justin said. “Our shows have a family atmosphere. It’s nice to hear a new vendor tell us that everyone at our show is so welcoming.”

Building their craft show empire came at a challenging time. RC Palmer & Co. launched its first show in November 2019 at the Old World Village in Huntington Beach. The show was a big success, and additional shows were added to the calendar for Spring 2020, only to be derailed by COVID lockdowns.

Not to be deterred, Justin and Ryan saw an opportunity to relaunch the shows in August of 2020 and support those small businesses struggling through the pandemic. It was a hit.

Justin said that after the lockdowns, “People wanted to go out, shop local, and support small businesses. We had such a huge turnout at the August show that we did another in October and three more in December 2020. We now host 30 shows a year there, bringing much life back to Old World Village.” More shows have been added to the calendar, including the monthly Friday Night Market at the Center Street Promenade in Anaheim.

On top of all this, Justin and Ryan partnered with us again this past autumn to create a Makers Market at AIDS Walk Orange County 2022. This market was a fantastic and energizing addition to AIDS Walk, and proceeds went to our HIV-related programs.

For the couple, supporting AIDS Walk fell in line with their values. “We’ve always had a wide age group of friends and know how HIV and AIDS affected them within their lives and the people they lost. Being gay and feeling that stigma of being gay, and then the stigma of HIV and AIDS, is very personal to our community,” Ryan said.

“We have seen how Radiant has gone from helping people die with dignity to helping people live healthier lives, and to be able to help support this cause is important to us. Radiant can provide services to so many in the community. It’s not something age-specific, gender-specific, not even orientation specific. It’s open to anyone who needs it.”

Radiant Health Centers is grateful to Justin and Ryan for their support. To learn more about the R.C. Palmer & Co. markets throughout Orange County, visit rcpalmer.com.
Radiant Health Centers’ 36th Annual Gala – Club Radiant

The Annual Gala has become a highlight on the calendar, and this year generated even more excitement after the 2021 COVID-enforced virtual event. This enthusiasm was put into sharp focus when the fundraising goal of $300,000 was surpassed. To support LGBTQ+ healthcare equity and HIV care in Orange County, the money raised will enable Radiant Health Centers to deliver services for some of the most vulnerable people across Orange County.

A high point during the evening was the presentation of the Radiant Compassion Award. This year saw activist, Alison Arngrim and journalist, Tony Morrison honored at the Annual Gala for their work in the LGBTQ+ community.

Alison Arngrim is best known for her work as a best-selling author and actor, including a role in television’s “Little House On the Prairie.” Alison has been an advocate for LGBTQ+ causes for many years, working hotlines, fundraising and providing consistent support.

Sharing the award was two-time Emmy Award winner, Tony Morrison. Tony revealed his journey living with HIV in an essay and continues to inspire many others by openly sharing his experiences.

As always, it is the support and generosity of our guests and sponsors that makes this all possible. We sincerely thank you for your support. Our Silver sponsor this year was Gilead, and our Bronze sponsors were Alaska Airlines, Avita, Disneyland Resort, Janssen, Pacific Life, Pacific Western Bank & Union Bank.

Radiant Health Centers’ 36th Annual AIDS Walk Raised More than $120,000 for HIV/AIDS Care and Services

Radiant Health Centers celebrated their 36th Annual AIDS Walk Orange County on Saturday, October 22 at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley. The event included a “fun walk,” live entertainment, games, craft fair, and more with people participating individually, in teams and in memory of loved ones.

Hundreds of participants united to raise more than $120,000. These funds will help provide medical care and social services for the LGBTQ+ community and improve the lives of thousands of individuals and their families impacted by HIV in Orange County. In addition to the services we provide, Radiant Health Centers works to raise awareness of HIV throughout Orange County with education on prevention and treatments as well as support for anyone who has been impacted by HIV.

We want to sincerely thank each person who was able to participate in AWOC this year, including the dedicated people who walked and volunteered at the event as well as our sponsors, ADP, GILEAD, BIKTARVY, Descovy, Avita, Hyundai, Kaiser Permanente, Pacific Life, Room&Board, Shopoff Investment Realty.

We are grateful to all of our supporters who are passionate about providing equitable healthcare to those most in need.
**World AIDS Day** is held each year on the first day of December. This global event is a chance to spread awareness of the continued fight against HIV/AIDS, show solidarity with the people living with HIV — and commemorate the lives lost to this disease. With a history dating back to 1988, the day encourages people from all parts of the world to unite around a common theme.

The theme chosen for 2022 World AIDS Day was “Equalize.” This slogan highlights the inequalities standing in the way of progress in the fight against AIDS. With significant barriers to testing and treatment remaining, there is still much to be done to ensure that communities will have access to vital HIV/AIDS services.

You can do many things to support World AIDS Day throughout the year.

- Get tested to know your status and help end the HIV epidemic.
- Wear a red ribbon to show solidarity with those living with HIV.
- Raise funds for organizations fighting to end HIV/AIDS.
- Spread awareness of AIDS-related issues across social media.

Radiant Health Centers observed this special day with a donor event, joining together with our supporters to remember the people who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS.

The Radiant Health Centers’ World AIDS Day event took place at The 5th Rooftop in Anaheim, CA. Guests were treated to cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and fireworks. The gathering was distinguished by the remembrance of the impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals and families in Orange County and across the world.

As people across the world united in support of World AIDS Day, the opportunity to memorialize loved ones was a key theme. The Remembrance Tree provided a chance to show grief, find healing and inspire others in the fight to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We encourage others to find a way to commemorate a loved one in a similarly meaningful way.

To anyone living with HIV in Orange County, make Radiant Health Centers your healthcare home. We would be honored to share our love, compassion and support for you.

FERNANDO MARTINEZ, a Radiant Health Center client and member of RHC’s Client Advisory Committee spoke at this year’s World AIDS Day event and shared his journey living with HIV. Fernando was diagnosed with HIV in 2000 while living in Mexico. At that time, he was part of an advocacy group that supports indigenous women that were left by their husband after receiving an HIV diagnosis.

Fernando shared that when he made the decision to tell his family about his HIV diagnosis, he was expecting the worse because of stigma and shame. He was surprised that his family embraced him and began to do their own research to better understand HIV to help him in any way possible.

Fernando decided to be an active member of the HIV community during a visit to AIDS Services Foundation (RHC) when he was asked if he would like to be more involved and connect with others living with HIV.

“I am grateful to Radiant Health Services for giving me a community where I feel valued and respected,” stated Fernando. “I have been given a platform to share my knowledge, wisdom, and experience with others.”

Fernando's goal is to live fearlessly, to stay grounded, and to help grow a supportive community. He encourages others to live a good life, stay undetectable and follow their doctor’s recommendations to maintain mental, physical, and spiritual health.

Fernando concluded his testimonial by saying "My dream is to live my life open and free and set an example for others to live their authentic lives."
Save the Date for Radiant Health Centers’ **2023 Gala** to be held at **The Promenade & Gardens in Costa Mesa on Saturday June 3rd**. Join us for an evening of friends, food and fun.

For more information about the gala, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact Ana Martinez at amartinez@radianthealthcenters.org.