



Gay Community Services Center  
1614 West Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif.

G  
C  
S  
C

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER  
1614 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
(213) 482-3062

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Martin Field  
June Herrle, MSW              Morris Kight  
James Kepner                  John Platania

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Donald W. Kilhefner

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD  
Dr. Evelyn Hooker, Chairman

THE CENTER PURPOSE:

Los Angeles' GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER is a professional human services agency oriented specifically to the needs of gay women and gay men. It grew out of the realization that existing public and private agencies are either unwilling or unable to meet the needs of gay individuals.

THE CENTER OBJECTIVES:

The GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER has five basic objectives:

First, it attempts to guide gay men and women in developing Gay Awareness--a positive attitude of self-identity.

Second, it offers a wide range of professional and para-professional human services and programs devised, developed, initiated and maintained by gays as alternatives to heterosexually oriented services and programs.

Third, the Center puts forth a continuing outreach to the entire gay community in order to develop a truly viable community center. In so doing, it not only helps to build a sense of community but serves as a distinct, visible symbol of that community's ability to respond to its own needs.

Fourth, the Center trains professional personnel for placement in outside agency positions requiring a high degree of sensitivity, awareness and experience in dealing with the needs and human potential of gay women and men.

Fifth, through its Educational Services, including speakers, Gay Awareness seminars for professionals, descriptive publications and intensive publication in professional journals, the Center attempts to correct erroneous concepts concerning gays widely promulgated by unqualified professionals and self-proclaimed authorities with self-serving motivations.

THE CENTER FACILITIES:

Services of the Center are dispensed through its physical facilities. Most are operative; the remainder are in the process of becoming operative.

1. Intake and Referral Services Center:

Initial contact with the GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER is made through the Intake and Referral Services Center. Staffed on a 24-hour basis, it functions to perform preliminary diagnosis and referrals to both other Center facilities and outside human services agencies offering public assistance, free clinics, mental health services, educational and job services, etc.

2. Self Development Clinic:

The Self Development Clinic forms the central operating unit around which other services revolve. The essential purpose of the Clinic is to provide the opportunity for individuals to self-actualize a positive and creative attitude toward themselves and to translate the consequences of this critical point of their own evolution into both their internal and external manifestations of self in relationship to loved ones, to family, to peers, to society and to the Realized Universe itself.

The Self Development Clinic provides individual services to persons of all ages in the forms of individual counseling, group counseling, and family services to gay couples, gay parents and parents of gay individuals.

3. Housing Services:

An estimated one hundred to three hundred young gay men and women arrive each month in the city of Los Angeles. While many are young women, the majority appear to be young men seeking out the excitement and glamour of a Hollywood fantasy that never existed. Few of these young people have adequate financing and fewer still have marketable job skills. The usual theme runs from disappointment--to drugs--to a lack of funds--to male prostitution or temporary employment in the city's thriving pornographic industry. From here, the path upon occasion leads homeward only to be retraveled at a later date. More often it leads to jail, the hospital, probation, suicide or a series of exploitive relationships.

But poverty, the lack of housing and even food are not problems limited to transients and newcomers. The oppression facing the average middle American gay man or woman more often than not places him in a position of continuing economic insecurity. Given the enforcement of repressive statutes applied selectively to gay men and women, their economic insecurities are compounded further still. No small percentage of the adult members of the gay community find themselves in an unending cycle between the streets, jails, clinics, hospitals and prisons. Indeed, it is a tribute to the resourcefulness and resoluteness of our gay sisters and brothers that so many are able to survive and even prosper. On the other hand, many ultimately find that the only solution for them lies in suicide.

A third segment of the gay population in dire need of housing is the juvenile ward of the state. Very often the only "crimes" these young people have committed is that they are gay. Upon discovering this, the parents are thrown into a panic, believing that their sons and daughters are sick, evil, cursed and doomed. No longer willing to assume the responsibilities of parenthood, their offspring are abandoned to the authority of the state. Foster homes are unwilling to accept them. Thus they are confined in detention centers and work farms until they reach their majority, at which time they are cast off to fend for themselves in a hostile society.

Finally, there are the gay probationer and parolee. As the laws of California stand, all of us are unapprehended felons. Most of us escape the severest consequences of the legal sanctions against being true to our natures; others are less fortunate. Countless gay prisoners remain incarcerated because of a lack of a job to go to or a place to live. Those placed on parole find it extremely difficult to comply with the terms of parole lacking family and friends. Many would never have been committed in the first place, and would properly have been placed on probation, if an agency had existed to intervene on their behalf and assume responsibility for their welfare.

To provide solutions to these pressing problems, the GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER has devised a three-part program:

(a) The Housing Intake Center is equipped to house individuals on a temporary or interim basis. Within 24-hours of placement in the Housing Intake Center, a non-salaried sponsor is assigned to the resident and undertakes an in-depth interview. Where warranted, work begins toward a more positive lifestyle through the services and resources of the Center. Every effort is made to place the individual in an alternative environment at the earliest possible date in accordance with expressed needs and desires.

(b) The Liberation Houses were conceived to provide a warm, supportive, loving environment. Free of many of the outside pressures of society, not the least of which are feelings of

loneliness and alienation, individuals are encouraged to develop attitudes of responsibility and personal growth. By paying the daily fee of \$1.50 for room and board, residents are made to feel that they are contributing to the well-being of themselves and others. Privacy is maintained and overcrowding is avoided. Chores are shared and pride in the home is developed. Dialogue is an integral part of the program, and mutual problem solving encourages communication. A wide variety of services are available including individual and group counseling, continuing education, vocational training, recreational development and medical care. A sense of gay pride is instilled by familiarization with the considerable contributions to society throughout history by gay men and women. Here residents remain for a period of weeks or months until they feel confident in assuming greater responsibility. This goal is emphasized, and dependency is discouraged.

(c) Gay Collectives are formed by those former residents of the Liberation Houses who wish to perpetuate for themselves and others the positive aspects of an alternative lifestyle. Groups of perhaps four or five select the site of their residence and assume all financial obligations. Living together as a family, while maintaining individuality, they are in an atmosphere conducive to continuing personal growth. Services of the Center remain available to them, but at this stage it is more likely that they are contributing substantially to the programs of the Center and assuming responsibility for other gay individuals as their own brothers and sisters.

#### 4. Gaywill Funky Shoppe and Recycling Center:

More than a thrift shop, the Gaywill Funky Shop and Recycling Center provides income for the GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER. It also acts as employer for residents of the Liberation Houses, training them in the techniques of sales, merchandising and management. Income is derived, and salaries paid, through the refurbishing and sale of donated items of furniture, clothing and household goods. In addition, employees are trained to create original arts and crafts objects such as candles, tie-dyed fabrics, macrame, leather goods, stained glass, etc.

#### 5. V.D. Clinic:

The incidence of venereal disease has surpassed epidemic proportions throughout the Los Angeles area, and its infectuous presence among members of the gay community is greater still. Most gay men and women are reluctant to make use of free or public V.D. facilities for fear of exposure, ridicule and embarrassment at heterosexually oriented clinics. This project is being undertaken in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Health Department.

#### 6. Senior Citizen Facility:

No single element within our subculture finds itself more alienated even from its own community. To break this repressive pattern and to serve those who have fallen victim to it, all Center staff are charged with giving priority to programs designed by gay senior citizens and to make every effort to involve the senior citizens in all phases of Center activity.

#### THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD:

Membership of the Professional Advisory Board is comprised of prominent members of the gay and non-gay professional community who are experts in their fields. Membership results from an invitation to serve on the Board, subsequent to an expressed interest in serving the gay community in a positive and constructive manner.

Chairman of the Professional Advisory Board is Dr. Evelyn Hooker, Professor Emeritus at U.C.L.A., who headed the Task Force on Homosexuality conducted under the auspices of the National Institute for Mental Health.

INCORPORATION: The Center has applied for full certification as a non-profit corporation in the state of California. Application is also being made to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for approval as a federally recognized non-profit corporation to receive tax free contributions. Financial donations to the Center may be made payable to either the GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER or COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER.

GROUP LEADER TRAINING: Training of gay facilitators for Self Development groups organized by the Center is conducted under the guidance of Betty Berzon, long-time staff member of the Western Behavioral Sciences Institute and Director of Research at the Kairos Growth Center in Los Angeles.

---

For additional information, please complete the form below and mail to: June Herrle, M.S.W., Human Resources Officer, Gay Community Services Center, 1614 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90017 CR Phone (213) 482-3062.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGENCY(if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

- (   ) I am interested in the Center's Gay Awareness seminars for professionals.  
(   ) I am interested in utilizing the Center's services or becoming involved in your programs.

Gay Community Services Center