



# IMPACT REPORT

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2023-24



The Center is the only Coachella Valley organization dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of all LGBTQ+ individuals.

From The Center's Palm Springs McDonald Wright Building to The Center Coachella, the Scott Hines Behavioral Health Clinic and the Community Food Bank, our mission and strategic initiatives come to life by making meaningful connections, to resources and to community, that contribute to LGBTQ+ people's health and happiness.





# OUR VISION

Thriving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, living authentically in supportive inclusive communities.

# OUR MISSION

Creating vibrant community by helping LGBTQ+ people along their way.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Ending Isolation & Loneliness  
Connecting People to Resources &  
Community Enriching Our Individual &  
Collective Experiences

# CORE PURPOSE

Making meaningful connections

# From Our CEO

## Hello, Community Members,

What we know at The Center, and what we get to do every single day, is connect people to the resources and community they need to thrive. For some, it's emotional well-being. For others, it's basic sustenance. For all, these connections not only address a need, but they also foster a sense of belonging, of being in community. That's the magic of our mission – making meaningful connections – it's what builds relationships and creates community.

Every day, and every engagement, is an opportunity to bring to life our mission and our strategic initiatives. When we do, we're creating impact – for each person we encounter, and for our community. This Impact Report will give you a glimpse into the magic.

Thank you for your support, and, as always, we're here for you.

Mike Thompson  
CEO



# The Center

## The Impact:

### Reducing Isolation and Loneliness

**Programs and Social Events:** The Center organizes programs and events that bring people together, which then provides opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals to meet others who share similar experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and community.

**Peer Support Networks:** By facilitating peer support groups, The Center helps LGBTQ+ people connect with others who understand their challenges and experiences. This network can provide emotional support, reduce feelings of loneliness, and build lasting friendships.

### Connecting People to Resources

**Navigational Support:** The Center's Community Health Worker assists individuals in navigating complex systems to access the resources they need. This personalized support helps individuals find LGBTQ-affirming services and reduces the barriers to accessing vital resources.

**Resource Referrals:** The Center act as a hub for information and resources, connecting individuals to essential services such as healthcare providers, legal assistance, housing support, and employment opportunities.

## The Need:

The stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and lack of social support faced by LGBTQ+ people, contribute to higher levels of loneliness, depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts, than non-LGBTQ+ identifying individuals.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development followed a large population of adults for eight decades uncovering what contributed most to their well-being and happiness. The study found caring for one's well-being and building positive relationships were the biggest factors contributing to health and happiness, which highlights the importance of The Center's work.

LGBTQ community centers serve as critical lifelines, particularly for individuals facing health disparities and social isolation. These centers provide safe spaces and culturally competent care that is often not available elsewhere

# The Center

## Social Support and Community Building

### Creating Safe Spaces:

The Center offers a safe environment where LGBTQ+ individuals can express themselves freely without fear of discrimination or harassment.

### Building Networks:

The Center facilitates connections among LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations, helping them build supportive social and community networks, which reduces feelings of isolation and builds community.



### By the Numbers:

213

Eisenhower Health  
Series Attendees

271

Unique David Bohnett  
CyberCenter Users

10,023

Community Group Visitors

17,872

Program Participants

551

Community Referrals



# Scott Hines Behavioral Health Clinic

## By the Numbers:

12

Clinical Trainees

168

New Clients

1,589

Unique Clients

1,651

Group Therapy Participants

4,231

Total Client Visits

## The Need:

According to HARC's 2022 Coachella Valley Community Health Survey, 109,800 adults living in Coachella Valley have had an emotional, mental, or behavioral issue in the past year that concerned them, such as stress, anxiety, or depression.

The US Surgeon General and World Health Organization have identified the global loneliness epidemic and have called for strengthened connections and relationships.

## The Impact:

Decreased Isolation and Loneliness and Increased Social Engagement: With the skills and behavioral interventions acquired in therapy, clients show improved social engagement and reduced experiences of isolation and loneliness according to scores on the UCLA Loneliness Scale.



# The Center's Community Food Bank

## Definitions:

**Food Security:** Having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food.

**Food Insecurity:** Not having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food.

## The Need:

According to HARC's 2022 Coachella Valley Community Health Survey, 1 in 7 local adults had to cut the size of meals, or skip meals, because they didn't have enough money for food. This equates to 48,670 food insecure residents.

Results also show that 3.5% of Coachella Valley adults had to go a whole day without eating. This represents 11,785 extremely food insecure neighbors.

## The Impact:

**Food Security and Hunger Relief:** The primary impact of The Center's Community Food Bank is addressing food insecurity by providing nutritious food to individuals and families in need. This program ensures that vulnerable populations, including low-income families, seniors, and children, have access to essential food items at the same time reducing hunger.

**Community Health and Well-being:** By providing fresh produce, protein sources, and other essential food items, The Center's Community Food Bank support healthier diets and contributes to improved health and well-being among recipients.

## By the Numbers:

203

Tons of Food Distributed

12,777

Total Households Served

26,594

Total People Served



# Community & Social Engagement

## By the Numbers:

274

Community Workshop Participants

509

Community Partnership  
Meeting Attendees

2,107

Center Social Attendees

5,768

Outreach Contacts



# The Center Coachella: Youth & Family Programs

## The Need:

The Trevor's Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health reports that rates of suicidal thoughts have increased among LGBTQ young people over the past three years.

The study Family Acceptance in Adolescence and the Health of LGBT Young Adults found that family acceptance during adolescence is linked to better mental health, self-esteem, and lower levels of depression and suicidal behavior in LGBTQ+ young adults.

## The Impact:

### Strengthening Families and Relationships

**Family Support Services:** The Center offers programs and resources, in both English and Spanish, for families of LGBTQ+ individuals, helping them understand and support their loved ones.

**Improving Relationships:** By fostering understanding and acceptance, The Center helps improve relationships within families and communities, creating more supportive and inclusive environments

### Youth Support and Development

**Support for LGBTQ Youth:** The Center provides crucial support for LGBTQ+ youth, including counseling, peer support groups, social engagement opportunities and educational resources, helping them navigate the challenges of coming out and dealing with discrimination.

**Youth Leadership Programs:** Offering leadership opportunities and skills development, The Center helps empower LGBTQ+ youth, preparing them for future roles as community leaders and advocates.



## By the Numbers:

85

Youth & Family  
Programs Presented

167

Partner/Guardian  
Participants

671

Youth Participants

# Volunteers

## The Need:

A study published in the Journal of Happiness Studies found that volunteers report higher levels of life satisfaction and well-being compared to non-volunteers.

## The Impact:

### Individual Benefits

**Increased Well-Being:** Volunteers who engage in The Center's work experience a sense of purpose and fulfillment and a boost in self-esteem, which contribute to a reduction in stress, improved mental health, and an increased sense of well-being.

### Organizational Benefits

**Increased Capacity:** The Center's volunteer program significantly enhances our capacity to achieve our mission by providing additional staffing, which helps us extend our reach and impact.

### Community Benefits

**Enhanced Social Connection:** The Center's volunteer program fosters a sense of community amongst its members, working together to support The Center's mission. This creates the meaningful connections that lead to vibrant community.

By the Numbers:

**6,000**

Volunteer hours served last year

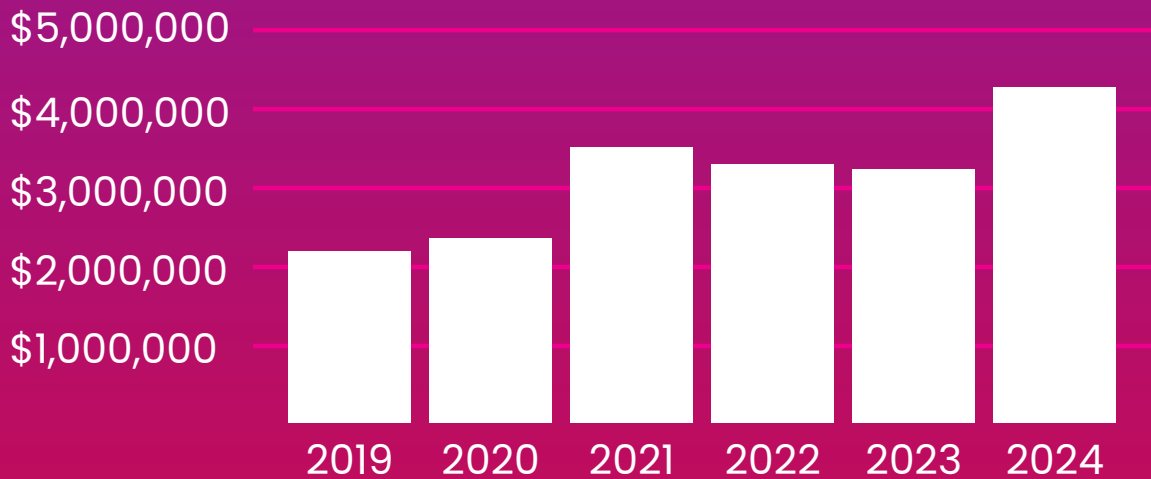




# Financial Reports

## Revenue Raised Over the Years:

**FY 2024 = \$4,289,553**  
FY 2023 = \$3,240,877  
FY 2022 = \$3,282,402  
FY 2021 = \$3,505,113  
FY 2020 = \$2,343,390  
FY 2019 = \$2,109,113



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
DONORS & MEMBERS**

YOU EMPOWER US TO  
CREATE COMMUNITY & IMPACT